

Historic Alexandria Protects Community with GIS Technology

City of Alexandria, Virginia



Once home to George Washington, the City of Alexandria, Virginia, is steeped in early American history. With historic landmarks from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and other significant events in American history, Alexandria attracts thousands of visitors each year. A neighbor to Washington, D.C., Alexandria is now a booming city and home to approximately 140,000 residents, all living within 16 square miles of each other.



“Our City is densely populated and very diverse,” said Sergeant Jim Craige of the Alexandria Police Department’s Tactical Computer Section. “It’s home to all socioeconomic groups, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds.”

With such a dense population, the Alexandria P.D. must make sure that the City is safe and protected at all times. To ensure that they are consistently at the top of their game, the City implemented LG Geo Blade Mobile, a user-friendly mapping

interface used in government vehicles, such as police cars.

“We decided to implement the Mobile application because it works,” said Craige, who has been with the Alexandria P.D. since 1990.

LG Geo Blade Mobile is able to map active incidents, giving public safety professionals real time information via the mapping interface. “Being able to have a map on a mobile computer, not just in dispatch, is very useful,” said Craige. Coupled with Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) capabilities, the application has the ability to track public safety vehicles as well, ensuring accountability by displaying the vehicle’s real time location on the screen. “The ability to find a ‘lost’ officer is a big deal for us. If we lose contact, we’re able to see their last known location.”

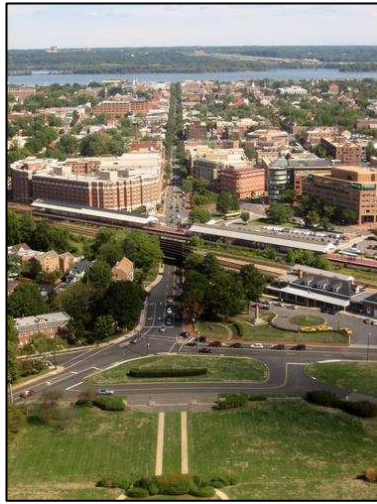
Once an E-911 dispatcher and police officer himself, Robert Mains, CAD Manager for the City of Alexandria, said, “I like being able to know where units are in relation to a call. It’s really all about the officer’s safety. It’s nice to know where they are.”

The detail associated with LG Geo Blade Mobile is a favorite feature of many users. “The level of detail we receive and being able to integrate dispatch information right on the map is huge,” said Craige. “We use the tools to see where we need to go, how to get there, and what our current location is. Having real time information available is a big reason why we got Mobile.”

Craige said that having LG Geo Blade Mobile has come in handy when addresses are uncertain or difficult to locate. “There are a lot of addresses that are difficult to find due to the mazes of parking lots and alleys. Officers like being able to pinpoint a location on the mapping interface to see exactly where they are supposed to go.” This prevents officers from wasting time searching for a residence.



LG Geo Blade Mobile can be an invaluable asset in emergency response situations when it is unsafe for a police officer to park in front of a residence. “We had a tactical incident once where a man barricaded himself inside of a house,” said Craige. “We used Mobile to find an appropriate location to park and to come up with a plan to approach safely. We



were able to pull up aerial photos to determine the best place to deploy. We could also determine where emergency personnel were already located on the scene." As Alexandria has demonstrated, LG Geo Blade Mobile presents an opportunity to do tactical planning on the scene, saving time and potentially saving lives. Thanks to the capabilities of LG Geo Blade Mobile, emergency personnel were able to coax the man out of the house peacefully.

To ensure that these capabilities were available, the City of Alexandria worked with Geographic Technologies Group (GTG) to implement the LG Geo Blade Mobile application. "GTG has been outstanding from the initial configuration to customization of the application to meet our needs," said Craige. "They have been very flexible and accommodating in creating and updating our mapping solution."

"Whenever we need something customized to meet our specific needs, it is always done very quickly," said Mains. "The response to all of our requests has been great."

Craige hopes that detailed GIS technology, like LG Geo Blade Mobile, will continue to serve the City for many years to come. "We hope that we'll see a better response time to situations. We also want to set better tactical perimeters."

Mains agrees. "We hope that it will be useful for crime prevention. We'll be able to improve patrolled areas to prevent crime." With the City's enthusiasm and the technology of GIS, these goals are sure to be achieved in the near future.

Alexandria has proven that modern technology can be incorporated into this historic city. The City has certainly come a long way since the days of the founding fathers.

Geographic Technologies Group

*Understanding
Local Government*

Geographic Technologies Group
1202 Parkway Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27534
Phone: 1.888.757.4222
Fax: 919.759.0410
E-mail: info@geotg.com