

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (WSDOT)

And

WASHINGTON STATE  
MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD)

PLAN FOR  
ON-SCENE COMMAND AND COORDINATION RADIO (OSCCR)

## **PREAMBLE**

The Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division both recognize that local, state, tribal and federal governments and systems are affected during a natural or man-made emergency or disaster and that coordination between all response functions are essential for the protection of life and property.

With the advent of the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) legislation (RCW 43.105.330), the role of the OSCCR channel has changed substantially. In its *Interim Statewide Public Safety Communications Systems Plan*, the SIEC has designated the OSCCR channel as the “Primary Command Channel” for the State of Washington.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

To provide a two-way radio frequency for “on-scene” command and coordination during a multiple-discipline<sup>1</sup> response environment, to an emergency or disaster, within the state of Washington consistent with the SIEC designation for this channel.

For the purpose of this plan, multi-agency response environment is defined as, “an emergency situation and/or incident where two or more local response functions are proceeding to, or are on scene”, and on-scene command and coordination is defined as, “communications needed for the purpose of unified command and/or coordination, involving two or more jurisdictions or entities.”

With this new mandate by the SIEC, the multi-agency response environment mentioned may also include using OSCCR in multiple roles within the purview of the Incident Commander (IC). The expanded roles may include dispatch, interstate interoperability with Oregon responders, having OSCCR linked to UHF and 800 MHz systems, along with its traditional role of “on scene tactical”.

The use of OSCCR within the rules established by this agreement is compulsory. The incident commander (IC) should be aware of the proper use of OSCCR as well as the other available interoperability channels.

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<sup>1</sup> The term “multiple discipline(s)” refers to Public Service and Public Safety Personnel, as well as volunteers acting in support of and at the direction of an Incident Commander at an incident.

OSCCR PLAN

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## INTRODUCTION

This On-Scene Command and Coordination Radio (OSCCR) plan establishes a common radio frequency, 156.135 MHz, for use throughout the state, by two or more entities during periods of emergencies or disasters, or times when mutual aid assistance is required from two or more agencies involving multiple disciplines. The OSCCR channel has also been designated by the SIEC as the “Primary On Scene Command Channel” for the State of Washington. **OSCCR may be restricted or unusable in certain areas of Washington near the Canadian and Oregon borders. (See Appendix 3)**

When fully developed, this capability will greatly enhance an incident responder’s ability to perform mutual aid service.

The OSCCR Channel Plan creates the organization, administration, and mandatory procedures for use of this interoperable frequency and others that may be added to this plan at a future date.

Participation on the OSCCR frequency is open to all incident responders consistent with the mandatory operating procedures. This plan may be superseded by the orders of an Incident Commander.

Responders meeting the criteria and accepting the conditions as established in the OSCCR Channel Plan are authorized and encouraged to participate in the program.

## ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

### I. OSCCR Established

1. Under the provisions of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations and under the general supervision of the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and the Military Department's Emergency Management Division, the on-scene command and coordination radio (OSCCR) frequency, 156.135 MHz, is established.
2. This frequency may serve as the "Primary Command Channel" for incidents involving two or more responding agencies.
3. Its utilization and operation shall be in keeping with FCC rules and regulations.
4. Day-to-day management of this plan is delegated to the Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD) regarding local jurisdiction/agency usage and Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding state agency usage.
5. This frequency shall be referred to as OSCCR (pronounced "oscar").

## II. APPLICATION FOR OSCCR PARTICIPATION

### A. APPLICATION PROCESS

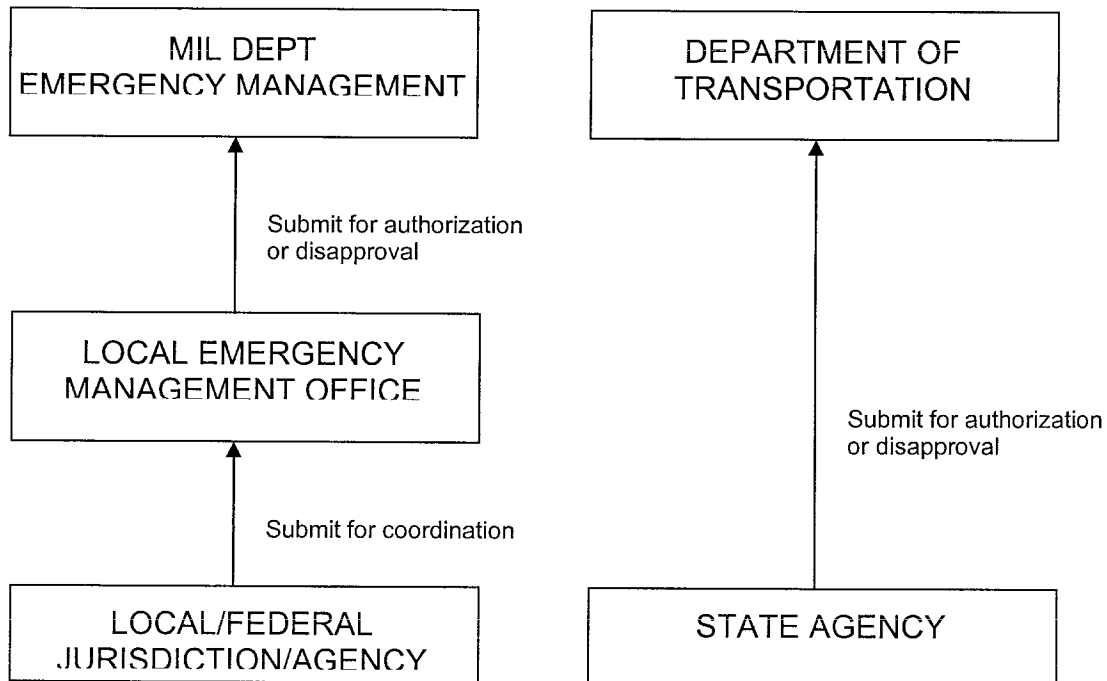
Application for OSCCR by local jurisdictions/agencies and state/federal agencies shall be accomplished through submission of the application form at Appendix 1. Additionally, the agreement at Appendix 2 should be signed and accompany the application. Submission will be made as indicated through the following flow chart. Local jurisdictions/agencies will coordinate and submit application through respective county or city emergency management offices to ensure use is reflected within local emergency plans.

Upon review and approval by EMD or WSDOT a letter of authorization and a completely signed copy of the agreement will be provided to the applicant.

The letter of authorization and agreement binds the applicant to ensure that use of OSCCR is maintained within the rules and regulations of the FCC and the rules laid out in this plan.

### B. OSCCR APPLICATION PROCESS DIAGRAM

#### OSCCR APPLICATION PROCESS



### III. GENERAL OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

#### A. CONTROL OF OSCCR

1. Under the authority of the State Interoperability Executive Committee, all mobile and portable radios on the OSCCR frequency, 156.135 MHz, shall operate only under the letter of authorization issued by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD) or the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). No agencies other than WSDOT or EMD shall maintain an FCC license to operate mobiles or portables on this frequency.
2. Use of OSCCR by a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) or any other entity as a base station (fixed or temporary) or control station shall be by special agreement between WSDOT and the PSAP or other entity. These special agreements shall also be required when a PSAP or other entity wishes to link OSCCR to their system for interoperability.

#### B. USE OF OSCCR DURING AN INCIDENT RESPONSE OR EMERGENCY

1. Use of OSCCR during an incident response or an emergency will be governed by rules, protocols and procedures found in Appendix 3.
2. Use of OSCCR will conform to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
3. Priorities for use of the OSCCR channel for multiple incidents will be decided by the incident commander(s).

#### C. USE OF OSCCR DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE

Authorized users may operate on the OSCCR frequency during exercises or for training provided:

1. Agencies within the exercise or training area that use the adjacent channel(s) to 156.135 MHz are notified and concur.
2. All exercise or training traffic will cease and yield immediately to emergency/mutual aid operational traffic.
3. A statement will be transmitted via ACCESS teletype system to "OLYEM", telephonically, or email to: [dutyofficer@emd.wa.gov](mailto:dutyofficer@emd.wa.gov), or FAX 253-512-7203 (the 24-hour, State EOC at Camp Murray) stating the date and times the exercise or training session will be utilizing OSCCR and the

affected adjacent channel users, and a statement of their concurrence. The 24 hour EMD duty officer number is 1-800-258-5990. EMD will notify WSDOT in such cases.

#### D. UNAUTHORIZED USES OF OSCCR

OSCCR is not authorized for the following purposes:

1. Use as a “chat” channel between users or for a non incident response or non interoperability purpose.
2. Use as a “tactical” channel, except when authorized for such use by an incident commander.
3. Use for routine or administrative business.
4. Use for dispatch, except when authorized for such use by an incident commander.
5. Any use in violation of FCC rule or state law.

#### E. NAMING CONVENTIONS, UNIT IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND PLAIN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS WHEN ON THE AIR

1. When transmitting on OSCCR, the state, city or county unit shall identify itself by the following designator:
  - a. City units shall use the city name followed by the normal unit/personnel number e.g. “Spokane Fire 208”; “Spokane Police 316”, etc.
  - b. County units shall use the county name followed by the normal unit/personnel number e.g. “Spokane County 208 (Sheriff’s unit)”
  - c. State agencies (except WSP) shall use agency name followed by their personnel/radio number e.g. “Wildlife 44”; “Transportation 1045”; “Ecology 121”; “DNR Southeast 26”; “Parks 109”; “Corrections 1286”, etc.
  - d. Washington State Patrol (WSP) shall use the word “state” preceding their unit number e.g. “State 1233”
2. Federal Agencies -- The agency name followed by their personnel/radio number e.g. US Marshal 000; Navy 000
3. Non-government Responders -- The company name followed by their normal unit/personnel radio number e.g. “Puget Power 36”



4. The naming convention for OSCCR when used on a radio control head display shall be "OSCCR".
5. Plain language will be used when operating on the OSCCR channel and the use of "10 codes" or "12 codes" are prohibited.

#### **IV. TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

- A. Power Limitations – OSCCR units are limited to a maximum RF power output of 100 watts.
- B. Effective July 1, 2006 the use of Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS) of 203.5 Hz (PL M1) is required on all OSCCR transmitters and base station receivers. CTCSS on mobile and portable receivers is encouraged but not required.
- C. The bandwidth of OSCCR transmitters shall be 25 KHz. After July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 the bandwidth of OSCCR transmitters shall be 12.5 KHz.
- D. The use of signaling, Unit ID and encryption technologies on OSCCR are prohibited except by special permit from WSDOT and/or EMD.
- E. The use of OSCCR in the special zones adjacent to the U.S.-Canada International Boundary is limited to transmitters with RF power output not to exceed 5 watts. (See appendix 3)
- F. The modulation and /or waveforms of OSCCR transmitters shall be conventional FM as reflected in the FCC emission designator 20K0F3E. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, the emission shall be designated as 11K3F3E. Exceptions, including the use of digital modulation techniques, may be authorized under a special permit from WSDOT and/or EMD.

## APPENDIX 1

### OSCCR Application

The following application form is to be prepared and submitted to the following addresses:

For Local Jurisdictions/Agencies – Submit application through local Emergency Management (EM) office

Military Department  
Telecomm Section  
Emergency Management Division  
Camp Murray, Building 20  
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

For state agencies and federal agencies

Department of Transportation  
Office of Wireless Technology – Attn: OSCCR Administrator  
ITS/Communications and Wireless Technology  
Transportation Building  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

**On-Scene Command and Coordination Radio (OSCCR)  
Use Application**

Please provide or check the following information:

Local jurisdiction/agency request: \_\_\_\_\_

State agency request: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal agency request \_\_\_\_\_

Agency name: \_\_\_\_\_

If approved for use, the following number of units proposed for operation on the frequency will be:

Mobiles: \_\_\_\_\_

Portables: \_\_\_\_\_

24-hour contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Local EM Office approval:  
(local applicants only) \_\_\_\_\_

It is understood that the addition of units beyond those requested above must be approved by EMD in writing, before the fact.

## APPENDIX 2

### OSCCR Use Agreement

The following document is the OSCCR Use Agreement that must be signed and submitted with the application form when applying for use of OSCCR.

Upon approval by EMD or WSDOT, a letter of authorization and a completely signed copy of the use agreement will be provided to the applicant.

As stated in the agreement, authorization will normally be granted until expiration of the FCC license issued to the state or terminated by either party upon written notice to do so.

Please refer any questions, issues, or concerns regarding authorization and this agreement to either EMD or WSDOT.

#### **\*\*\*WARNING\*\*\***

**The use of frequencies in Appendix 4, other than OSCCR and the VTAC channels, is not authorized without an FCC license or a specific written agreement with the licensees for use of those frequencies.**

**On-Scene Command and Coordination (OSCCR)  
Use Agreement**

This agreement, entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ at Olympia, Washington; between the State of Washington, Military Department, Emergency Management Division, acting through the State Interoperability Executive Committee hereinafter called the state, and \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter called jurisdiction.

WITNESSETH:

1. Jurisdiction, agrees to acquire, at its own expense, radio communications equipment to operate on frequency 156.135 MHz (OSCCR), and to operate and maintain such equipment as provided in the OSCCR Plan, and which is hereby incorporated and made a part of this agreement by reference, and in following paragraphs 2 and 3.
2. Jurisdiction agrees to comply with the terms of the license granted by the Federal Communications Commission to the state, which shall regulate the use of such equipment in the name of the state. The equipment will remain the property of the jurisdiction.
3. Jurisdiction agrees to operate and maintain said equipment in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission and operating rules and procedures established by the state in Appendix 3 and elsewhere in this agreement, without cost to the state. In the event of any violation by jurisdiction of such rules and regulations or this agreement, or of any other law respecting the operation of said equipment, after review, the state, in its discretion, may terminate this agreement upon fifteen (15) days notice to jurisdiction, paragraph 7 notwithstanding.
4. Jurisdiction agrees to make immediate corrective action, respective of any termination action taken as a result, of a violation described in paragraph 3 for noncompliance with Federal Communications Commission rules resulting in state receiving an Official Notice of Violation. Jurisdiction shall provide state with required information to formulate a written reply within ten (10) days of state's receipt of notice.
5. Jurisdiction agrees to pay monetary forfeiture imposed upon the state resulting from noncompliance with Federal Communications Commission rules by jurisdiction.

6. Jurisdiction agrees to reimburse state for any and all liability arising out of the performance of this agreement which may be imposed on state by law arising from the acts or omission of jurisdiction.
7. The term of the agreement, as established by state, commences \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and shall be concurrent with that of the Federal Communications Commission license issued to state in respect to said equipment, subject to termination by either party hereto upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other.
8. All notices to be given or which may be given by either party to the other shall be deemed to have been fully given when made in writing and deposited in the U.S. Mail, registered and postage pre-paid, and addressed to either as applicable:

Military Department  
Telecomm Section  
Emergency Management Division  
Camp Murray, Building 20  
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

OR

Department of Transportation  
Office of Wireless Technology – Attn: OSCCR Administrator  
ITS/Communications and Wireless Technology  
Transportation Building  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

and to jurisdiction at: \_\_\_\_\_

The address to which notices shall or may be mailed, as aforesaid, to either party shall or may be changed by written notice by such party to the other, as hereinbefore provided; but nothing herein contained shall preclude the giving of any such notice by personal service.

9. No alteration of the terms of this agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto, and that no oral understandings or agreements not incorporated herein shall be binding on any of the parties hereto.
10. The administration of the OSCCR Channel may be assigned in the future to the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC).
11. The use of OSCCR by any entity shall be without fee or cost, except as provided for in subsections 5 and 6.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement has been executed, by and on behalf of the parties hereto, the day and year indicated as established by state in paragraph 7.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jurisdiction

Washington State  
Military Department or  
Department of Transportation

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

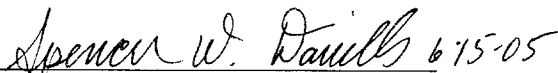
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (type or print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (type or print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Approved as to form as applicable:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Spencer Daniels  
Military Department, AAG

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rusty Fallis  
Department of Transportation, AAG

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne Shaw  
Washington State Department of  
Information Services, AAG

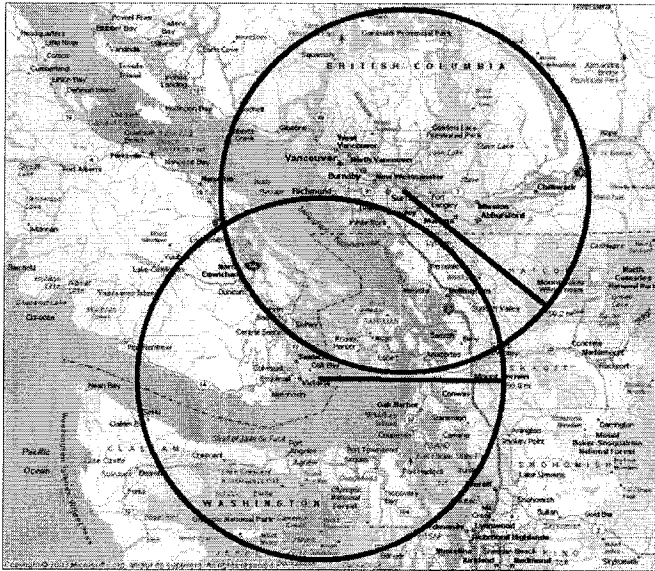




## APPENDIX 3 – OSCCR AGREEMENT

1. Operational Rules and Procedures for use of the On Scene Command and Coordination Radio (OSCCR).
    - 1.1. **WHEN** – OSCCR may be used when more than one agency responds to an incident or as instructed by an incident commander (IC).
    - 1.2. **HOW** – OSCCR use will be announced by the IC on primary agency channels as well as on the OSCCR frequency.
    - 1.3. OSCCR is normally a “primary interoperability channel” or “primary command channel or net.”
    - 1.4. OSCCR may be used as a “call in” channel for first responders arriving at an incident. OSCCR also may be used for “auxiliary dispatch” if designated by the communication plan or the IC.
- IC Communications Plan** – The IC generally will announce the use of OSCCR as part of an incident communication plan. The IC can change OSCCR’s status from a command channel to a tactical channel.
- 1.5 **When arriving at an incident always listen first on OSCCR before transmitting.**

### OSCCR U.S. Canada Border prohibited operating zones



## APPENDIX 4 – OTHER INTEROPERABILITY FREQUENCIES

1.0 Alternate frequencies when OSCCR cannot be used are:

- VTAC 1– OSCCR first alternate (Narrowband Analog)

2.0 Additional interoperable channels may be used in concert with OSCCR to create a suite of VHF frequencies that will become an interoperable network for on scene communications.

2.1 **The following channels could be used in concert with OSCCR as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission license holder<sup>2</sup>:**

- **LERN** – used as the law enforcement (LAW) primary channel
- **NLEC** – used as the law enforcement (LAW) 1<sup>st</sup> alternate channel<sup>3</sup>
- **REDNET** – Used by the fire service (FIRE) as a primary or tactical channel as directed by the IC
- **DNR COMMON** – First alternate FIRE channel or tactical channel as directed by the IC
- **HEAR** – Primary channel for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at an incident or tactical channel as directed by the IC
- **VTAC 1\*** – May be used as a tactical channel by direction of the IC when not used as OSCCR alternate
- **VTAC 2\*; VTAC 3\*; VTAC 4\* and VCALL\*** – May be used as a tactical channel(s) by direction of the IC
- **SAR** – May be used as a tactical channel

2.2 **CACHE FREQUENCIES –**

- In a large incident, **State Incident Response Cache (SIRC) Equipment** may be deployed
- This equipment may include a “portable repeater” channel or other tactical channels
- **“RPTR 5”** is the primary cache repeater channel and may be designated by the IC for a **“COMMAND NET”** or for other uses. Note: The use of all SIRC repeater channels including “RPTR 1”; “RPTR 2”; “RPTR 3”; RPTR 4” and “RPTR 5,” must be coordinated with Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

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<sup>2</sup> The license holder for NLEC is the Washington State Patrol. The license holder for LERN is the Washington State Patrol or other licensed local jurisdictions. The license holder for REDNET is the Washington State Fire Chiefs Association. The license holder for DNR Common and “RPTR 1-5” is the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The license holders for HEAR are various hospitals and emergency medical transport entities throughout the state. All VTAC channels may be used in mobile and portable radios by any public safety licensee. Temporary base station authorization on VTAC channels may be requested through the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD). The license holder for SAR is the Washington State Military Department EMD or other licensed local jurisdictions.

<sup>3</sup> FCC rule(s) 47CFR90.20c(3)(41). This frequency is available nationwide for use in police emergency communications networks operated under statewide law enforcement emergency communications plans.

### 3. Do's and Don'ts When Using Interoperability Channels

- ALWAYS obey the IC and follow the communication plan
- LISTEN before transmitting
- Keep radio traffic limited to only what is needed to get the job done
- Use plain language and speak clearly and concisely
- Do not make unidentified transmissions.
- Be flexible and pay attention to changes in the communication plan
- NEVER use profanity or have arguments over the air.
- Yield to emergency traffic
- REMEMBER, courtesy is contagious.

#### \*\*\*WARNING\*\*\*

**The use of frequencies listed in Appendix 4 and in Section 4 “Technical Data” below is limited to OSCCR and the VTAC Channels unless you or your agency has an FCC license for those frequencies or a specific written agreement with the licensee allowing the use of those channels.**

### 4. TECHNICAL DATA

Channel	Transmit	Tone	Receive	Tone
OSCCR	156.135	203.5 Hz	156.135	None
LERN	155.370	100 Hz	155.370	None
NLEC	155.475	None	155.475	None
REDNET	153.830	None	153.830	None
DNR COMMON	151.415	None	151.415	None
HEAR	155.340	None	155.340	None
SAR	155.160	None	155.160	None
VCALL*^	155.7525	203.5 Hz	155.7525	None
VTAC 1*	151.1375	203.5 Hz	151.1375	None
VTAC 2*^	154.4525	203.5 Hz	154.4525	None
VTAC 3*^	158.7375	203.5 Hz	158.7375	None
VTAC 4*^	159.4725	203.5 Hz	159.4725	None
RPTR 1*	151.370	None	159.375	None
RPRT 2*	151.385	None	159.330	None
RPTR 3*	151.265	None	159.240	None
RPTR 4*	151.250	None	159.330	None
RPTR 5*	170.575	None	172.375	None

\*Narrowband analog channel 12.5 KHz

^In most cases, these frequencies are restricted near the Canadian border. (See Appendix 4A)

APPENDIX 4A

(MAP(S) OF VTAC RESTRICTION AREAS NEAR CANADIAN BORDER)

