



## Union County Public Information Office

500 N. Main St., Room 921 • Monroe, NC 28112 • Phone (704)283-3546 • Fax (704)282-0121

### News Release

## Union County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Communications Center Team Up to Deploy Next Generation Technology

**December 2, 2013, Monroe, NC** – Union County is the first in America to launch innovative new 911 technology allowing citizens to send pictures or video of criminal activity directly to 911 dispatchers via their mobile phones. The technology will give police officers nearly instant access to pictures or videos of suspects, suspicious vehicles, or even kidnapping victims.

“We are very proud to announce the technology of the future is available right now in Union County,” said Union County Emergency Communications Director Larry Brinker. “Emergency texting, photo uploads, and video transfers from nearly any phone can be distributed immediately to field units.”

NexGen Global Technologies pioneered the development of an E9-1-1 Multimedia Communications system that allows the public to send photos, videos and text using their patented Multimedia Incident Retrieval System, (MIRS) to 9-1-1 center personnel for review and dissemination to law enforcement and other first responders within minutes.

MIRS is based cloud technology and does not require IT hardware/software or changes to the existing infrastructure. It works across all wireless networks and with any mobile phone that can take/send texts or photos. When someone calls into 9-1-1 from their mobile phone, the emergency operator initializes the system that will capture and distribute photos, videos and text sent in from a mobile phone and then sent out to first responders in the field in real time.

Congressman Robert Pittenger (NC-09) and Sheriff Cathey hosted a statewide briefing and demonstration of the new technology on Monday, Dec. 2 at the Union County Government Center in Monroe.

“This is something that will benefit every citizen, as well as every public safety agency,” said Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey.

Suspects in the Boston Marathon Bombing of April 15, 2013 were identified through photographic and video images. If these images could have been transmitted immediately to a 9-1-1 center and forwarded to all area law enforcement officers within a few minutes, they may have been able to catch the suspects within hours instead of days.



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“NextGen represents nearly real-time intelligence and reporting capability,” said Union County Chief Deputy Ben Bailey. “This service will enable us to be more effective in the field as a result of the rapid exchange of information.”

The briefing and demonstration can be viewed on the county’s government channel, UCTV 16, at 7:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. and at [www.youtube.com/unioncountync](http://www.youtube.com/unioncountync).