Happy New Year!

This month’s Washington State Patrol (WSP) Firearms Background Division (FBD) update will be a ‘sneak peak’ at the process of what you can expect once the Secure Automated Firearms E-Check (SAFE) system is operational...we think you’ll like what you see!

As you are aware, currently for handguns and semi-automatic assault rifles (SARs), you send the buyer information to whichever agency is conducting your background check, then wait for a response. You have no confirmation that whatever you sent arrived at its intended destination or where it is in the process. Not really an optimal situation.

Once SAFE is up and running, however, things will change significantly!

- First off, you’ll always know where to submit the request for a background check for all firearms...SAFE! You’ll have a dedicated ‘portal’ via the internet that you’ll sign into and submit and receive all your background checks through.
- Second, you’ll get a response when your submission has been received...so you’ll know it made it!
- Third, you’ll have a dash board to ‘see’ where your check (or checks) is/are in the process...with easy to understand color coding, something like: Green – Good to go, Yellow – pending/delayed, Red – unable to own a firearm
  - And if you receive a “red”, we’re hoping to have SAFE automatically generate a PDF for the denial pamphlet with the NICS Transaction Number (NTN) and appeal information ready for you to print or email to the customer
- Fourth, we expect to have at least 35% of the background checks happen fully automatically...and nearly instantaneously...so, you should get responses back MUCH faster

Below is a flow chart to show the process in a different way, that might be interesting to some of you as well: