Hello!

This month we just wanted to give you a quick glimpse into the future... Summer 2023 to be exact.

A significant part of the plan to become a single point of contact state for firearms background checks is the development and implementation of the Secure Automated Firearms E-Check (SAFE) system. Currently we are at the beginning stages of the development, in the ‘requirements’ phase. This is where we outline the scope of what the system will do, create work flows to show how it will do it, and get our vendor on the right track to build us what we need. Once that phase is completed, the ‘real work’ of developing the programming, interfaces, connections, and all that other technical stuff happens. The build will be completed using the ‘agile process’, meaning that smaller bit-sized parts of the system will be developed during a ‘sprint’. Then each sprint is ultimately put together at the end of the process and a finished, working product is available for use. We are on-schedule and expect the SAFE system to be ready for a pilot test in the summer of 2023.

In about May of 2023 we’ll be reaching out to you (likely the topic of May 2023’s update email!) to see who might be willing to help us test the new system during the pilot. We will need several FFLs to work the bugs out and make sure the system does what it should. That pilot will be about a month long, and if all goes well, will morph into a ‘soft launch’ where we slowly bring additional FFLs onboard to the system, so that by January 1, 2024, all FFLs are fully transitioned to SAFE. So, if you are an FFL who likes to be on the leading edge of new technology and ideas, please consider being a pilot tester when the time comes.

We would also like to share something new... Our official logo for the SAFE system, which you will see prominently displayed on the SAFE user interface once you begin using the system:

Thank you,
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Washington State Patrol – “Service with Humility”