BARD Modernization Update

Vision

Develop a new BARD system that is responsive to the users' needs. Empower the Coast Guard and state agencies to learn, respond to, and decrease recreational boating incidents with a reliable reporting system that delivers thorough understanding and actionable data insights.

Who We Are

Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC Pacific), a U.S. Navy organization providing advanced information technology (IT) and cybersecurity solutions for the warfighter, with major centers like NIWC Pacific (San Diego) and NIWC Atlantic (Norfolk/Charleston). NIWC Pacific is leading the new BARD development through the Coast Guard Case Management (CGCM) program (USCG system modernization and collaboration effort). We are federal civilian employees (not contractors) based in Philadelphia, bringing a user-centered approach to building a system that actually works for state boating officers in the field.

What's Happening Now

We're in Discovery Phase (October 2025 - January 2026), working to understand your current workflows, pain points, and needs. We've been:

- Analyzing incident reporting requirements across all 56 jurisdictions
- Interviewing state officers, USCG staff, and legacy BARD developers
- Mapping user roles, permissions, and workflows
- Configuring development environment for the modernization
- Resourcing key team members

What's Next (Tentative)

- **Development & Testing** (Feb 2026 - Dec 2026): Building the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) with continuous user feedback in 2-week sprint cycles
- **Rollout & Enhancement** (Jan 2027 onwards): Phased implementation starting with simpler jurisdictions, with legacy BARD running in parallel during transition

Our Strategy

We are focused on user outcomes, not features. The MVP will deliver core capabilities needed to confidently sunset legacy BARD while supporting all of the states' existing systems, from Wyoming's single-user simplicity to Florida's complex multi-agency workflows. We are building flexible architecture

that works for everyone. We recognize that not all jurisdictions have the resources to support a complex system change. Our priority is to make the roll-out of the new application as small of a lift as possible.

How You Can Help

➢ In the coming months, we'll be reaching out to:
- Validate our workflow designs and data architecture
- Fill knowledge gaps with your practitioner expertise
- Identify pilot jurisdictions for early testing

➢ Engage with us at the upcoming NASBLA State RBS Workshop. We'll be hosting a demo/update and validation session.

➢ NASBLA's Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee will be offering additional opportunities to discuss the reporting system improvements and share those insights with us.

Questions?

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