NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the COURTS

eCITATION®

In the past 12 months more than 1.12 million citations have been issued in North Carolina. These citations are issued for both criminal and non-criminal violations such as motor vehicle and seat-belt, traffic, hunting and fishing, underage drinking, and speeding violations. eCITATION®, the first such system in the nation, fully automates the citation process, producing the North Carolina Uniform Citation in an electronic format and reducing data entry to a single iteration. Using existing wireless connections, eCITATION® allows officers to create citations and schedule court dates electronically from the patrol car. A portable printer produces a copy of the ecitation for the cited person. After issuance of the ecitation, the officer transmits the data directly to the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC), where it can be immediately accessed by court users statewide. The statewide system, which was custom-developed as a joint venture by the NCAOC and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, includes the following:
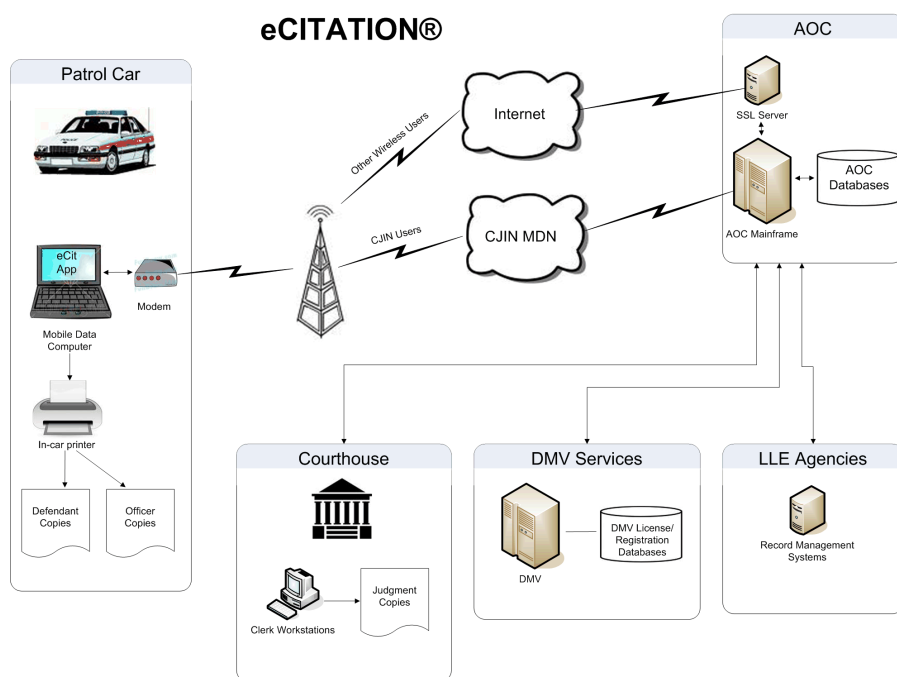
- Officers Component: This component is loaded on the computer in the patrol car for entering and printing ecitations. It is capable of operating with or without communication coverage.
- Clerks Component: Browser-based component used by county clerk staff to monitor and print judgment copies of transmitted citations.
- Interface to law enforcement records management systems (RMS): Provides law enforcement agencies with the capability to electronically download eCITATION data for use in local RMS systems, thus eliminating dual data entry. It also provides a citation printing function.
- Interface to NCAOC Automated Criminal/Infractions System (ACIS): Receives and stores citation data on the NCAOC enterprise server, making the information available to court staff statewide.
- Interface to North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles: Allows the officers to query and automatically pre-fill defendant and vehicle information using the driver's license or vehicle plate number.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE *major releases shown only*

1999 – 2001	2001 – 2003	January 2004 – March 2006	January 2004	February 2005	January 2006	November 2008	September 2011
Pilot study to determine feasibility	Development and pilot with three agencies across North Carolina	Statewide rollout to all 100 Clerks of Court offices	Began implementation of law enforcement agencies	Updated the Clerks Component to browser based technology	Released the RMS Component	Updated the Clerks Component to Java technology	Added court load limits and messaging to the Officers and Clerks Components

**Nation's first fully automated system that enables law enforcement officers
to create citations and schedule court dates electronically from patrol car**

eCITATION®: The Architecture Behind the Application

eCITATION®

eCITATION® was developed using n-tiered architecture. The applications are either PC based or hosted on the NCAOC Websphere application server. The various components utilize the following languages: Visual Basic 6.0, JAVA Server Pages (JSP), COBOL, CICS, and HTML. Data is stored in an MS Access database on the PC and in DB2 and IMS tables on a Z-OS platform. eCITATION® interfaces with other NCAOC systems, local law enforcement records systems, and NCDMV.

Interagency Commitment

eCITATION® is a volunteer program that is highly popular and well received by both court and law enforcement communities, and is distributed at no cost to participating agencies. NCAOC has further assisted agencies with their implementation by providing grant-funded printers for the patrol cars. This successful initiative automates a complex criminal justice process. The program receives strong commitment from all agencies involved, making it an excellent example of collaboration among multiple state and local government agencies, including those in constitutionally separate branches of government.

Significant Enhancements Underway

- Provide eCITATION® for arrest processes such as DWI
- Update officer component to modern technology

Future Enhancements

- Barcode scanning of drivers' licenses to assist law enforcement officers
- Inclusion of GPS coordinates to facilitate law enforcement agency citation analysis
- Mobile application for hand-held devices

Benefits

- Speed – citations are written faster which means officers spend more time patrolling
- Cost savings – the elimination of paper citation books saves the state thousands of dollars a year
- Reduction of data entry – the electronic transmission into the NCAOC system and the law enforcement records system eliminates the manual keying by staff
- Improved accuracy – the application tools provided for accurate completion of the citation, the auto-population from the NCDMV files, and the single entry of data eliminates errors from deciphering of officers' handwriting
- Officer safety – the "point-and-click" method and speed of creating the citation allows the officer to be more vigilant of the defendant and surroundings

eCITATION® received the 2007 Digital Government: (Government to Government) award from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO).

eCITATION® is a major milestone in moving to a fully integrated and paperless statewide court system.