



Delivery Force Knowledge

When customers submit change-of-address (COA) cards, the Postal Service processes the addresses through a "Delivery Point Validation" to ensure that the COA is for a valid address. The Postal Service maintains that for many years, it has had a web-based application to resolve COA submissions that do not match up with an actual delivery address. If the "Delivery Point Validation" indicates that the address is not valid, the COA is normally held for approximately five days because most of them are corrected by letter carriers with PS Form 3546 during that period. The remaining COAs that do not match up with an actual delivery address and have not been corrected by letter carriers are sent through an electronic web application known as eUARS (Electronic Uncoded Address Res-

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olution System). This application sends the address to delivery employees at the local delivery unit for correction. About 80 percent of these invalid COAs were corrected by eUARS in fiscal year 2004.

Address Element Correction (AEC) is a computer logic program that the Postal Service uses to resolve invalid addresses submitted by the major mailers for correction. Mailers pay \$15 per thousand addresses submitted. Historically, approximately 30 percent of the addresses submitted by the mailers are corrected by the AEC system. Up until now, there was no other system to resolve the other 70 percent of the invalid addresses submitted.

To address this, the Postal Service has recently conducted a pilot program known as Address Element Correction II, otherwise known as AECES (Address Element Correction Enhanced Service). The Postal Service anticipates completion of the pilot followed by nationwide implementation in mid-July 2006. Under this new program, the Postal Service will run the remaining 70 percent of the un-

resolved invalid addresses from the mailers through the eUARS program, which has been historically used exclusively for COA corrections. In addition to the \$15 per thousand addresses submitted, the mailers will be charged 25 cents for each corrected/resolved address.

Use of delivery employees in the local delivery unit to resolve invalid addresses from change-of-address records (eUARS), and now from mailer submissions (AECES), has been labeled by the Postal Service as "Delivery Force Knowledge." Address information from letter carriers is the "Delivery Force Knowledge" of the Postal Service.

The Postal Service initially indicated to us that a functioning prototype of the new scanners (Intelligent Mail Devices) would be available for analysis in July of this year, followed by deployment to be completed by June 2006. We

have now been advised that deployment will be delayed because, as of this writing, they still do not have a functioning prototype. We will meet with the Postal Service once a functioning prototype is available, and additional testing with letter carriers will be conducted at headquarters and then in the field.

Three recent major events will keep us looking ahead with optimism. First, the overwhelming passage of postal reform by the House of Representatives not only gives us insight into the level of bipartisan support we have in Congress, but also shows the effectiveness of the tens of thousands of letter carriers who form the NALC e-Activist network. Second, with the formal and implied disaffiliation of major unions from the AFL-CIO, we must look ahead and expect that the leaders of both organizations will prioritize their agendas in such a way that allows the split to result in a stronger labor movement. Third, we have just completed the first week of training for the first group of letter carriers in the NALC Leadership Academy. After witnessing first-hand the energy, ability, and willingness to learn exhibited by these 30 letter carriers, we have every reason to look ahead with optimism to the next two weeks of training and to the training of additional candidates in future academies. ☒