

## Electronic Voting Machine Information Sheet

### Sequoia Voting Systems Optech III-P Eagle

**Name/Model:** Optech III-P Eagle

**Maker:** Sequoia Voting Systems

**Federally-Qualified Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail Capability:** Uses paper ballots



**Brief Description:** As an optical ballot tabulator, the Optech III-P Eagle functions at the precinct level. The Optech III-Eagle consists of an electronic ballot counting device which reads completed ballots by scanning for the voters' marks indicating their voting preferences. The Optech III-Eagle then tabulates the results. When the polls close, the results are both printed on a paper copy and stored to an internal memory card.<sup>1</sup>

The Optech III-Eagle runs off both internal and external power to reduce the risk of malfunctions, and it can store voter data on an internal memory card, transmit data via phone lines or satellite, and it can print out paper copies of voter results.

**Detailed Voting Procedure:** The Optech III-Eagle functions much like a traditional paper ballot system. Upon entering the voting precinct, the voter will receive a paper ballot; the voter shades in the paper ballot with any standard pen or pencil and inserts the ballot into the Optech III-Eagle, which then ensures that the ballot has been properly marked and that no over or under voting has occurred. As votes are entered, the Optech III-Eagle stores the vote tallies on its internal memory card., and when the polls close, the Optech III-Eagle prints out a paper copy of the election results for polling officials.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> From the manufacturer's website, available at: <http://www.sequoiavote.com/bEAGLE.php>

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### What to Look For

- Security Seals. Ideally, the Eagle's exposed ports, memory card access areas, ballot box doors and case seams would be covered with tamper-evident security seals. The integrity of these seals should be maintained at all times, and only breached under controlled, explained circumstances. A voided seal looks like this: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/joebeone/2247733620/> . Seals should be logged to maintain chain of custody of sensitive materials.
- Ballot Box Access. Optical scan systems have at least one and possible more ballot boxes. Each ballot box should be inspected by a voter at the beginning of voting to make sure that they are empty. These ballot boxes should be locked and/or be sealed with tamper-evident tape.
- Keys. The keys for the Optech III-P Eagle are the same for all Optech III-P Eagle machines and are easily pickable with readily available tools. Care should be observed around the ballot box lock and the scanner key lock (turns the system off and on).
- The Memory Card is Sensitive. Corrupt memory cards may be able to introduce viruses, cause the main election server to crash and falsify votes. Access to the memory card should be controlled, monitored and logged at all times.
- Correct Inks. Some models of the Eagle have trouble reading red inks or inks with red in them. These Eagles use an infrared lamp to detect voting marks and red or reddish inks appear "blank" under this light. Voters should use the writing instrument provided at the polling place or, if voting at home, a black ballpoint pen that does not bleed through paper.

### Past Problems:

There have been some reported problems with the Optech III-Eagle, although not as many as with other systems, although this may be because of the relative newness of the system. One known issue is that there can be compatibility problems between the Optech III-Eagle and other Sequoia Voting Systems, such problems having led to tabulation delays and errors in multiple cities in the Wisconsin primary elections in 2006.<sup>3</sup>

**NASED Qualified:** Yes<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Compiled from various news reports, from the VoteTrustUSA website, available at: [http://www.votetrustusa.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1793&Itemid=113](http://www.votetrustusa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1793&Itemid=113)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nased.org/NASED%20Qualified%20Voting%20Systems%20031706.pdf>