



Sprint® Mobile Broadband Solutions

Los Angeles Police Department enhances operations and officer safety with cost-effective in-car Sprint solutions



Challenge

At the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) there is no such thing as 'business as usual.' From hiring the nation's first policewoman, to creating the first SWAT program, LAPD has led law enforcement organizations across the land with innovative policies, programs and concepts.

It's no surprise then that when the aging Motorola RF system could no longer support the Department's burgeoning needs, LAPD's Information and Communications Services Bureau embraced a new approach—one that would take advantage of Sprint's publicly available network to expand bandwidth and coverage while maintaining security and reducing costs. The innovative solution from Sprint has become an essential tool for the more than 12,000 sworn officers and staff faced with a multitude of issues every day, from crime-fighting to natural disasters, man-made emergencies, and crowd control.

Solution

LAPD's new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and automated field reporting system required a mobile high-speed broadband communications network in order to unlock the system's full capabilities. The previous network was limited to short text messages transmitted at 19.2 kbs per second. Coverage was confined in and around the city with various dead spots. Based on Chief Information Officer Tim Riley's previous experience with Sprint at another Police Department, the Bureau turned to Sprint in its assessment of alternative communications systems.

LAPD deployed Sprint Data LinkSM, a private wireless network connectivity solution, equipping each of the 1,700 patrol cars with an EV-DO Sierra Wireless 595 connection card in a Dell laptop computer and mounting an external antenna on top of each car. The Department also deployed 200 Bluetooth fingerprint scanners. To comply with the State of California's rigorous security mandates, the Department uses Sprint's authentication server and registered data modems to ensure that unauthorized modems or users can't use the network and added an extra layer of security with end-to-end encryption.

Established in 1869, **the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)** is the police department of the City of Los Angeles, CA. With over 9,600 sworn officers and 3,000 non-sworn staff, covering an area of 468 square miles with a population of 4.0 million people, it is the third largest police department in the U.S. The LAPD's mission is to safeguard the lives and property of the people it serves, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life. A pioneering department from its inception, LAPD hired the nation's first policewoman and created the first SWAT program.



Today, officers have a highly reliable and secure connection that allows them to take advantage of a vast array of information and resources to do their jobs more effectively and safely.

Bottom Line

The Sprint solution provides officers in the field with access to a range of information including photographs, fingerprints, crime-analysis data, mapping data, reports and databases. This information significantly streamlines operations and enhances officer safety. For example, officers can quickly identify a suspect in the field by comparing fingerprints taken on the spot with a database located in the LA County Sheriff's Department, and apprehending a suspect in less than a minute if there is a match. In addition, because they can send information back to the office rather than returning to the station to file a report, or submit a fingerprint or photo, officers can now spend more time on patrol. Furthermore, the GPS-capable solution helps officers navigate to a location more safely and quickly.

Sprint's nationwide mobile broadband network not only provides better coverage than the previous network utilized by LAPD within and around the city, but also provides connectivity to detectives and staff conducting investigations and police business across the U.S. The Sprint network includes significant redundancy, disaster recovery and 24/7 support. LAPD's Information and Communications Services Bureau receives prior notification when there is a planned outage and, in the event of a disaster and saturation of a cell area, Sprint works with the team to reroute traffic and help ensure connectivity.

By choosing Sprint's mobile broadband network as an alternative to the traditional private networks other agencies use, LAPD's Information and Communications Services Bureau can pay a flat monthly fee and take advantage of increases in bandwidth and speed developed by Sprint. This allows the Bureau to focus on identifying and applying technologies specific to officers' needs without having to spend time on the day-to-day maintenance of the network.

As the Bureau looks to the future, it is considering a range of new capabilities, for example, enabling handheld devices with wireless data cards to provide officers on foot, horseback or bicycle patrols with the same high-speed data network access. LAPD is also planning to incorporate GPS information into its dispatch system for mobile resource management. And with longer-term capacity enhancements planned for the network by Sprint, the Department is evaluating adding streaming video from patrol cars and designated areas around the city back to the station so that officers can have even more information as they approach a location or handle an incident that is unfolding.

“We have demonstrated that Sprint’s commercial broadband network is not only a viable, but a valuable alternative to private data networks owned and maintained by an organization. We now have a more reliable, significantly faster way to transmit mission-critical and lifesaving information to and from officers in the field with minimal investment.”

*- Tim Riley, Chief Information Officer,
LAPD Information and Communications
Services Bureau*

For more information, please visit www.sprint.com or contact your Sprint representative.