

IACP TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE



Law Enforcement Technology Program Survey

[Field Reporting](#)

[Mobile Data Browser](#)

Agency Name: Danville Police Department

Technology Program Name: Field Reporting

Contact Name: Ronald Hairston

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City: Danville

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E-mail Address: hairstrd@ci.danville.va.us

Home Page Address: www.danville-va.gov

Total Sworn: 139

Total Civilian: 8

Agency Type: Municipal Police

Program Status: Department Wide Program

Funding Description

LLEBG, COPS Earmarks, Homeland Security funds, State of Virginia Interoperability Grant

Hardware Manufacturers

[Panasonic](#) – Toughbooks; [Compaq](#) - Servers

Software Manufacturers

[HTE](#) – Field Reporting

Program Narrative

Using grant funding from multiple sources, the City of Danville purchased the field reporting module from HTE. We have purchased 22 laptops (Panasonic ToughBooks) and have deployed 4 as a pilot project. We are currently in the training phase and anticipate implementing the field reporting piece sometime during the summer. Data collection will initially be done via thumb drives and later by way of Wi-Fi hot spots. There were several small add on pieces, i.e. laptop mounts, USB extension cables, power supplies, surge protectors, additional batteries, etc.

Additional Concerns

Work closely with your IT people and use items on state contract when possible. Site visits are critical.

Agency Name: Danville Police Department

Technology Program Name: Mobile Data Browser

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Program Status: Department Wide Program

Funding Description

Grant funded by the following sources: LLEBG, COPS earmark grant, State of VA Interoperability Grant, Homeland Security Funds, and funds from other internal departments who anticipate using the wireless network

Hardware Manufacturers

[Panasonic](#) – Toughbooks; [Compaq](#) – Servers; [Cisco](#) – Radius server for security; [CDW-G](#) – Assorted power devices

Software Manufacturers

[HTE](#) – Mobile Data Browser

Program Narrative

The Danville Police Department used assorted grant funds to purchase the Mobile Data Browser module from HTE. The department purchased the HTE base package in 1998 and began installation January 1999. The original suite of products included the following items: RMS, CAD, Fire and Jails. The Field Reporting piece was recently purchased and is currently being implemented. A separated imaging software package was also purchased and is a shared product between all modules. Likewise, the Mobile Data Browser network can be shared between each of the aforementioned entities. We will initially deploy the network using Wi-Fi hotspots. Future plans include upgrading to Wi-MAX using 802.16e standard. We are currently in discussion with NIJ to pilot a project for Wi-Max sometime in the near future. We intend to deploy a pilot of four antennas to properly configure the set-ups prior to fully deploying antennas city wide. The NLECTC-Northeast has provided consulting concerning network deployment and security. The effective of the system will only be line-of-sight for a ¼ to ½ mile from each hotspot; however the trade off is broadband to the vehicle. Broader coverage is anticipated with the deployment of Wi-Max and true mobile through 802.20. The City of Danville has also deployed a fiber optic network, which we will use to do backhaul.

Additional Concerns

Wi-Fi has limits but it also has a number of advantages including pricing versus other RF or cellular technology solutions. Smaller cities with limited funding may wish to seriously consider Wi-Fi as opposed to more expensive solutions. There are a number of small and large departments that are currently using this technology successfully. Site visits are critical as well as technical assistance. NIJ has it for free, which will save tons of money over using vendor services. NIJ can be a non-bias neutral partner, i.e. an honest broker.