

IACP TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE



Law Enforcement Technology Program Survey

Agency Name: [Rapid City Police Department](#)

Technology Program Name: Mobile Computer Project

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Agency Size: Total Sworn: 94, Total Civilian: 30

Agency Type: Municipal Police

Technology Program Status: Permanent Program

Mobile Hardware Type and Quantity: Laptop - 20

Printer: None at present

How is data transmitted from the Field to the Station? Wireless (RF)

How is data transmitted from the Station to State and Data Collection Authorities?
Wireless (Modem)

Funding: Two grants: Law Enforcement Block Grant of 1996 & Law Enforcement Block Grant of 1997

Hardware Manufacturers: [Samsung](#) & [Winbook](#) - Laptops for cars, [Ericcson](#) - Data Radio, [DATA Radio](#) - Mobile Radio Modems & Mobile Radio Mux, [Compaq](#) - Message Switch Computer, [DATA Radio](#) - Hub (Base Data Link Controller)

Software Manufacturers: [Cerulean](#) - Mobile Software, Mobile Base Software; [COTT Systems](#) - Records/CAD/NCIC; Sidwell - Automatic Vehicle Location; [DATA Radio](#) - Communications BDLC to base

Important Technology Lessons Learned: Be certain the software vendor you choose has already installed and is successfully running copies of the software. Example: If they are selling a Windows version be certain you are not speaking to agencies using their DOS version. We had and have had problems due to numerous issues with our systems communications protocol (DBA) which the software company had not used previously. Problems interfacing to our [Hewlett Packard](#) MPE systems resulted in our local records system provider writing the interface versus the mobile software vendor. The software vendor terribly "over sold" their product and we failed to do a good enough job checking out their claims. We are still completing the first phase of our project after some 20 months of aggravating delays due to these factors. We hope phase II of our project that includes records uploads will be completed by the end of 1998. Phase I NLT June 30, 1998.

Program Narrative Overview: Mobile computer project to install 20 mobile computer terminals for the following uses: 1) Silent car to car communications, 2) Silent dispatching and messaging, 3) NCIC checks from vehicle (persons, plates, guns, articles), 4) Local records checks from vehicle (persons, places), 5) Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) for officer safety and better dispatching - closest unit to a call, 6) Case report, field interview report entry (not up yet).