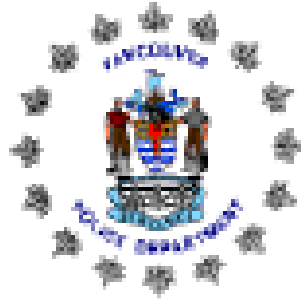


IACP TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE



Law Enforcement Technology Program Survey

Agency Name: Vancouver Police Department

Technology Program Name: E-Comm Project

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Agency Size: Total Sworn: 1084, Total Civilian: 273

Agency Type: Municipal Police and Federal Police

Technology Program Status: Department Wide, Permanent Program

Mobile Hardware Type and Quantity: Laptop: 235

Printer: Not known at this time.

How is data transmitted from the Field to the Station? Wireless

How is data transmitted from the Station to State and Data Collection Authorities?

Hard-line

Funding: All member agencies pay into the project.

Hardware Manufacturers: Vendor not selected but have decided to purchase a Pentium based laptop with a minimum 233 MHz CPU; 4 GB hard drive; 63 Mb RAM; and must be ruggedized with a backlit keyboard; touchpad; and either Windows 95 or NT operating system.

Software Manufacturers: [Litton/PRC](#) - Altaris CAD Program; RMS vendor has not been selected at this time.

Important Technology Lessons Learned: It is too early in the project to say.

Program Narrative Overview: In the spring of 1995 the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as well as other local municipal emergency services agencies became partners on a project to replace their aging radio systems. It soon became apparent that by combining their resources and taking advantage of bulk purchasing power, all of the member agencies would achieve the advantages of an area wide communications system in a cost-effective way. After a series of meetings between several municipal police and fire departments, the RCMP, the Provincial ambulance service, a corporation was formed to manage the project and the new system. The corporation was name E-Comm, Emergency Communications for Southwestern British Columbia.

The E-Comm project is divided into three programs: 1) Wireless communications (Radio and laptops using CDPD modems); 2) Call taking and dispatch (CAD); 3) Record management system (RMS).

The project will be implementing a multi-site, multi-zone digital radio system that will provide trunked voice service as well as wireless data communications to public safety agencies and other municipal users in Southwestern BC. The radio system will employ the latest technologies to provide advanced features such as wide area roaming, inter-agency inter-operability, in-building coverage, digital encryption, selective calling, dynamic regrouping, paging and extensive mobile data functionality.

Deployment of a single, trunked simulcast radio system in the region to support all users will accommodate the entire user population on the available spectrum in the 800 MHz band. This shared system will maximize inter-operability, reduce spectrum impact and lower the costs to the individual public safety agencies. It is estimated that the agencies that are participating in the project will save 30-50% over the cost of implementing their own independent systems. When the project is complete the new wide area radio system (WARS) will cover approximately 13,000 square miles, providing service to over 50% of the population of British Columbia. A request for proposals was issued and in June 1998 Ericsson/BMS was awarded the contract to build the new radio system.

The E-Comm corporation's objective is to achieve over time a single, integrated computer aided dispatch system to serve all the emergency service agencies, providing the greatest efficiency and flexibility in emergency response and to facilitate the development of integrated police and justice information systems. A contract was awarded to Litton/PRC to install their Altaris CAD system which is a technologically advanced, on line, real time system that is designed to enhance the operational effectiveness and delivery of police, fire and ambulance services. Some of the features of the CAD system are: Full function CAD; Management Information System (MIS) providing statistic capture and reporting; Mapping system which incorporates real time displays, Automated Vehicle Routing and Recommendation (AVRR), Automated Vehicle Location data management (AVL) and Graphical Map Maintenance capability (GDI); Mobile data applications; Integration with the new Wide Area Radio System; Extensive alerting capability; Integration with computer telephony; Support for E911, cellular 911, TDD, Time based synchronization, and software integration into EMS call taking.

The E-Comm records management system will provide records management and mobile reporting services to police agencies both within the E-Comm CAD domain and throughout the rest of the province of British Columbia. Mobile reporting is a major component of the RMS system, which will allow participating police agencies to reduce their dependence upon written reports, and move towards a common standard for occurrence storage and retrieval. The mobile component of the proposed system must interact with the CAD system to be used within E-Comm, and also, potentially, with other types of police CAD systems used throughout the province.

The aim of the project is to enable and promote information sharing between all police agencies within the province of BC, through a common database, employing access tools, applications, and utilities based, as much as possible, on commercial "off the shelf" products and open standards. The use of existing technologies such as TCP/IP, SQL, web browsers, e-mail, mailing lists, news groups, and the like will draw upon the large body of skill and experience that exists outside the field of policing. Use of these common standards will position the new system to be able to take advantage of developments in industry. At this stage of the project, a vendor for the RMS system has not been selected.

At present, police, fire and ambulance services in the user area are using MDT's in their vehicles. These will be replaced by mobile workstations (laptops) when the new system comes on line. The MWS must be Pentium based with a minimum 233MHz CPU, 4GB HD, and 64MB RAM. The units must be rugged construction with a backlit keyboard, a touch-pad and use either, Win 95 or NT operation system. A vendor has not been selected at this point of the procurement process.

The new radio system go-live date is June 1, 1999. The full CAD/RMS system is expected to come online in the fall of 1999.