



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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TO: ALERTS Users
FROM: Candice Kane
RE: ALERTS Update
DATE: June 4, 1999

I am writing to inform you of activities which are underway to improve ALERTS:

Year 2000 Compliance

Work to ensure ALERTS is “Y2K compliant” is on schedule. To speed this process the Illinois State Police has assigned Ken Born, a member of the original ALERTS programming team, to work with us. Testing of the updated system is scheduled for the fall.

Base Stations

With approximately 3000 devices, ALERTS is one of the largest mobile data networks in the world. Since some of these devices utilize single frequency reuse technology and others multiple frequency reuse technology, the Authority has a network of base stations that, as a group, are able to support both technologies. As agencies continue to transition from the single to the multiple frequency system, the Authority will continue to upgrade existing single frequency base stations or add new multiple frequency base stations.

DataTAC 2.0

Since its introduction the Authority has continually updated the ALERTS system with the latest technology available in order to provide the finest service available to our user community. The last system enhancement implemented by ALERTS was the state-of-the-art RD-LAP wireless data technology. RD-LAP and DataTAC 1.0 provide ALERTS with 3 to 5 times as much capacity for users and messages per radio channel by providing data rates of up to 9.6 and 19.2 KBPS, respectively.

The next generation in wireless data technology is DataTAC 2.0. DataTAC 2.0 will support all the features of RD-LAP and DataTAC 1.0, while providing the following features that are currently not offered with RD-LAP and DataTAC 1.0:

- Provide industry standard connectivity through over the air IP messaging. This will allow the ultimate flexibility and ease in adding new applications as they evolve.
- Provide greater system capacity through the use of data compression. This will allow us to support our new applications and more users.
- Provide mobility management that allows users to roam between different radio network controllers. This will allow for easier network expansion and the addition of other networks on the system.
- Provide data encryption and user authentication. This will give us the greater security that we require for future system integration.

DataTAC 2.0 will help to bring ALERTS into the year 2000. DataTAC 2.0 will provide a smooth migration to the future while still protecting the considerable investment the State has already made. It will support legacy devices and user applications at the same time as allowing for new devices with greater enhancements and features.

With the enhanced DataTAC 2.0 system comes some very important decisions about software. ALERTS has always used software provided by Motorola on all of the mobile data terminals. The software that Motorola provides is essential because it is designed to work solely with Motorola's network. One of the many functions of DataTAC 2.0 is the ability to connect to ALERTS using over the air IP messaging. This means that ALERTS can communicate using any TCP/IP application. The Authority is currently in the process of evaluating a number of different vendors' mobile data software.

IWIN and ALERTS

The Illinois Wireless Information Network (IWIN) is a new mobile data network that has been created by the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services. IWIN uses Cellular Digital Packet Data or CDPD to communicate to its mobile data terminals. The Authority plans to integrate IWIN and ALERTS in the future so that ALERTS users have the ability to communicate with all the users of IWIN.

Staffing

We are continuing to seek replacements for Terry Gough and Peggy Mueller. Qualified applicants will be brought on board as soon as possible. In the meantime, John Evans is overseeing the work of both the customer support and user support groups and teaming with fellow ISU managers Tony Jenkins and Ernst Melchior and the Authority's executive staff to ensure the work of ISU continues and remains on course.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of the staff if you have questions.