

Bondi Cars go Live

The new Mobile Data Radio System (MDRS) has become operational in the Sydney Division. Officers from Bondi Station were the first to use the new system, which is being phased into all stations on the East Operational Board during January. The MDRS will progressively be introduced during 2004 to all stations in Sydney and the Central Coast as the network is rolled out.

Station Officer Kevin Nutsford (Bondi) states that the feedback from staff when using the MDT has been very positive. They find the MDT is user friendly, quick "the incident is on the screen before the phone is hung up" and the interactive computer training package is easy to use.

The MDRS has been built from the ground up as a designated "Data Network". This means the MDRS will focus on the transfer of incident data only, which will leave the Government Radio Network (GRN) to focus purely on voice communications. For more information regarding the MDRS refer to the article on the Intranet.

During the initial tendering process Sydney Division workload patterns were overlaid on a map, which showed the predicted MDRS Network coverage area. This allowed system designers to plan their base station locations to reflect these workloads. As a result, 31 base stations are being constructed to give the necessary coverage required. This compares with 16 base stations currently being used for the GRN.

Over the past six months the AmbCAD System Support Unit conducted both simulated and live testing of the MDRS network to ensure the system is more than capable of delivering the performance levels as outlined in the service contract. During these trials data was received at an average time of 7 seconds and the network met the contracted standard of coverage in 99% of locations at 99% of the time. Officers can be assured that as each area comes on line with MDRS, the system is comprehensively tested to ensure these performance levels have been met.



S/O Kevin Nutsford from Bondi demonstrates the MDRS training module to Divisional Manager Ken Pritchard (left) and SOCO Alan Reinten (right).

In conjunction with the implementation of the MDRS other new initiatives are being introduced. These initiatives are: -

- New help desk procedures where officers can call direct to the Communications Section at Rozelle, via radio during office hours, and report problems with a MDT. The after hours telephone number is 9320 7775.
- The MDRS Mobile Data Terminal also has the ability to self-report faults to AmbCAD system. These faults will be recorded in AmbCAD and actioned on a daily basis. The terminal can fault report on power disconnect or failures and loss of GPS signal and functionality.
- A training package which includes a training manual, quick reference card and a CDrom training simulator. All officers will be issued with the CDrom training simulator and reference card. A training manual will be issued to each station and vehicle.

- Interactive assessment tool which will allow officers the opportunity to perform their own MDRS assessment and e-mail or fax the results to the System Support Unit.
- A new radio profile for the GRN radios programmed with the help desk radio channel. Also incorporated in the new profile is a radio channel for Ambulance workshops. This will enable officers to contact the workshops, during workshop rostered hours, and report vehicle defects.

SOCO Alan Reinten
MDRS Transition Operations Manager

The OpMobile MDT Display



Enclosed in this issue

- Instructional Circulars IC04/01 and IC04/02.
- 2004 Roadshow program.

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