

San Diego Sheriff's Department

Homeland Security: Police Force to Focus on Street Duties



The San Diego County Sheriff's Department provides general law enforcement and jail functions for the people of San Diego County in a service area of approximately 4,200 square miles – covering both incorporated cities within the county and unincorporated areas not serviced by a city law enforcement agency.

About the San Diego County Sheriff's Department

- The chief law enforcement agency in the County of San Diego
- Approximately 4,000 employees, both sworn officers and professional support staff
- General law enforcement and jail functions in a service area of approximately 4,200 square miles

The Challenge

- Increase the time patrol officers spend on the street by offering efficient access to paperwork processing and office-related functions
- Improve the quality and quantity of information available to Deputies on patrol via their Mobile Data Computers (MDC's)
- Reduce the amount of time and effort required to perform software updates to vehicle MDC's

The Solution

- The deployment of a wireless LAN
- Alvarion's BreezeNET - product of choice

The Result

- Approximately 450 patrol vehicles equipped with the Alvarion BreezeNET SA-10 station adaptors
- About 40-50 base stations incorporating 70 BreezeNET Access Points have been installed at various facilities including station houses, courts, and jails
- Future plans to increase the number of equipped patrol vehicles to about 650

With responsibility for such a large region, it is critical that the Department's officers spend as much time as possible on the streets, where they can best fulfill their peace-keeping duties.

But patrol deputies found themselves spending a great deal of time at their stations, completing paperwork, transferring data to and from department desktops and computers via floppy disks, accessing email, and downloading the various files that, while necessary to support good law enforcement, kept them away from the street. Moreover, the coordination of simple and routine IT maintenance tasks, such as updating virus scan definitions, had become a nightmare, requiring garage visits to over 400 patrol vehicles or the distribution of 400 floppy disks to deputies. The Sheriff's department therefore needed a way to seamlessly interconnect their patrol vehicles to the department's LAN, and thus allow officers to streamline their administrative duties in order to spend more time patrolling neighborhoods.

BreezeNET: Connecting Peace Officers to the Department

As organizations such as the San Diego Sheriff's Department expand, and as mobile connectivity becomes an indispensable component to the smooth operation of homeland security organization the need for reliable communications has become vital. Alvarion's BreezeNET PRO.11 products, which provide robust, reliable, and cost-effective networking with roaming capabilities, are helping to make efficient and effective public safety connectivity a reality.

The Sheriff's Department chose the BreezeNET PRO.11 because it can connect patrol cars to various county facilities.

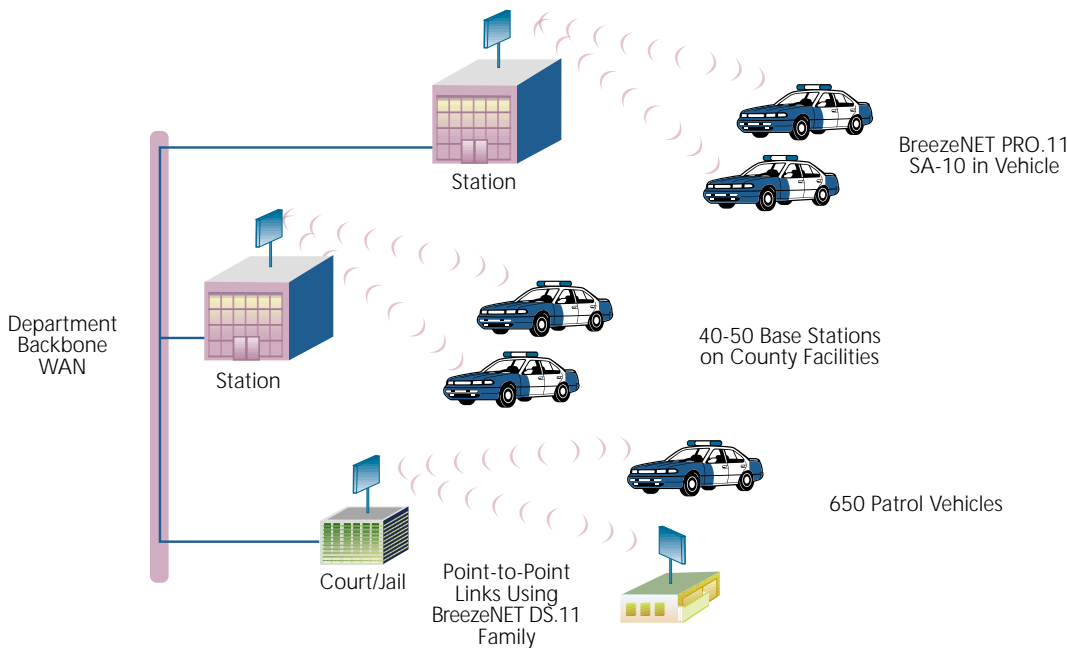
"Before we installed the system, we brainstormed to imagine a high-speed wireless LAN, extending our wide-area network to the patrol car computers. It would support officers in the field by eliminating the need for floppy disks and by providing a means for importing and exporting large data files. Installed in all our patrol cars and in police facilities throughout the region, the Alvarion system is doing exactly what we wanted it to."

- Sgt. Lloyd Muenzer,
San Diego Sheriff's Department,
Data Services Division

It leverages Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum technology, which is optimized for high density and noisy environments, enabling uninterrupted mobile connectivity to multiple simultaneous users. Featuring plug-and-play network installation, BreezeNET is immediately deployable and scales easily to the changing needs of the network environment.

Indeed, the BreezeNET system has all the features needed for connecting the Sheriff's patrol cars to the department LAN, including high-speed roaming at up to 95 kmh (60 mph). Data rates of up to 3 Mbps, with an aggregate backbone rate of up to 15 Mbps, are possible using a multi-cell configuration. BreezeNET supports a range of up to 50 km (30 miles) outdoors, and has an indoor range of 150 m (500 ft). Additionally, it allows for load balancing between co-located access points and is IEEE 802.11 and IEEE 802.3 compliant.

Moreover, wireless connectivity has allowed the Sheriff's Department to install small, satellite offices without the prohibitive expense incurred with wireline access. Alvarion's outdoor wireless bridging equipment is perfect for these applications, saving the department time and money, and preventing growing pains. But above all, Alvarion's system permits deputies to spend more time on the street, which in turn allows them to serve and protect their communities in the most effective way possible.



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