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Electronic Monitoring Equipment

(Purpose: To monitor an offender's presence in a given environment where the offender is required to remain)

NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

Introduction

Electronic monitoring of criminal offenders on house arrest or in community corrections' programs is proving a viable alternative to traditional forms of supervision in some jurisdictions. By using any of the four basic types of electronic monitoring devices, officials can verify that an offender is where he or she is required to be at any given time.

This pamphlet describes the four types of devices and presents the National Institute of Justice's latest information on manufacturers and distributors of the equipment as of February 1987.

Device that uses a telephone at the monitored location

Continuously signaling

A miniaturized transmitter is strapped to the offender and it broadcasts an encoded signal at regular intervals over a range.

A receiver-dialer, located in the offender's home, detects signals from the transmitter and reports to a central computer when it stops receiving the signal from the transmitter and when it starts receiving the signal again; it also provides periodic checks.

A central computer or receiver accepts reports from the receiver-dialer over the telephone lines, compares them with the offender's curfew schedule, and alerts correctional officials to unauthorized absences.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

BI Home Escort. BI Incorporated, 6175 Longbow Drive, Boulder, CO 80301.
Telephone 303-530-2911.

Supervisor. CONTRAC, Controlled Activities Corp., 93351 Overseas Highway, Tavernier, FL 33070.
Telephone 305-852-9507.

Home Detention Network.
Innovative Security Systems, Inc.,
1711 Worthington Road, Suite 108,
West Palm Beach, FL 33409.
Telephone 305-697-2777.

In-House Arrest System. Correctional Services Inc., 2715 Australian Avenue, Suite 105, West Palm Beach, FL 33402.
Telephone 305-833-4550.

Contac. Monitech, 419 Wakara Way,
Salt Lake City, UT 84108.
Telephone 801-584-2543.

Prisoner Monitoring System. Controlec,
Inc., Box 48132, Niles, IL 60648.
Telephone 312-966-8435.

ASC II b.* Advanced Signal Concepts,
P.O. Box 1856, Clewiston, FL 33440.
Telephone 813-983-2073.

Home Incarceration Unit.* Tekton I.D., Inc,
111 N. Peters Street, Suite 204,
Norman, OK 73069.
Telephone 405-364-9808.

*This device can transmit to the central unit
over either telephone lines or long-range
wireless repeater system.

Programmed contact

Each of the five devices in this column uses a central computer which functions similarly. But each uses a different system to verify the presence of the offender.

A computer is programmed to call the offender during the hours being monitored either randomly or at specifically selected times. It prepares reports on the results of the calls.

1) Strapped on the offender's arm is a wristlet, a black plastic module.

When the computer calls, the wristlet is inserted into a verifier box connected to the telephone to verify that the call is being answered by the offender being monitored.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

On Guard System. Digital Products Corporation, 4021 Northeast 5th Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334.
Telephone 305-564-0521.

2) Voice verification technology assures that the telephone is answered by the offender being monitored.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

Provotron. VoxTron Systems Inc., 190 Seguin St., New Braunfels, TX 78130.
Telephone 512-629-4807.

3) The offender wears a wrist watch which is programmed to provide a number unique to that offender at that time. The number is entered into a touch-tone telephone in response to the call.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

The Watch. Behavioral Systems Southwest,
P.O. Box 2843, Pomona, CA 91769-2843.
Telephone 714-623-0604.

4) Visual verification technology assures that the telephone is being answered by the offender being monitored.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

Luma Visual Telephone. Luma Telecom, Inc.,
Crystal Square-1206,
1515 Jefferson Davis Hwy.,
Arlington, VA 22202.
Telephone 703-892-4790.

5) The offender carries a digital read-out pager which displays the number to be called to verify the presence of the offender. This system includes voice identification message delivery and retrieval, locale verification, and does not require the offender to have a telephone at the residence, but to have close access to one. The program is to assist the monitoring officer who can override it at any time deemed necessary or appropriate.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

Protective Sentry Pager Program.
Gray & Henry, Inc. (GHI),
444 Brickell Avenue, Suite 51-259,
Miami, FL 33131.
Telephone 305-577-3477.

Device that uses a telephone at the monitored location

Cellular telephone

The link is a small transmitter worn by the offender.

The locator unit, placed in the offender's home or other approved location, receives the signal from the link, records it, and relays the information by regular or cellular telephone to the local area monitor.

The local area monitor is a microcomputer and information management system. This equipment is placed with the network manager (the leader of a small group of people in the offender's neighborhood who supervise him and encourage him to succeed). It receives information from the offender and coordinates communications among the network members. Each local network can supervise 15 to 20 people.

If required, a remote management center located in a correctional agency can be added to provide increased security and back-up functions.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

SCAN System. Life Science Research Group, 515 Fargo Street, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.
Telephone 805-492-4406.

Device that does not use a telephone

Continuously signaling

A transmitter is strapped to the offender which sends out a constant signal.

A portable receiver, in the car of the officer who is monitoring the offender, is tuned to receive the signal from the specific transmitter when the officer drives within one block of the offender's home.

Manufacturer/Distributor:

Cost-Effective Monitoring System. Dr.
Walter W. McMahon, 2207 Grange Circle,
Urbana, IL 61801.
Telephone Day 217-333-4579 or
Evening 217-367-3990.