

GENERAL ORDER 81.3.1

Use of MDC's

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Establishes the procedure for field use of the Mobile Data Computers.

DISCUSSION

The Mobile Data Computer (MDC) accesses the City of Springfield network and shared public safety application systems. . All official use agreements and conditions of use apply to the operator of a Mobile Data Computer. The Mobile Data Computer Terminal shall only be used by official personnel and only for official business.

POLICY

I

The MDC is provided to the field officer as an additional tool and is not intended to replace the communications officer.

Due to the Department's primary reliance on single officer patrol, the use of the MDT should be primarily limited to times when the patrol vehicle is stopped for the sending or reading of messages. Officers shall exercise due caution sending or reading messages while the patrol vehicle is in motion. This is a potentially dangerous practice that may result in an accident.

The officer may read messages that are of immediate importance or provide officer safety information while the vehicle is in motion. The sending of lengthy messages is prohibited unless there is a second officer riding in the vehicle who can act as the MDC operator.

Officer safety is very important and the use of Mobile Data Computers should not be used in any manner that would jeopardize this factor. If the officer is involved in a situation where having their attention diverted to the MDC is unsafe, then all communications should be done via radio with the communications center.

Officers may create and/or change the classification of a CAD call. However, the final decision regarding how a call should be reflected on the activity log will remain the responsibility of the watch commander in consultation with the on-duty communications officer.

Officers shall login and utilize MDCs using their own username and password. Officer shall not login to MDCs or other applications with usernames or passwords of other individuals . This is a violation of the City of Springfield's computer use policy, CJI policy, and the Department's agreement with City of Eugene regarding the use of computer terminals.

Officers shall exit all computer applications and logoff MDCs at the end of their shifts.

Officers may communicate with the dispatch center and with field units using MDC to send messages. Officers should remember that all computer messages are accessible to other computer system users and in some cases may be subject to public disclosure.

The MDC operator shall only send messages related to official business and professional in nature.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police