



TLETS NEWSLETTER

Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System

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TLETS Re-Engineering Underway

In order to make TLETS a telecommunications infrastructure capable of responding to the future needs of law enforcement agencies in Texas, as well as to conform to the requirements placed on The Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) by NCIC, TXDPS is in the midst of re-engineering and upgrading TLETS. The Department's goal is to make TLETS a telecommunications system for the future by building a TCP/IP network, changing all terminal agencies to a browser-based environment, and fully implementing the functionality of NCIC 2000.

The project was initiated in May 2002. It is the third phase of the NCIC/TCIC 2000 project. In determining requirements and recommendations, the project team has performed significant amounts of analysis on the current system, researched potential solutions, and sought advice from a few member agencies. Any recommendations may be directed to tlets@txdps.state.tx.us. The project team is developing a Request for Proposal (RFP). Once an award is made, TXDPS will provide all users with a project update, including equipment requirements and specifications.

TLETS is seeking solutions that are reliable, easy-to-use, provide scalability, allow for the use of commercial-off-the-shelf hardware throughout the network, and ultimately minimize cost to TXDPS and the member agencies. Most importantly, TXDPS does not intend to continue to support the SNA environment. This means that CAD, RMS, and MDT systems that currently communicate with TXDPS through LU6.2 will be required to change their interface to TXDPS. At this time, it is believed that other systems will be required to purchase a Network Interface Card (NIC) to replace their current Synchronous Data Link Control (SDLC) card. Multi-terminal agencies may be required to re-engineer their connectivity with TXDPS. In order to allow agencies adequate time to plan for procurement of any possible system upgrades, TXDPS will provide TLETS users with the earliest possible notification regarding known changes. TXDPS anticipates that equipment requirements and specifications for this effort will be available in the second Quarter of 2003.

TXDPS will continue to cover the maintenance and upkeep of the satellite dish, the Personal Earth Station (PES), and any other equipment installed during the satellite rollout. This is an enormous task and will take significant effort. TXDPS intends to migrate to the new system gradually, to minimize impact on the user.

The planning committee will communicate project progress through any avenues available to them. The TLETS newsletter posted on the TCIC2000 Web site is one such method. Access the web site at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/tcic2000project/>. The username is **TCIC2000** and the password is **me118can2**. TXDPS encourages members to check that resource often to obtain the most recent information. Questions, comments, and concerns may be relayed to tlets@txdps.state.tx.us

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STATEWIDE TEXAS AMBER ALERT NETWORK – HOW IT WORKS

Governor Rick Perry set up the Statewide Texas Amber Alert Network by executive order on August 12 to provide rapid response to kidnappings. State and federal agencies and Texas broadcasters work together to get information out as quickly as possible during the first crucial hours after the kidnapping.

The Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) is a key part of the Amber Alert Network. The Amber Alert Network is administered by the Division of Emergency Management (DEM), Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Law enforcement agencies requesting activation of the Amber Alert Network must first answer five crucial questions. If the answer to any one of the five questions is “NO,” this incident does not meet criteria for activation of the Amber Alert Network. The five questions are:

- Is this child 17 years of age or younger?
- Does the law enforcement agency believe that the child has been abducted, that is, unwillingly taken without permission of the child’s parent or guardian?
- Is there reason to believe that a child is in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death?
- Is it confirmed that an investigation has taken place that verifies the abduction and has eliminated alternative explanations for the child’s disappearance?
- Is enough information available to be given to the public to help locate the child, the suspected kidnapper or the vehicle?

Again, if the answer to any one of the five crucial questions is “no,” do not proceed.

If the answer to ALL of the five questions is “yes,” then fill in all sections of the Texas Department of Public Safety Amber Alert Information Form (form AA_1). The form is found on page 8 in the document titled “Texas Amber Alert Network” that was mailed to all law enforcement from the Office of the Governor. This document can be accessed on the DEM web site at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/documents.htm#amber>. It is important either to type or to write all the information legibly. Approximate time and date the victim was abducted are needed on the forms. Amber Alerts are intended to provide information as quickly as possible after the incident has occurred in the first hours after a kidnapping.

Other information includes: your agency’s name; the name and the title of the officer investigating the case; the contact telephone number and area code for the investigating officer; the fax number and area code for your agency; and the authentication password for your agency.

The authentication password is critical. The DPS EMS staff will need this to verify that your agency is the agency requesting activation of the network. Law enforcement agency staff responsible for filling in the form who do not yet know their agency’s password must contact their chief of police or sheriff for this information. The password should be kept in a place where **all operators on all shifts have access to it 24 hours a day.**

VICTIM DATA includes the victim’s full name, including first, last and middle name or initial; age and sex; physical description including weight, height, hair, eye color and race, using standard codes (**W=WHITE, B=BLACK, A=ASIAN, I=INDIAN, and O=OTHER**); a description of the clothing the victim was last seen wearing and any unique characteristics of the victim.

Similar information is needed for the suspected kidnapper, including first, last and middle name or initial, age, sex, height, weight, race, hair color, eye color, clothing description, unique characteristics. The make, model and year of the suspect’s vehicle are needed along with license plate number and descriptions of characteristics of the vehicle (dents or scratches) that might help identify the vehicle.

Continued on page 3.

TRAINING CALENDAR

2003 SCHEDULE

HOUSTON-FILLED-WAITING LIST
JANUARY 20-24, 2003

SAN ANTONIO-FILLED WAITING LIST
FEBRUARY 17-21, 2003

EL PASO
MARCH 17-21, 2003

AMARILLO
APRIL 7-11, 2003

TLETS/NLETS AND TCIC/NCIC BASIC
PROCEDURES COURSE # 3811 – Contact DPS
Austin at mnemonic address JJ04 or call 512/424-
2419 or 2014. Agencies desiring the three-day
TLETS/NLETS Operator's Course can attend the first
three days of the 40-hour school. E-mail
joanne.jenkins@txdps.state.tx.us

**Note: As of January 1, 2000, all agencies must
maintain one (1) fully trained DPS certified
operator per shift. See the TRAINING helpfile**

Would you like to receive the TLETS Newsletter
and other publications via e-mail? If so, please
complete the following information:

1. Full name and job title
 2. Physical address
 3. Business phone
 4. Business fax
 5. E-mail address
- Optional: Agency Web site address

joanne.jenkins@txdps.state.tx.us

**Just a reminder, if your contact person
changes or leaves employment, please contact
us with the new information so we can modify
our records. Also if you change address or
phone number or you agency administrator is
new, please advise.**

Amber Alert continued from page 2

The next step is very important. Telephone the DPS
Communications Center at **512-424-2277 primary
24-hr number or 512-424-2208 alternate** and advise
the staff you are faxing an Amber Alert Information
form to request activation of the network.

Fax the form to 512-424-2281 or 512-451-2291

When the DEM staff receives the fax, they
immediately contact the reporting agency to verify the
authentication password and other information on the
form, especially the name, title, and contact number of
the investigating officer, as well as the agency's fax
number. Top officials with DPS are then notified.

Once the Amber Alert activation has been approved
by DPS, the DEM sends TLETS messages to all DPS
offices, police departments and sheriff's offices within
a 200-mile radius of the abduction site. The Texas
Department of Transportation (TXDOT) Traffic
Management Center in Fort Worth is contacted to
activate the electronic highway signs.

DEM staff notifies the National Weather Service
Office (NWSO) Austin/San Antonio via the Texas
Warning System (TEWAS,) which then issues an alert
to media in a prepared format that can be broadcast
throughout the area. Amber Alert information that
has been screened for use by news media is faxed to
TV and radio stations within the 200-mile radius.

Only the reporting law enforcement agency, the
Director of DPS, or the DEM State Coordinator can
cancel or deactivate the Amber Alert Network.

The Governor's office mailed passwords to all law
enforcement (Police and Sheriff's departments) in
September 2002.

For more information, see the Amber Alert Network
Training Guide at the Division of Emergency
Management Website: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

*By Linda D. Moore
Supervisor Communications Center*

Driver License changes for Rhode Island

Effective Nov. 25th the state of Rhode Island
implemented digital driver license. The Chauffer
Class license will change to an Operators License with
an "R" restriction. New permits will be paper with a
photograph. RI0042000

Do you know the TLETS answers? [Answers from 2nd Quarter TLETS news.](#)

1. What is the NLETS transaction code to modify your agency ORI information? **TQ**
2. What is the broadcast code for stations between Abilene and Perryton? **NH83**
3. What is the transaction code to enter NDPIX Information? **DEX**
4. Why is there no OLN field on the RSDW format? **A DL has 8 digits; there are no digits within the DL number to indicate RACE and SEX.**
5. What is the transaction code to obtain a listing of social security numbering states? **SOC**

TXDOT UPDATE

Texas Department of Transportation Registration and Title System Division have a web site available for vehicle information for non-law enforcement use. Cities/counties that have code enforcement can now access vehicle data via the Web for a fee.

[HTTPS://PROD1.DOT.STATE.TX.US/CENCOMPOP.H TML](https://prod1.dot.state.tx.us/cencompop.htm)

BULLETIN BOARD

EAST TEXAS POLICE ACADEMY

ETPA is conducting in-service training at several locations and dates in 2003.

Henderson PD January 29 and 30: First Line Supervision for new supervisors. (TCLEOSE 3737)

ETPA Academy March 11, 2003. Gang Awareness

Jefferson April 1st & 2. First Line Supervision.

Henderson PD May 27, 2003. Gang Awareness.

Texarkana June 23, 2003. Gang Awareness.

Jacksonville July 30 and 31st. First Line Supervision.

To register contact ETPA 903-983-8663, or register on-line at: www.kilgore.cc.tx.us/etpa

Review of Chapter 5 of the TLETS/NLETS Operating Manual

WHY SHOULD YOUR AGENCY BE REVIEWING THE APB DAILY SUMMARY?

The Department of Public Safety Emergency EMS Communications Center generates an APB Daily Summary that is sent over TLETS twice a day; once at 0600 and 1800 hrs. We have begun to realize that law enforcement administrators and training personnel are not aware it exists or they are aware, but the information is not being forwarded to the appropriate personnel within the agency. The contents of this APB Summary can keep your agency informed of:

- Routine criminal matters of statewide interest.
- Schools/seminars that are of statewide interest (providing the sponsoring agency has adequate seating available).
- Death and/or funeral announcements of law enforcement/criminal justice personnel.
- Messages of statewide interest received from other states.
- TLETS/NLETS system changes/notices
- Miscellaneous.

Agencies should insure that telecommunications operators are aware of these summaries and inform them of procedures that the summary is to be disseminated within your agency.

If your agency has something of interest to the law enforcement agencies forward the information to "AZAA" EMS Communications Center and request you information to be included on the daily APB Summary.

NCIC Interstate Identification Index (III)

Kansas became the 44th III state on 11/3/02. There are over 46 million records are currently available via the III.

See the "STATES" help file for current III participators.

NEW AGENCIES ON TLETS

BRADY (MCCULLOCH CO)	BDSZ
WILLS POINT PD	WPPZ

DELETED AGENCIES

CORPUS CHRISTI US MARSHALL	CCMZ
MADISIONVILLE NTF	NC08

MNEMONIC CORRECTIONS

SAN MARCOS DPS	E3BD
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MNEMONIC ADDRESS CHANGES

	OLD	NEW
DENTON NTF#14		NC38
EL PASO ATF	EPUC	TFEZ
FORT WORTH PD	FWPZ	FWT2

Network Capacity Upgrade for DPS Headquarters and TLETS Members

In the next few weeks and months, DPS will be upgrading the TLETS system that will cause some interruption of service. This upgrade will consist of adding new routers to handle new circuit and bandwidth that is needed to better service the law enforcement communities. This upgrade will also provide added network security and a more efficient way to monitor the network by providing a better response time. This new configuration will be more reliable than the current configuration and will be easier to maintain. DPS will keep you informed of possible outages that may affect your connection to TLETS. Questions can be directed to: tlets@txdps.state.tx.us

Help File Update

The help file called **"REGCLASS"** has been updated to reflect 21 new vehicle registration classes from TXDOT. This file will assist the user in identifying if the correct license plate is on the proper vehicle. At the options menu screen type in: REGCLASS and press the F1 key.

NEW TLETS HELP FILES

Three new help files have been created to assist the TLETS user. These new help files are called **"VISAS,"** **"VEHICLE,"** and **"CANADA."**

The **VISAS** help file will assist users in understanding the various types of foreign visas issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Immigrants are divided into two categories:

1. Those who may obtain permanent residence status without numerical limitation.
2. Those subject to an annual limitation, this category is divided into one of three groupings:
 - A. Family-sponsored
 - B. Employment-based
 - C. Diversity immigrants

See help file for further information or visit: www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/services/visas.htm

The second help file is **VEHICLE**. This file was created to assist the user to identify the proper NCIC color code for vehicle descriptions when creating an administrative message on TLETS. With this help file is also the proper order of description that a vehicle should be described using a proper order.

The **CANADA** help file was created due to the constant changes with the Canadian Providence information. This file will assist the user with ORI's for direct contact with all the providences in Canada.

To access all help files type in at the options menu screen: vehicle or visas or any files that is available and press the F1 key. For a complete help files list type in: DIRLIST, and press F1. For assistance contact the TLETS Training Staff at: tlets@txdps.state.tx.us