U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

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Federal Bureau of Prisons Launches Nationwide Radio Communications Modernization

Washington, D.C.: The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has begun a major nationwide upgrade to its Land Mobile Radio communications system. This effort is one of the largest technology improvements in the agency's history. Through the Enterprise Radio System Deployment Project, 63 BOP institutions will replace older equipment with a modern, digital radio system that will help staff communicate more clearly and reliably. This modernization project is funded by the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, which was signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025.

"Modernizing our radio communications system is an important investment in staff safety and institutional security," said BOP Director William K. Marshall III. "This upgrade will strengthen communications, improve emergency response, and support our public safety mission nationwide."

The new system uses Motorola's latest technology, including updated radio equipment, improved dispatch consoles, and new next-generation portable radios for staff.

To ensure dependable communication, the Bureau will operate two backup core sites in different locations. In addition, 61 institutions will have systems capable of running on their own if the network is disrupted. Institutions will also receive 145 new dispatch consoles to support continuous local communication and coordination.

Across the country, the Bureau will issue more than 22,000 portable radios and nearly 600 LTE-capable units. These radios provide clearer audio, better emergency alerts, and expanded coverage through cellular networks when needed. Staff will also receive accessories, such as holsters, microphones, chargers, and batteries to support a smooth transition.

This modernization effort supports the Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-321), which requires BOP to improve its security camera and radio systems. Once the 24-month installation and testing period is complete, the Bureau will fully meet the radio requirements outlined in the law. This initiative reflects BOP's ongoing commitment to providing staff with dependable technology and safer, more secure operations nationwide.

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