

# Dialing up Criminals

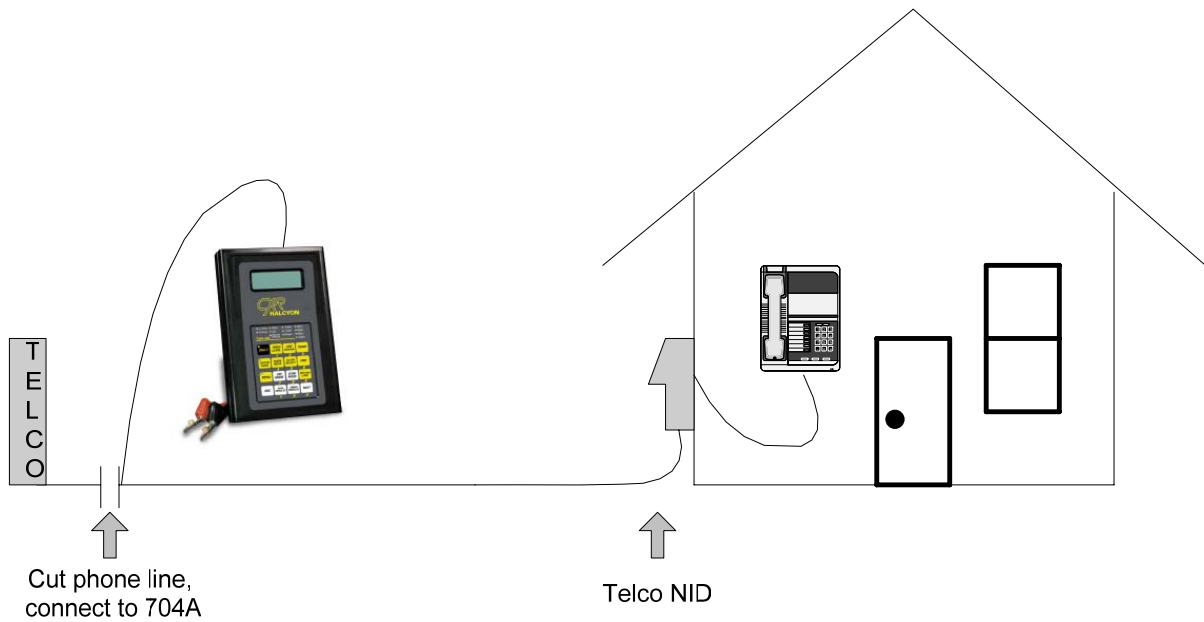
By Daniel B. Burch and Robert A. Stoltz



Break the law in Norman, OK and you just might get a call from the local Police Department. The City of Norman PD (NPD) recently enhanced the communications arsenal for their Emergency Response Team (ERT), which among other things handle negotiations in hostage situations.

To communicate with criminals under dire circumstances, NPD boasts several options to facilitate negotiations, including wireless devices, ruggedized telephones, and a newly-developed method for utilizing the existing telephone network inside the home or business.

While each technology offers promise in certain situations, wireless devices are easily monitored by unauthorized persons who may interfere with negotiations, and use of ruggedized telephones require location knowledge of the perpetrator to establish a building entry point. Such devices are typically tossed through glass doors or windows, which may inflame the situation or trigger a reaction from the criminal. In response to this need, CXR/Larus Corporation of San Jose, CA ([www.cxrlarus.com](http://www.cxrlarus.com)) manufactures the *Halcyon 704A*, a product to “commandeer” the home or business’s internal telephone facilities, providing a secure method for ringing into existing phones located within the building.



The CXR/Larus system purchased by City of Norman is a self-contained “Central Office” which replicates many of the functions performed by Telephone Company switching equipment, such as: Ringing, Talk Circuit, Digit Capture for outbound and incoming calls, monitoring conversations and more. While some functions may require a court order (varies by state), the primary use of the *Halcyon 704A* is to supplant the telephone company facilities. In other words, the telephone line is cutoff from the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and connected directly to the *704A*. Once connected, the *704A* can provide normal ringing cadence or continuous ringing signal to the line. When a telephone instrument inside the hostage site is answered, the *704A* provides a secure, private talk circuit between the hostage site and a second phone or headset utilized by the ERT negotiator. The *704A* is a self-contained unit offering up to 4 hours operation on rechargeable batteries, and can be connected to the external power adapter for continuous operation.



NPD Sergeant Mike Praizner  
demonstrates use of the  
*Halcyon 704A*

Reflecting on capabilities of the *704A*, NPD Sergeant and ERT member Mike Praizner says: “This new tool offers a unique method for establishing critical communications during hostage situations, and since everyone is comfortable using a regular telephone, places the suspect into a familiar setting during a very stressful event. That alone could make the difference in achieving a positive end result.” Addressing the safety of Officers during setup of communications, Praizner continues: “Since the telephone wires can be accessed from a pole or pedestal blocks away from the site, exposure of ERT members to harm is significantly reduced as compared with throwing a phone or radio through a window.” The telephone wires can also be extended several hundred feet into a van or tactical operations vehicle.

However, the 704A is more than just a tool for hostage situations. The instrument also contains dozens of functions required to maintain critical Public Safety communications such as voice, FAX, monitor and alarm circuits, dedicated data services and high-speed T1 circuits. That means in addition to ERT/SWAT duties, the 704A can be used every day by Public Safety Communications Technicians.

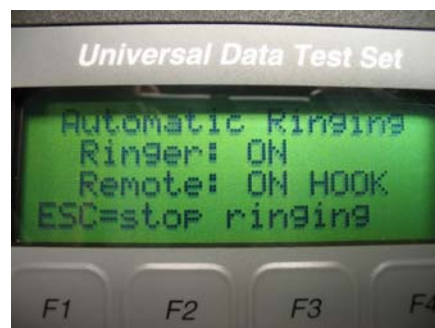


Halcyon Model  
704A



In fact, the *Halcyon 704A* is one of the most widely used test instruments in US Telephone Companies, Utilities, Government Service Agencies, Military and Civilian Aerospace, Public Safety and Private Network Integrators. This means the *Halcyon 704A* doesn't just sit on a shelf until a hostage situation develops, but is used every day for normal communications testing as well. City of Norman Communications Technician Rob Stoltz says: "I really needed a T1 test set and Transmission Impairment Measurement Set (TIMS) for our internal communications testing, so we opted for the *Halcyon 704A* model which had both capabilities. Now I can determine if a failure is on the Phone Company side or our own network facilities."

In fact, it was Rob who initially "discovered" that the 704A could be used for ERT situations. His boss, City of Norman Communications System Manager Lance Terry readily agreed: "When Rob showed me we could meet our communications testing needs and also provide valuable capability to the ERT, it made good business sense to purchase the dual-capability unit. I'm pleased that the City of Norman is getting plenty of "bang for their buck" with this unit, as it speaks to several needs here in the city. If we eventually purchase a second unit, the lower cost version will do just fine, as we already have additional testing capabilities (T1) in the existing set."



With budgets stretched thin, Public Safety Administrators must be creative to meet daily needs of their organizations. The *Halcyon 704A* can provide much-needed, emergency communications capabilities for ERT, SWAT and other mission-critical groups, and also add value to the daily maintenance of internal communications systems.

For additional information on the *Halcyon 704A* or to schedule on-site demos, see [www.cxrlarus.com](http://www.cxrlarus.com) or call CXR Larus at 1-800-999-9946 and ask for the National Support Center (NSC).

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