

Meet the Examiners



DC Women's Style Examiner



Washington Nationals Examiner



DC Running Examiner



DC Ethical Issues Examiner



DC Grandparenting Examiner

[See all Examiners »](#)

## Patrol cars to receive laptops

Nov 8, 2007 3:00 AM (480 days ago) by [Kashmir Hill](#), The Examiner

[Comments](#)

[SEE HOW THIS STORY DEVELOPED](#) | [EMAIL STORY](#) | [PRINT STORY](#)

This story ranks *Not ranked*  
**Related Topics:** [WASHINGTON](#)



(Andrew Harnik/Examiner)  
 District Police Officer Richard Mason works in his police cruiser Wednesday, which has been equipped with new "Smart Patrol" technology.  
 more time on the street fighting crime."

**WASHINGTON** ([Map](#), [News](#)) - The Metropolitan Police Department will spend \$5.2 million to put laptops in all patrol cars over the next year, giving officers access to criminal databases and allowing them to file reports online from their vehicles.

"This technology allows me to free up thousands of man-hours," Police Chief Cathy Lanier said. "An accident report used to take an hour and a half to file. Now, it will take seven minutes."

Mayor Adrian Fenty praised the police department for the "use of technology to be more efficient so officers can spend

Presently, officers depend on radios and a wireless system called "the brick" by officers due to its unwieldiness, police Chief Technology Officer Travis Hudnall said. The brick, a tower unit kept in the trunk, gives officers access to D.C. criminal data and sometimes FBI data.

**This story continues below**

Advertisement

[Dell Official Site](#)  
 Powerful, Affordable Dell Notebooks for Home, Office & Small Business!  
[www.Dell.com](http://www.Dell.com)

[Laptop Buying Guide](#)  
 We Eliminate the Guesswork. Find Your New Laptop Today! Learn More  
[www.PC.com](http://www.PC.com)

[Crown Victoria Suspension](#)  
 Save Big on Ford Suspension Parts! Find Shocks, Conversion Kits & More  
[www.Strutmasters.com](http://www.Strutmasters.com)

Ads by Google

"The biggest change with the new Smart Patrol technology is integrating with national law enforcement agencies," Hudnall said. Previously, officers had to radio the station to run checks on federal databases.

"[Radio] air time is valuable. Before, if you couldn't run a tag, your life could be put in danger," police Assistant Chief Patrick Burke said.

Wireless Panasonic laptops with a touch screen will be mounted in 800 patrol cars over the next year, at a cost of \$6,500 per car.

Locators in the laptops will allow dispatchers to see officers on a map and allow patrolling officers to locate one another when they need backup.

The project will be paid for out of the department's technology fund.

In addition to greater efficiency and the improved safety of her officers, the upgrade will improve information gathering and data analysis through online report filing by officers, Lanier said.

**Add a Comment**

Name: (required)



Looking for the Washington DC Examiner newspaper site?  
 Visit [DCExaminer.com](http://DCExaminer.com)  
 View the [newspaper online](#)  
 Get the newspaper via [email](#)

Multimedia News



**Slideshow:** [Celebs go ga-ga for Dolce & Gabbana](#)

Slideshows



**Lovely ladies of the LPGA**  
 6 photos  
 Momoko Ueda, of Japan, lines up her putt on t...

[View](#)



**Star spotting at the Cesar Awards**  
 6 photos  
 U.S. actor Sean Penn, left, and British actre...

[View](#)



**Michelle Obama: First Lady of fashion**  
 6 photos  
 First lady Michelle Obama hugs children after...

[View](#)



**20 hottest athletes**  
 6 photos  
 AC Milan's David Beckham gives his shirt to s...

[View](#)



**World's coolest animals**  
 6 photos  
 Polar bear Knut, seen in the snow, in his enc...

[View](#)

Ads by Google

[Dell Official Site](#)  
 Powerful, Affordable Dell Notebooks for Home, Office & Small Business!  
[www.Dell.com](http://www.Dell.com)

[Cheap Laptops](#)  
 Get The Lowest Prices on Laptops. Huge Selection. Save Big Here!  
[OnlineShoppingItems.info](http://OnlineShoppingItems.info)

[ThinkPad Laptop Sale](#)  
 Save 25% on Award-Winning ThinkPads w/ Intel Technology. Free Shipping!  
[www.Lenovo.com](http://www.Lenovo.com)

Use Laptops