POLICY/PURPOSE:
The Mobile Data Computer (MDC) supplements the existing voice radio system. The MDC is not intended to replace voice radio communications. The MDC is intended to be used for sending and receiving information, making and/or receiving routine inquiries and receiving supplemental information, thus allowing the voice channels to be more available for high priority traffic. The MDC may also be used to access the department’s records management and CAD systems.

PROCEDURE:
- Department personnel using the MDC messaging should be aware that messages sent on this system are public records according to Iowa State law. Supervisors will be able to review messaging traffic.
- All persons using the MDCs for inquiries into the IOWA or National Crime Information Center (NCIC) systems will have received instructions and be certified by the Iowa Department of Public Safety.
- All usage of the MDCs to access the IOWA or NCIC systems will be governed by the IOWA and NCIC system’s rules and regulations.

Prohibited Acts:
The following MDC acts are considered prohibited:
- No person will install software on the MDCs, modify, or manipulate existing software without permission of the division commander where the MDCs are assigned. [41.3.7a, b]
- Disclosure of any information accessed through the IOWA system via the MDC to any person other than NCIC certified law enforcement personnel who are acting in their official capacity as authorized law enforcement officers.
- To send messages that may be construed as threatening or intimidating.
- To send images that contain nudity, or to send images or words of a sexually suggestive nature, even if the recipient has consented or requested such material unless it is in reference to an investigation, or as part of an official inquiry/response or report.
- To send jokes or comments that tend to disparage a person or group because of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or mental or physical disability.
- To send messages in any other inappropriate manner.
- Use another employee’s computer ID and password.
- Installing, connecting, or plugging in of any personal devices into any of the MDC’s ports.
- Leaving a vehicle unoccupied while the MDC screen in a position which allows individuals outside of the car to view call or restricted information.
- Administrative messages not used for official business.
  - No personal messages will be sent.
  - No obscene, improper, or off-color language will be used in administrative messages.

Calls for Service:
- All calls for service will be dispatched by voice radio system and/or computer.
  - If there is reasonable belief that individuals of interest are monitoring the primary dispatch channel, officers may request an encrypted channel.

- All officers will run their own driver license, registration, and warrant queries unless circumstances require a verbal request.
- If the computer system is down; all activity reverts to voice transmission for traffic.

Safety:
Officers are reminded to maintain good officer safety techniques by:
- Not allowing operation of the MDC to decrease situational awareness, especially in cases involving violators or suspects.
- Being aware of possible loss of night vision and being backlit by a bright screen.
- Exercising caution when operating the MDC in a moving vehicle.
  - An officer may operate the MDC while the vehicle is moving, if the operation can be done in a safe manner.
    - If the operation of the MDC requires more than a few key strokes or the touching of the computer screen, the officer will pull over at a safe location to perform the task.
    - If the MDC is operated by the passenger of a two person car, the above restrictions concerning usage of the MDC while the vehicle is moving do not apply.

- Any call for service, which an officer expects the Joint Communications Agency (JCA) and/or other officers to be aware of, must be done by voice over the radio system.