

## SouthernLINC Wireless Helps to Ensure Reliable Communication for the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office

### Overview

To connect officers and staff traveling in a helicopter, boats, ATVs and patrol cars across one of Alabama's largest counties, the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office needs the latest wireless communication technology. Unlike private businesses that often have the resources to keep up with the latest telecommunications technology advances, government entities have to allocate financial resources across several different areas, making it more difficult to invest in the most progressive technologies.

In 1996, the office engaged SouthernLINC Wireless to provide wireless solutions. Built to serve Southern Company's electric utilities including Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Gulf Power and Mississippi Power, SouthernLINC Wireless' network opened up the channels of communications for the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office. The company also enabled communications among other government entities that use SouthernLINC Wireless, such as the fire department, poison control, public works and the local police department.

### Challenge

Officers must be able to communicate with one another at all times, whether they're on board the county's OH-58 Jet Ranger helicopter or in a patrol car. It's also essential for the sheriff's office to have reliable communications across the county's 1,340 square-miles and more than 3,000 miles of road.

In addition to voice services, the office required a data solution that would enable its officers to access local and national crime databases from their patrol cars.

### Solution

SouthernLINC Wireless has proven to be the best fit for the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Using Motorola's iDEN (Integrated Digital Enhanced Network) technology that offers instant and private communications, SouthernLINC Wireless effectively combines Push to Talk, cellular phone service, paging and wireless Internet and data access. In total, the Tuscaloosa Sheriff's Office uses more than 100 SouthernLINC Wireless handsets and car kits, and five base radio stations.

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## TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Category: Public Sector

### SouthernLINC Wireless Puts the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office Ahead of the Technology Curve

#### CHALLENGE

Tuscaloosa County is one of the largest counties in Alabama. Its sheriffs and deputies patrol the vast area in patrol cars, an OH-58 Jet Ranger helicopter, a boat, ATVs and more. The county needed to ensure that police could communicate effectively at all times. Additionally, its communications service needed to be private, considering that the officers often discuss confidential information.

#### SOLUTION

Since SouthernLINC Wireless built its network to be reliable throughout rural and metropolitan areas, Tuscaloosa sheriff's staff know they can count on its service no matter where they are. Plus, the company's private iDEN network ensures that all communications remain confidential.

#### RESULT

SouthernLINC Wireless has met the communications needs for more than 11 years. The company continues to provide solid guidance on the best phones and services for the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office. SouthernLINC Wireless not only provides this level of support to the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office, but the company also is the cellular and Push to Talk provider for the state of Alabama and many local agencies and municipalities.

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With a large and diverse fleet of vehicles, SouthernLINC Wireless and the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office worked together to help ensure all are equipped with the best communication solutions. For instance, the company outfitted the helicopter with a handset so that the pilot can stay connected with the sheriff's office on the ground. This connection is particularly vital when a helicopter is surveying damage from natural disasters, providing a security cover for vehicles transporting prison inmates or extraditing suspects to other areas. From the air, the deputies can use Push to Talk to warn the drivers of any roadblocks or potential traffic problems ahead, ensuring a safe and smooth operation.

SouthernLINC Wireless has provided wireless communications services to the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office for more than 11 years. Founded in 1996, SouthernLINC Wireless was designed to meet the communications needs of Southern Company's electric utilities. When building its wireless network, SouthernLINC Wireless added redundancies and extra security features to ensure that power company employees always would have a way to communicate with each other at all times, from even the most remote locations.

## Benefits

Using wireless voice and data solutions from SouthernLINC Wireless, the deputies benefit from instant communication that helps them prevent crimes, perform rescue operations and enhance public safety for Tuscaloosa County citizens.

The Sheriff's Office often uses SouthernLINC Wireless' technology to manage a crime scene. With Push to Talk, officers can speak directly with one another - which enhances accountability for everyone.

What's more, because SouthernLINC Wireless' network is entirely digital and inherently private, the officers can rest assured that their conversations will remain confidential. According to Motorola, there is no known scanner that can intercept transmissions over the SouthernLINC Wireless network.



A Southern Company

[southernlinc.com](http://southernlinc.com)

1-800-818-LINC

## BENEFITS

*Instant Communications:*  
SouthernLINC Wireless' premier Push to Talk service enables instant communication among the officers patrolling the approximately 1,340 square-miles in the county.

*Privacy:*  
Officers can rest assured that conversations remain private when communicating on their SouthernLINC Wireless phones because its network is entirely digital and inherently private.