



Two-Way Radios and Cellular Phones each have their Advantages and Disadvantages.

Here is a brief comparison of each option:

Two-Way Radios

ADVANTAGES

- Simple and easy to use
- Rugged and reliable – suitable for use in all areas.
- Loud audio output – suitable for use in noisy areas
- Allow “one – to –many” communications – all officers can hear all communications very beneficial when many officers are involved in responding to the same security incident. Group communications improves employee collaboration and significantly accelerate resolution time.
- Enhanced worker safety- For scenarios where worker safety is critical especially during emergencies.
- Independent system where multiple user groups can be created within an organisation.
- System can continue to work during time of crisis (earthquake, tornado, etc.) that may overwhelm public cell phone network.
- Less opportunity for misuse by security officers/ users.

DISADVANTAGES

- Requires initial capital investment for radios, licensing and installation.
OUR NETWORK ADVANTAGE
- Must install and maintain own infrastructure (antennas, repeaters, emergency power, etc.)
OUR NETWORK ADVANTAGE
- Limited coverage – only works in designated areas. Generally can’t be used over far distances. **OUR NETWORK ADVANTAGE, WIDE AREA COVERAGE**
- No ability to make or receive telephone calls. **(future option)**
THIS IS POSSIBLE ON OUR NETWORK
- No ability to use for text messaging, email. **(future option)**
THIS IS POSSIBLE ON OUR NETWORK
- No ability to use with security monitoring applications (guard tour, remote video viewing).
THIS IS POSSIBLE ON OUR NETWORK AND MORE
- Easy for outside parties to eavesdrop on security communications using radio scanner.
NOT POSSIBLE ON OUR NETWORK WITH AN OPTION TO ALSO INSTALL SCRAMBLERS ON RADIOS.

Cellular Phones

ADVANTAGES

- Little or no initial capital investment (with 2 year service commitment).
- No need to install and maintain infrastructure (antennas, repeaters, emergency power, etc.)
- Wide coverage – works anywhere cell service is available.
- Ability to make or receive cellular service is available.
- Ability to make or receive cellular calls to and from any telephone.
- Ability to use for text messaging, email, or web browsing.
- Ability to use with security monitoring applications (guard tour, remote video viewing, etc.)
- Difficult for outside parties to eavesdrop on security communications using radio scanner.

DISADVANTAGES

- More complicated to use.
- Generally less rugged and reliable than radio units. May not last long in outdoor or heavy industrial environments.
- May be difficult to use in noisy areas.
- Few accessories designed specifically for security use are available.
- Higher potential for misuse by security officers. Officers may make personal calls, text, or participate in social media activity while on duty.
- Only allows “one – to – one ” communications –security officers can’t hear communication between other officers. Awkward when multiple officers are involved in responding to the same security incident. Depriving officers of overall awareness of what is happening.
- Public cell phones network can be overwhelmed during times of crisis (earthquakes, tornado, etc.)
- Service may not be available at times when it is needed most.

Our Conclusions and Recommendations

Although two-way radios are most commonly associated with public safety workers and first responders, their value extends well beyond these segments. From manufacturing, shop floor workers, guest services in hospitality, vehicle fleet management, private security, logistics etc., two-way radios offer a no-compromise, cost-effective solution to support business-critical communications. In addition, the functionality of next generation digital radios extend well beyond voice communications and include value-adding services. In comparison to consumer-friendly smartphones and other devices, two-way radios are often the only viable option to support today’s frontline mobile workers’ business-critical communications requirements.