

## ***“AUDIO” - THE OTHER HALF TO YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM***

**By: Lillian Turnbull**

Verifying a dangerous situation is the most important element of security. What you might see over the CCTV monitor might appear innocent, but in reality be vicious and threatening. Hearing the whole picture is necessary to make the correct decision for action. Audio monitoring gives you that extra element of protection.

### **AUDIO MONITORING IN PARKING STRUCTURES**

Safety in parking areas of airports, colleges, and shopping malls is vital to our survival, and must be a safe haven for all Americans. With audio equipment incorporated into a security system, officers can feel confident they will be alerted at the first sign of trouble. For example, low ceilings and shadowy visibility in most multilevel parking structures do not allow cameras to view extensively the areas where shoppers and workers walk to and from their cars. At a time when many companies are being asked to prove that they are providing adequate security, the safety of persons in the parking facilities is a worth while concern.

To reduce the possibility of false alarms, and assure personal safety, Audio Monitoring manufacturers have developed a series of push button alarm stations, to be used in parking structures, college campuses, public access buildings, shopping malls, and any security area. The alarm is initiated by a switch closure from a remote call station, or other alarming device. Call stations are placed at convenient locations, to enable customers or employees to call for help. Security personnel can then determine the seriousness of the alarm and take necessary action.

### **CENTRAL STATIONS USING AUDIO VERIFICATION**

If Audio Monitoring is part of a security system, officers can determine the legitimacy and seriousness of an alarm by communicating with those on the scene. They can verify the alarm before calling the police. More and more central stations are adding audio monitoring to their established security system, allowing electronic equipment and security officers to work together to ensure the safety and security of people in a variety of ways.

### **AUDIO for SLEEP DISORDER CENTERS**

Audio Monitoring has proven to be a valuable tool for research and treatment in the specialized field of sleep disorder in hospitals all over the country. Most hospitals have at least two rooms devoted to sleep disorder patients. One microphone is installed in each room, with a CCTV camera. The audio Base Station, CCTV monitor, and VCR (or DVR) are located in the technician's office with monitoring attendant. All activity is recorded for analysis by doctors. The audio monitoring equipment has talk-back features for two-way communication, enabling the patient to communicate at any time, with the technician. Split-screen viewing is used to allow technicians to watch the diagnostic instruments and the patient simultaneously.

### **PROTECT YOUR HOME or BUSINESS . . . WHEN YOU'RE AWAY**

A new concept from audio engineers is using Audio Monitoring over phone lines. With a standard phone or cell phone you can call your home or business from anywhere in the world to Listen, Talk-Back, or activate a recorder or other low voltage devices. In addition, this system can be programmed to dial your phone number when activated by a source such as a motion detector, door strike, etc.

## How Legal Is Audio Monitoring?

Louis F. Weiss, President and CEO of Louroe Electronics, a California manufacturer of Audio Monitoring equipment in the USA, gave the following explanation.

"After our Constitution was written in 1776, the Congress added Amendments to the Constitution to insure the rights of the Republic. Part of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> amendments made up the Rights of Privacy Act.

Each state is allowed to make their own rules with regard to the Rights of Privacy Act, but they must not be less forceful than the Federal Law. The Federal Law is a "Single Party Statute", involving only one party. Only one party must be aware of audio monitoring.

In many states, including Pennsylvania, it is a "Two Party State", both parties must know about the monitoring.

In our Security Industry, we respect the Two Party Statute and I feel it is the standard. This means that when two people are talking to each other, it is a private conversation, but when a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (or microphone) is introduced, it is no longer a private conversation, and the two people must be informed of the monitoring. Decals stating that AUDIO MONITORING ON THESE PREMISES are supplied with each Louroe microphone sold, and dealers instruct their customers to put these notices at entrances and exits of their establishments.

With the invention of the telephone, the Rights of Privacy Act was to extend to include the telephone. In most states, it is illegal for a third person to listen to a telephone conversation between 2 people; that conversation is considered private. In order to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> person (or microphone) listen, both parties must be notified that they are being monitored.

Utility or Insurance Companies protect themselves when they tell you "this call is being monitored for quality assurance." This means that someone else is listening and they are giving you the choice to continue, or hang up, knowing that your conversation is no longer private.

### **AUDIO MONITORING PROTECTS DISABLED CHILDREN**

Hope House, in southern California for children with disabilities, used Audio Monitoring to protect their small patients from injuries. They were besieged with patient injuries - injuries that could have been avoided if they had heard the child cry. They needed a signal system, a passive system to pick up sounds of distress from a disabled child unable to ring the bell. The Audio Monitoring System enabled them to keep closer supervision of all the children. As these cases demonstrate, equipment can serve a wide range of needs, from crime detection to the sensitive care of a handicapped child.

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