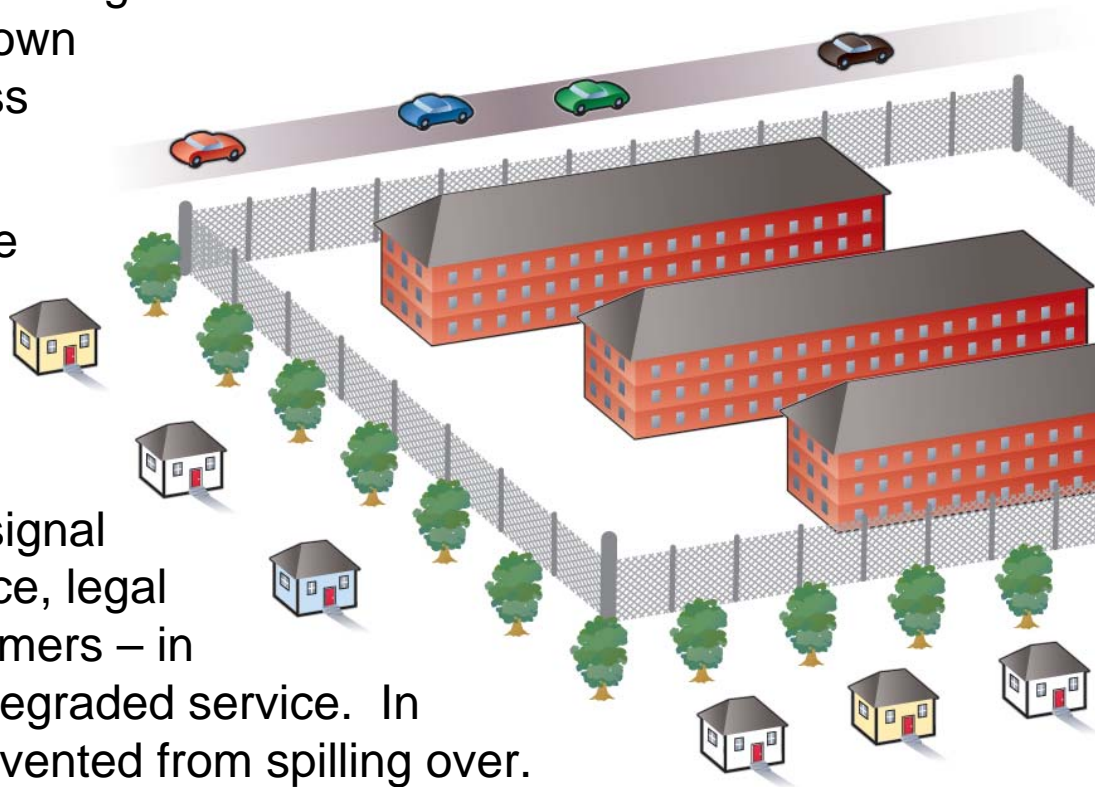


Contraband Cell Phones in Prisons Jamming v. Detection

Jamming

Jamming equipment emits its own strong radio frequency (RF) signals to “drown out” the signals to and from wireless devices, effectively disabling them.

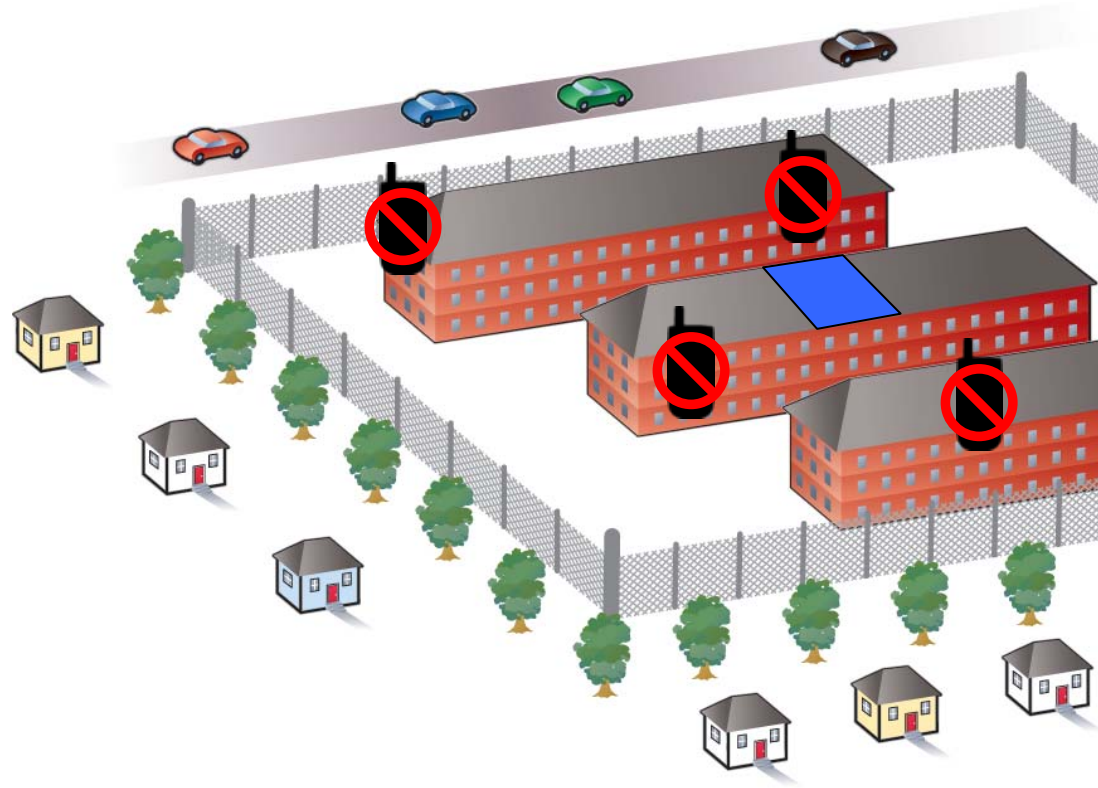
If a prison did not fully jam an entire facility, *i.e.*, “under-jamming,” prisoners would be able to find the open areas that would still allow their cell phones to work. If prison “over-jamming” occurred, *i.e.*, the signal went beyond the prison wall or fence, legal users – first responders and consumers – in the area would have disrupted or degraded service. In essence, RF signals cannot be prevented from spilling over.



So if jamming equipment was installed, it'd either under-perform, meaning prisoners would still be able to use cell phones, or over-perform, subjecting legal users to harmful interference.

Detection

Using the *legal* alternative cell detection technology (indicated by the blue box) identifies the illegal cell phones within the prison, without causing interference to legal users.



Cell Jamming

- Illegal technology opposed by the leading public safety communications association (APCO)
- “Blunt” instrument that interferes with legal users
- Easy to “fool” jammers
 - Potential to “under-jam” which means gaps in coverage would exist to let inmates make calls
 - Must be used 24/7 to completely prevent illegal usage
- Doesn’t get to the root of the problem

Cell Detection

- Legal technology
- “Scalpel” that identifies illegal cell phone locations without interfering with legal users
- Randomly used
 - Easily determines cell phone locations and allows detective work to occur
 - Can be used 24/7 without causing problems for legal users
- Addresses root of problem – how are prisoners getting access to contrabands like cell phones, drugs, weapons?

Real Life Examples of Cell Jamming

Concerns about interference with licensed, legitimate uses of wireless technology are not hypothetical. In a number of cases, the use of jammers in prisons has resulted in harmful interference to citizens.

In **Brazil**, for example, a jamming device in a prison knocked out wireless service to 200,000 nearby residents.

In **India**, a jammer at a prison disrupted service to people living within a five kilometer radius.

Real Life Examples of Cell Jamming

In **Colorado**, wireless customers were experiencing widespread outages and interference when trying to use their devices. It was determined the outage was due to three jamming devices used in a local school to try to prevent students from using their wireless devices. The outages impacted not only the surrounding school neighborhood, but also those passing through the Interstate.

In **Spokane, Washington**, another school used a jammer during school hours to prevent students from using their devices. When the local sheriff found out that their jamming device was interfering with his SWAT and police department's regular communications, he was quoted saying, "While I understand the problems/issues of teenagers and cell phones, interference to emergency communications is not acceptable."

SOURCE: <http://www.andrewseybold.com/blog.asp?ID=244>

Real Life Example of Cell Detection

In **Baltimore, Maryland**, law enforcement officials were able to obtain wiretaps on contraband cell phones that were being used by prisoners with known gang affiliations. By wiretapping their phones, law enforcement officials were able to build their case to bring down 24 gang leaders/members and correctional staff, including officers.

SOURCE: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/16/AR2009041604337.html>

If an illegal jamming device had been used, it would not have allowed such detective work to occur and law enforcement might not have been able to make their case.

While the investigation is still going on, the identification and arrests of these correctional staff and officers has shown that Baltimore, Maryland will not allow this practice to occur.

CTIA-The Wireless Association's Position on Contraband Cell Phones in Prisons

- **Tougher penalties for individuals** who smuggle in contrabands should be implemented. This is currently a bill that California is considering.
- **Pursue lawful and currently available solutions** such as cell detection so that correctional officers can determine the prisoner(s) who have cell phones and what they're doing with them.
- **Develop a comprehensive approach** that effectively and lawfully addresses the supply and demand for contraband cell phones in prisons.