



Alcatel-Lucent

Alcatel-Lucent PBX Helps Avert Disaster on Florida College Campus

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It could have been another one of those tragedies that we see all too often on the news - a mass shooting on a college campus. However, on February 19, at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) in Gainesville, Florida, tragedy was avoided. There was a man with a gun on campus that day, but no shots were fired and no one was hurt.

While the local and campus police were on top of the situation, it is believed that an Alcatel-Lucent telephone network also helped contribute to the safe outcome of this emergency. Why?

SFCC has an Alcatel-Lucent OmniPCX Enterprise telephony network - purchased in 2001 through, Expert Business Partner, Morse Communications, Inc. of Melbourne, Florida - and had recently installed an emergency notification system. Morse Communications designed, supplied and supports the emergency system, known as Mobicall.

The PBX and Mobicall systems together turned all 772 campus telephones into loud speakers, which the police and security teams used to broadcast regular messages and instructions to everyone on the campus to keep them out of harm's way. Announcements were made starting at the beginning of the emergency and during the 2.5-hour search for the gunman, in which the gunman eventually fled.

"This tight integration of the Alcatel-Lucent PBX and Mobicall allowed the product to do more than it

ever could have done in any other PBX environment. On another vendor's PBX, the Mobicall system would have made phone calls to each phone to spread the information but someone would have had to answer the call to receive the message," said Bryan May, Director of Sales for Morse Communications. "The Alcatel-Lucent PBX made a big difference in how the emergency communications could be managed. No one can say if the blaring speaker phones are the reason the man with the gun fled the campus but it did serve to communicate immediately the situation."

Morse has been designing, supplying and supporting the Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise products since 2001.

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