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Body-Worn Cameras Pose Special Considerations

One of the biggest trends in law enforcement technology today requires thoughtful implementation.

A large percentage of today's population has video recording capabilities thanks to smartphones. Citizens are able to record unexpected events more than ever before. The accessibility of portable video technology is migrating to law enforcement in the form of body-worn cameras. There are common benefits referenced in several IACP Net resources.

Liability

One of the biggest benefits that a body-worn camera can provide to a department is liability reduction. Video evidence carries more weight than eye-witness testimony. Having a video account of an incident can be the biggest form of protection for an agency if it can prove the agency was not at fault. This is somewhat of a double-edged sword, as video evidence

could also be incriminating if an officer is at fault.

Professionalism & Accountability

Experts believe officers wearing cameras will behave in a more professional manner than those who do not. Studies have found significant decreases in complaints against law enforcement as well as incidents that required use of force. Many departments are moving forward with body-worn cameras because the technology might act as a deterrent towards negative conduct and the anticipated result could outweigh the possible liability risk.

Credibility & Public Relations

Another belief is law enforcement will project a better image in the community if they openly opt to record all citizen encounters. This belief is especially popular in instances where law enforcement's relationship with the community has been historically negative.

Continuous Improvement

Some agencies find regular review of officer recordings can help them understand what changes may need to be made to their procedures and/or training methods. A procedure

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Spokane Strengthens Community Relations

IACP Net assists us with strategies and policy.

By Captain Brad Arleth, Spokane, Washington, Police Department

For the last 18 months, the Spokane, Washington, Police Department has been working hard building relationships with the community.

For example, we partnered with the North American Family Institute to implement the Youth & Police Initiative (YPI), a program that engages at-risk youth in discussions about law enforcement. During a one-week session, kids are given a chance to share their experiences with the department.

For instance, some might have had an older sibling arrested. Officers explain what it's like to be a police officer, and why they do some of the things they do. We learn about each other.

YPI resulted from 26 recommendations released by the Use of Force Commission, a mayoral commission created to

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Body-Worn Cameras...
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put into practice could have a negative outcome that is difficult to identify in typical policy reviews and written reports. Further, review of recordings could also help a department identify an officer who needs better training in execution of a procedure.

Agencies looking to implement body-worn cameras need to prepare. As is the case with every new trend in law enforcement, one of the most valuable resources law enforcement agencies can leverage is IACP Net.

IACP Net at Work

➔ Search "body-worn"

IACP Net has a wealth of information and the experience of thousands of law enforcement professionals. Sign on today and search "body-worn" to locate dozens of documents on BWCs, including:

632100 - Body-Worn Video Evidence: Evaluation of the effectiveness of body-worn cameras.

631608 - Body-Worn Camera Project: Video presentation about the use of body cameras in the Phoenix Police Department.

631268 - Body-Worn Cameras: Podcast from Chief Mike Chitwood, Daytona Beach PD, discussing BWCs when interacting with citizens.

630957 - Operation Candid Camera: The Rialto Police Department has tested whether police body-worn cameras would affect officer behavior.

630909 - IACP Technology Policy Framework: Discussion of new and emerging technologies. Includes universal principles as a guide for developing effective policies for BWCs and other technologies.

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Spokane Strengthens...continued from page 1

improve department policy after an unfortunate incident in 2006.

Since the commission released their findings in 2012, the department has met all recommendations, including strengthening relationships with community groups. In addition, 90% of officers have completed a 40-hour crisis intervention training, and the department has revamped police oversight with a strong civilian presence.

We've also partnered with a professor at Eastern Washington University and used IACP Net to develop a program to collect data on the racial characteristics of citizens involved in traffic and pedestrian stops.

Using IACP Net's Main and Policies e-Libraries, I was able to research questions other departments have asked during data collection efforts. Through these partnerships, we successfully created a list of questions—about the nature of the stop, the ethnicity or race of the citizen, the general disposition of the stop, and others. Using this information, we were able to train field officers to effectively collect data.

In 2014, I've used IACP Net to research a lethality assessment program for domestic violence calls, as well as information on how departments handle calls involving firearms—everything from going to the scene of a robbery involving a firearm, to intervening in a potential suicide by firearm, to a civilian finding a gun in their backyard.

I was able to learn more about best methods in firearms cases, such as when to involve the ATF or how to take fingerprints from the weapon.

Although there is some information available on the wider Internet, I was able to find department-specific information on IACP Net that I could easily transfer to the Spokane Police Department. I found articles, procedures, and write-ups on the implementation and use of fusion centers, crime analysis units, sequential photo line-ups, and body-worn cameras.

Much of that information is on Quest-ResponseSM where departments post and respond to questions. I hit the Quest-Response service every time I get online—it's one of the first things I look at every day. I've also answered quite a few Quests, especially about department policy.

When I was promoted to Patrol Captain in 2012, one of my responsibilities became policy development. I needed a tool for networking and policy research, and I told the department, "We should have IACP Net." In addition to me, our department has seven people with IACP Net licenses who can conduct research.

Our Chief is very supportive of having IACP Net. He is constantly looking to improve our agency, and he knows that we have to stay connected with other agencies at the top. IACP Net helps us do that.

Spokane Police Department provides community outreach on Facebook.



See Us Up Close and Personal!

We will be providing product demonstrations and answering questions at the following upcoming conferences:



NSA
June 23-24, 2014
Forth Worth, Texas
Booth #906



CALEA
July 23-24, 2014
Schaumburg, Illinois



IACP
October 26-28, 2014
Orlando, Florida
Booth #2509

If you cannot visit us at one of these upcoming conferences, call today for a 24-hour test drive of IACP Net and see how you can add IACP Net to your team: **800.227.9640**.

Join the Net!

IACP Net helps you make informed, data-driven decisions. Hire IACP Net today and put our intuitive online resources, tools, and e-libraries to work for you. Call for more information and pricing.

800.227.9640
www.iacpnet.com

Market Survey Specs Popular Body-Worn Cameras

A market survey from NIJ and NLECTC summarizes information on commercial BWCs.

The use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) by criminal justice practitioners (e.g., patrol, corrections, SWAT, and other tactical responders) offers potential advantages in keeping officers safe, enabling situational awareness, improving community relations and accountability, and providing evidence for trial.

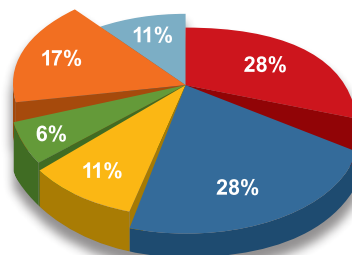
A market survey from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs aggregates and summarizes information on commercial BWCs to aid criminal justice practitioners who are considering the acquisition and implementation of the technology in their agency.

The survey reviewed specifications on 18 body-worn cameras and collected data on 31 potential features of BWCs, including how the device was mounted, resolution, recording speed, recording format, night mode, playback, video safeguards, and more.

For more information, request IACP Net document 632401. The report is also available at www.justnet.org.

Recording Time

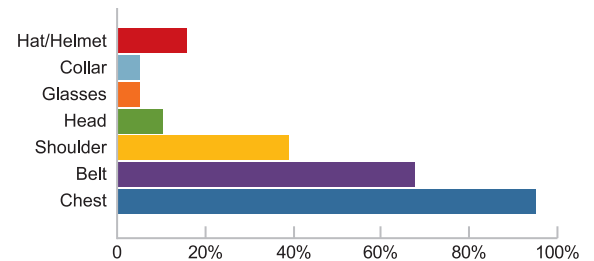
56% of the BWC devices surveyed had a record time of four hours or less.



- 3 hours or less
- 4 hours
- 5 hours
- 6 hours
- 8 hours
- 12 hours

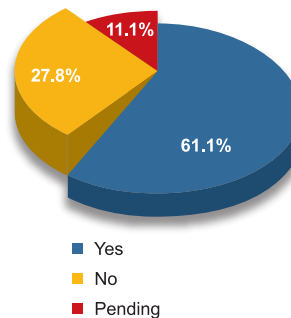
Where the Device Can Be Worn

Nearly all of the BWC devices surveyed could be mounted to the chest.



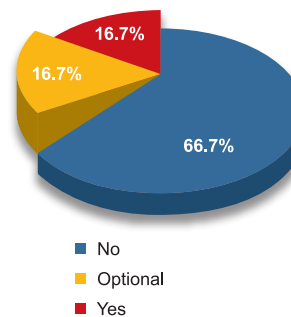
Mountable in Vehicle

Over 61% of the BWC devices surveyed could be mounted in a vehicle.



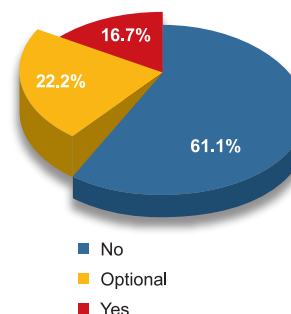
Police Radio Interface

Over 66% of the BWC devices surveyed did not have police radio interface.



GPS

Less than half of the BWC devices surveyed had GPS capabilities.





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Hot Topics in the IACP Net e-Libraries

For copies of these documents, contact the IACP Net hotline at **800.227.9640** or log on today at **www.iacpnet.com**.



Main e-Library

New Study: "No Fatal Risk" in Prone Out Violent Resisters

A prominent researcher has found that restraint in the prone position produces no fatal adverse effects, even when laser shocks, weight on the subject's back, and hobbling are employed by officers to gain control. **Document 632316**

Finding a Solution for Public Records and Social Media

This documents the process Deputy Mark Gregory used to launch a social media presence for the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. Gregory needed to justify the usage of sites such as Facebook

and Twitter to his internal team and create a plan for how citizens' responses were managed. He also addressed issues such as employee use, comment moderation, and compliance with government requirements.

Document 632381

Realistic Job Previews: Reworking Your Recruitment Messaging and Strategies

Recruitment is an ongoing challenge for police agencies. Even during tough economic times when many employers are flush with applicants, the quality of law enforcement candidates continues to be a concern as tomorrow's command staff is nearly always drawn from today's new recruit class. **Document 631951**

Opioid Overdose Toolkit

To address the opioid overdose problem, emergency medical personnel, health

care professionals, and patients increasingly are being trained in the use of the opioid antagonist naloxone hydrochloride (naloxone or Narcan), which is the treatment of choice to reverse the potentially fatal respiratory depression caused by opioid overdose. Naloxone has no effect on non-opioid overdoses, such as those involving cocaine, benzodiazepines, or alcohol. **Document 631899**



Policies e-Library

Concealed Firearms Carry

The purpose of this order is to provide Orland Park, Illinois, Police Department employees and citizens participating in department functions with a uniform set of guidelines to govern their actions as it pertains to the Firearm Concealed Carry Act. **Document 631730**