



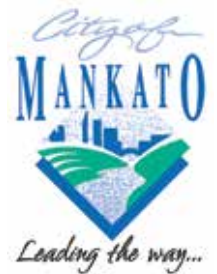
IACP NET CASE STUDY

ISSUE: BODY-WORN CAMERAS



Mankato Police Explore Issues Involving Body-Worn Cameras

Located on the Minnesota River, Mankato is a city of contrasts – a rural college town not far from Minneapolis, with some big-city amenities including nationally touring concerts and theater productions. The city has a population of 40,119 but a contiguous population area of 96,740. More than 1.6 million people live within 60 miles of Mankato.



The Mankato Department of Public Safety in Mankato, Minnesota, has 55 sworn police officers and is committed to the service model of community governance. The department's goal is to lead the way in delivering efficient and responsive public safety services for the greater good of the community and region.

In 2012, the department outfitted its squad cars with cameras that record audio and video to capture more information about driver and police actions during traffic stops. Overall, the officers and administrators have been pleased with the results as this information has helped the department handle complaints.

More recently, nationwide attention focused on police behavior in Ferguson, Missouri, New York City, and Madison, Wisconsin, has increased calls for departments to adopt body-worn cameras. However, in many respects the technology is advancing faster than policies regarding its use. *Continued on next page.*

AGENCY STATS

Mankato Department of Public Safety

Location:
Mankato, Minnesota

Department Size
55 Sworn Officers

Area and Population Served
Minnesota River Valley,
Population 1.6 Million

Leadership
Todd Miller, Director of Public Safety
Amy Vokal, Deputy Director
Matt DuRose, Public Safety
Commander

Excerpt from:
The Interim Report
of the President's
Task Force on
21st Century Policing.

Washington, DC:
Office of Community
Oriented Policing
Services.

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Revised
March 4, 2015.

DETERMINING EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTING:

The use of technology can improve policing practices and build community trust and legitimacy, but its implementation must be built on a defined policy framework with its purposes and goals clearly delineated. ... Despite (and because of) the centrality of technology in policing, law enforcement agencies face major challenges including determining the effects of implementing various technologies; identifying costs and benefits; examining unintended consequences; and exploring the best practices by which technology can be evaluated, acquired, maintained, and managed. Addressing these technology challenges by using research, accumulated knowledge, and practical experiences can help agencies reach their goals,

but law enforcement agencies and personnel also need to recognize that technology is only a tool for doing their jobs: just because you have access to technology does not necessarily mean you should always use it.

CASE IN POINT, BWCS:

An increasing number of law enforcement agencies are adopting BWC programs as a means to improve evidence collection, to strengthen officer performance and accountability, and to enhance agency transparency. By documenting encounters between police and the public, BWCs can also be used to investigate and resolve complaints about officer-involved incidents.

REDUCING THE USE OF FORCE AND COMPLAINTS:

Jim Bueermann, retired chief of the Redlands (California) Police Department and President of the Police Foundation, told the task force about a seminal piece of research that demonstrated a positive impact of BWCs in policing. The researchers used the gold standard of research models, a randomized control trial, in which the people being studied are randomly assigned either to a control group that does not receive the treatment being studied or to a treatment group that does. The results of this 12-month study are highly suggestive that the use of BWCs by the police can significantly reduce both officer use of force and complaints against officers. They found that the officers wearing the cameras had 87.5 percent fewer incidents of use of force and 59 percent fewer complaints than the officers not wearing the cameras. One of the important findings of the study was the impact BWCs might have on the self-awareness of officers and citizens alike. When police officers are acutely aware that their behavior is being monitored (because they turn on the cameras), and when officers tell citizens that the cameras are recording their behavior, everyone behaves better. The results of this study are highly suggestive that this increase in self-awareness contributes to more positive outcomes in police-citizen interaction.

QUESTIONS REMAIN:

Although body-worn cameras can offer many benefits, they also raise serious questions about how technology is changing the relationship between police and the community. Body-worn cameras not only create concerns about the public's privacy rights but also can affect how officers relate to people in the community, the community's perception of the police, and expectations about how police agencies should share information with the public.

Mankato Police Continued.

Body-worn cameras increase police transparency by documenting evidence and situations at crime scenes, and accurately preserve information. But they also raise privacy issues, and can potentially damage relationships officers have established with community members.

Preliminary Investigation

Some Mankato officers have begun asking about using body-worn cameras, and wondering if they would be a good idea. A few officers have volunteered to test the cameras to help the department gain more information.

In the past, as members of the department worked to update their processes and procedures to ensure they're following best practices, they often asked former classmates from Minnesota State University, Mankato, who are at other agencies about their policies and experiences in their communities.



**Commander
Matt DuRose,
Mankato Department
of Public Safety**

"Overall, we've been happy with the information we received previously from our friends in other departments because we didn't want to reinvent the wheel," said Commander Matt DuRose, Mankato Department of Public Safety. "Typically, other agencies had the knowledge and experience we

were looking for, but with respect to body-worn cameras, we realized few agencies in Minnesota are using them, so our peer group locally is very small."

Finding Global Best Practices

Trying to expand his knowledge base and more efficiently seek out information about data practices rules, internal policies, equipment, and other issues, DuRose looked at several other police-related websites. He found they weren't easy to use and he didn't find the answers he sought.

RELATED TECHNOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS

DuRose then turned to IACP Net, where he found research results on body-worn cameras. He also entered a few general Quest-ResponseSM posts on officers' experiences with different camera models and brands, and their likes and dislikes.



"I'm very happy with the information about body-worn cameras I've received from the searches and requests we've done, so we can have the best possible policies for our citizens if and when we adopt them," said DuRose. "The information is there and it's in a usable form, so it's easy to use and allows us to quickly access good information."

In addition to the need to sort out data practices issues, their research identified other issues to consider before adopting body-worn cameras policies, such as the need for additional funding for networks and servers to handle and store the volume of video they would collect. Now they can confidently move forward with the planning that needs to be done before any final decisions are made.

"We're happy with our squad cameras and the coverage they provide. But body-worn cameras aren't going away, and having additional global resources for information like IACP Net helps clarify things to consider," said DuRose. "If the media, the public, or members of the city council ask about body-worn cameras, I can talk about the pros and cons, and how we can potentially address this issue as a department."

"It's great to know that when we're facing new issues, IACP Net will always be there as a valuable resource for technical and practical information that reaches beyond the scope of our local peer group."

3.1 RECOMMENDATION:

The U.S. Department of Justice, in consultation with the law enforcement field, should broaden the efforts of the National Institute of Justice to establish national standards for the research and development of new technology. These standards should also address compatibility and interoperability needs both within law enforcement agencies and across agencies and jurisdictions and maintain civil and human rights protections.

Excerpt from:
The Interim Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Washington, DC:
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

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Revised
March 4, 2015.

3.2 RECOMMENDATION:

The implementation of appropriate technology by law enforcement agencies should be designed considering local needs and aligned with national standards.

3.3 RECOMMENDATION:

The U.S. Department of Justice should develop best practices that can be adopted by state legislative bodies to govern the acquisition, use, retention, and dissemination of auditory, visual, and biometric data by law enforcement.

3.4 RECOMMENDATION:

Federal, state, local, and tribal legislative bodies should be encouraged to update public record laws.

3.5 RECOMMENDATION:

Law enforcement agencies should adopt model policies and best practices for technology-based community engagement that increases community trust and access.

3.6 RECOMMENDATION:

The Federal Government should support the development of new "less than lethal" technology to help control combative suspects.

3.7 RECOMMENDATION:

The Federal Government should make the development and building of segregated radio spectrum and increased bandwidth by FirstNet for exclusive use by local, state, tribal, and federal public safety agencies a top priority.



Call 800.227.9640 for a demonstration of IACP Net's practical information on body-worn cameras and other issues facing law enforcement leaders.



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BODY-WORN CAMERA CASE STUDY INSIDE

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

IACP NET CASE STUDY

Whether you are beginning to explore the implications of body-worn cameras or have already begun to implement them, there are always opportunities to make the process more efficient and effective for your community and officers.

See inside for the steps being taken by one of your peers and what the federal government has to say about implementing body-worn cameras.

For additional in-depth best practices and information, sign up today at CommandAnswers.com.

MORE RESOURCES ON IACP NET



Main

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- #636184 - Mobile Goes Beyond the Phone
- #636061 - How One City Kept the Peace After a White Cop/Black Suspect OIS
- #635877 - Police Body-Worn Cameras: An Overview

→ [More results in Main e-Library](#)



Policies

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- #635398 - Body-Worn Cameras
- #613293 - Wearable Video Recorders
- #635008 - Taser Axon Video/Audio Recording System

→ [More results in Policies e-Library](#)



Quest-Response

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- #36239 - Body-Worn Video Categories
- [More results in Quest-Response](#)

