Law Enforcement Camera Grant Report

Created April 30th, 2019

**In-Car Cameras**

Through this grant, we received 28 in-car camera systems. All 28 cameras were installed in our squad cars bringing our fleet total to around 125-130 active systems. Below is the review process for Supervisors. Attached is a list of video footage that was asked for by attorneys or the State’s Attorney’s Office for use in various cases.

Supervisors’ Responsibilities

When an incident arises that requires the immediate retrieval of the recorded media (e.g., serious crime scenes, departmental shootings, departmental accidents), a supervisor shall respond to the scene and ensure that the appropriate MVR technician or crime scene investigator removes the recorded media.

The supervisor shall periodically check to ensure that issued flash/memory cards are exchanged in a timely manner. The supervisor is responsible for determining causes for such problems (e.g., unreported problems with the MVR equipment or equipment not being used in accordance with departmental policy).

Supervisors who are informed or otherwise become aware of malfunctioning equipment shall ensure that authorized personnel make repairs in a timely manner.

Supervisors shall conduct bi-monthly reviews of assigned deputy(s) MVR in order to periodically

* Assess officer performance;
* Assure proper functioning of MVR equipment;
* Determine if MVR equipment is being operated properly; and
* Identify recordings that may be appropriate for training.
* Supervisors shall conduct bi-monthly reviews of personnel who are newly assigned MVR equipment.
* Supervisors shall conduct bi-monthly reviews or review in accordance with the Training Division recommendations for deputies in the Field Training Program in order to ensure compliance with departmental policy, along with any training issues that require corrective actions or notation.
* Minor infractions (not criminal in nature) discovered during the routine review of recorded material should be viewed as training opportunities and not as routine disciplinary actions. Should the behavior or action become habitual after being informally addressed, the appropriate disciplinary or corrective action shall be taken.
* Supervisor shall ensure that adequate recording media is on hand and available for issuance.

We do have an active policy relegating the use and oversight of the in-car camera systems. This policy is reviewed yearly and updated as needed.

**Body-Worn Cameras**

The Will County Sheriff's Office Adult Detention Facility (WCADF) is a 318,000 square foot building which has the capacity to house over 1000 pretrial and sentenced inmates in Will County. The sheriff’s office also manages a detention section inside the Will County Courthouse. Both facilities are located in the downtown area of the county seat, which is Joliet Illinois. The main larger facility is constructed in an architectural style called "podular". The podular architecture clusters inmate cells around a common day room, exercise area, and visitation room. This architectural style is complimented by an inmate management style referred to as direct supervision. Direct supervision requires that staff closely supervise inmates in the day room of a housing pod that allows staff direct unobstructed contact with the inmates. A staff member assigned the role supervises inmates in an environment that is best described as a “policeman walking a beat". The officer in the housing pod coordinates all pod activities, reinforcing inmate’s behavior by acting as a role model.

Currently the WCADF has a sworn staff of approximately 245 deputies. They patrol and manage 16 housing units inside of the core building. Body cameras are worn by all of the deputies assigned to housing units as well as the booking and intake area. The deputies respond to and manage a multitude of inmate activities and disturbances throughout the day. Most all of these activities/disturbances are recorded on body cameras. Currently we have 43 body cameras in use by deputies and soon we will be implementing the use in all detention facilities positions, increasing the total to approximately 75. An additional number to be added after the completion of a new courthouse detention area in 2020.

 During the year of 2018 we had approximately 1,600 videos recorded. Various emergencies, inmate fights, disciplinary transfers, emergency medical assistance, disorderly intakes are among recorded events but not all inclusive. Many of the recordings have been beneficial for supervisors to accurately identify inmates involved in disturbances, responding to inmate complaints of harassment, mistreatment and use of force. Recordings have also been used to assist the States Attorney’s office in filing criminal charges in cases where inmates have assaulted staff or other inmates, damage to facility property and other various criminal charges.

The WCADF utilizes Axon body cameras. Axon provides the storage for all recorded videos. This service is web based and has proven reliable and easy to manage. For review of videos, supervisors need only to log in the web site and review the video in question. The on duty Sergeants will review all videos for content, categorize and notate them with the appropriate facility report number.

The WCADF body camera program is currently managed by one Lieutenant and has one Sergeant to begin training soon. Due to the ease of use and the web based service this is all that has been needed to coordinate our program. All technical difficulties have been due to hardware/camera damage or breakage. These problems have always been addressed promptly by the manufacturer, either under warranty or general repair.

Please see attached for a list of cases and uses of the videos.

Primary contact information needs to be updated to the person listed below:

Pam Saavedra
Director of IT
Will County Sheriff’s Office
16911 W. Laraway Rd., Joliet, IL 60433
psaavedra@willcosheriff.org
P: 815-727-5682
F: 815-727-6298