Surveillance Impact Report

Camera Trailer Camera Systems
San Diego Police Department

DESCRIPTION

The Logistics Unit is directed on a case-by-case basis by command staff to utilize our Camera Trailer Camera Systems during different types of operations. The Camera Trailer Camera Systems are comprised of a box containing video cameras, a digital video recorder (DVR) and a power supply. The system is primarily designed to be used while mounted on one of the Department's camera trailers, however, it has the ability to be operated separately from the trailer. The trailer is simply a vehicle, power and mounting system, with no surveillance technology. The camera system can record video and connect to a transmission device to stream the video live. It is authorized for the following types of circumstances:

1) To support first responders during critical incidents, disasters, and other all hazard emergencies by providing live video footage to a command post, as well as recorded digital media evidence (DME). This live footage is as close to real-time video imagery as possible to assist personnel in making critical decisions during an incident. The footage can be viewed remotely through a video management system.

2) To provide enhanced security overwatch, anti-terrorist efforts, and situational awareness during special events and large gatherings by providing a downlink of live video footage to the command post, as well as recorded DME. This is done to identify pre-incident indicators and mitigate, as well as respond to and investigate terrorist acts, criminal acts, and other all hazard emergencies.

PURPOSE

The Camera Trailer Camera Systems support first responders and command personnel during critical incidents, disasters, special events, and large gatherings by providing video to a command post from a remote location. The cameras can provide real-time video to furnish critical information to decision-makers, as well as record video to retain potential evidence.

LOCATION

Camera Trailer Camera Systems are stored at the Logistics Unit secure warehouse. They may be deployed to any area where an authorized need arises.

City of San Diego crime statistics can be viewed at Crime Statistics & Crime Mapping | Police | City of San Diego Official Website.

IMPACT

SDPD's Camera Trailer Camera Systems Surveillance Use Policy safeguards civil liberties and civil rights by requiring a specified approval process and Department policies and procedures that govern the use of the system. Surveillance technology's uses and deployments are not based on discriminatory or viewpoint-based factors. The Department's use of surveillance technology is intended to support, benefit, and protect the communities of San Diego and the surrounding region while minimizing and mitigating potential impacts to community members' civil rights and civil liberties.

The Camera Trailer Camera Systems are not always active. They are only active, recording and/or transmitting data when deployed at an authorized incident or event. Authorized events and incidents and the process for user authorization are determined based on the criteria set forth within the Camera Trailer Camera Systems Surveillance Use Policy. The collection of any recorded data is based on the criteria set forth within the Camera Trailer Camera Systems Surveillance Use Policy.

MITIGATIONS

The collection, use, retention, or dissemination of data shall not be used to violate the Constitutional rights of any person or be used in any manner that would discriminate against any person based upon their ethnicity, race, gender, natural origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Surveillance Use Policy for the Camera Trailer Camera Systems puts in place procedural measures specifying when the equipment may be used, safe storage requirements, and an approval process to ensure that policy is adhered to.

DATA TYPES AND SOURCES

Camera Trailer Camera Systems provide video data from video cameras in two forms:

- The ability to connect to a transmission source to provide a live video feed.
- The ability to record video data.

DATA SECURITY

The Camera Trailer Camera Systems are stored in secure facilities and managed by the Logistics Unit. When deployed, they are generally mounted on top of a mast in the air affixed to a trailer. The trailers are secured in place, and controls to the mast are secured via a lock. When they are not attached to a trailer, they will be deployed in a securable location. Data recorded on the devices overwrite automatically once the DVR is full unless deemed as DME (Digital Media Evidence) and collected. Recorded data collected as DME or live feed data transmitted is governed by the surveillance use policy, as well as the following Department procedures:

SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence and Articles Missing Identification marks.

SDPD Procedure 1.49 – AXON Body Worn Cameras.

Data can also be collected by an outside law enforcement agency, in which they abide by their department's evidence collection procedures.

FISCAL COST

The Camera Trailer Camera Systems utilized by SDPD were purchased using funds from the SHSGP 2018 grant.

The total cost of purchasing the Camera Trailer Camera Systems is approximately $81,371.25.

The Camera Trailer Camera Systems does not have an ongoing operating cost. If the Camera Trailer Camera Systems equipment fails and needs repair or replacement, the cost will generally be paid from Logistics Unit annual service contract with the supporting vendors. The annual service contracts support numerous responsibilities of the Logistics Unit and other areas of the department.

THIRD PARTY DEPENDENCE

The Camera Trailer Camera Systems' ability to record does not depend on any third-party vendor, as it records locally on its own internal DVR. The ability to transmit the live feed data does touch third-party equipment for transmission and viewing.

The Logistics Unit utilizes third-party vendors, Willy's Electronics and Agreegateway, to maintain or repair Camera Trailer Camera Systems.

ALTERNATIVES

Although there are numerous vendors that manufacture camera systems, such as the one we use, there is no other type of system that we are aware of that would provide the same kinds of operational benefits that these camera systems can provide.

The Police Department also owns and operates raised viewing platforms, which provide a similar operational capability, but have different benefits and downsides. We purposely maintain both types of systems as the benefits they offer may be more appropriate at different events or incidents. The benefit of a raised viewing platform is that you have an actual person able to directly view and report what is occurring. There is no risk of losing transmission. However, the negative is that they come at a significantly higher cost in the initial purchase and utilization. The higher initial cost is because the platform is mounted on either a large trailer or vehicle with large hydraulics able to support a cabin with a person. The higher utilization cost comes from paying a person to be in the cabin for the entire event; for each location, a viewing platform is deployed. Whereas the benefit of the camera systems is that they can be put out at multiple locations, and all be monitored by one individual at a command post.

TRACK RECORD

The Police Department has used the Camera Trailer Camera Systems successfully for several years. Some examples of authorized uses are as follows:

- ComicCon
- Pride Festival
- December Nights
- Holiday Beach Operations
- Rock & Roll Marathon

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMENTS

On April 4, 2024, at 1804 hours, there was a publicly held meeting in all nine council districts in the City of San Diego. The following surveillance technologies were presented by the San Diego Police Department:

1. Arteco
2. Airship Video Management System
3. Camera Trailer Camera System
4. Mesh Radio System
5. Skywatch

There was one attendee in District 1. There were no attendees in District 2. There was one attendee in District 3. There were no attendees in District 4. There were no attendees in District 5. There were no attendees in District 6. There was one attendee in District 7. There were no attendees in District 8. There were no attendees in District 9. There were no questions or comments from the three attendees. There was one online comment submitted for Camera Trailer Camera Systems expressing general support.

To maximize the reach of the materials presented at the community meetings, the Police Department created a link to the City of San Diego's technology website, which provides all materials for presented technologies as well as upcoming technologies and additional materials. The materials and questions/comments section can be accessed by visiting the web address below: www.sandiego.gov/police/technology. The web address was posted in conjunction with the QR code at the community meeting.

The Department also video-recorded a meeting so that it could be presented to a larger group. The benefit of the video was the capability of translating the presentation into over 100 languages, such as Spanish and other languages frequently used by the communities within San Diego, to maximize penetration of the materials to affected groups. The link to the video is at the San Diego Police Department's YouTube channel under Surveillance Technology Community Meeting 04/04/2024 (youtube.com)