Surveillance Use Policy

FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot
San Diego Police Department

PURPOSE

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robots support first responders during critical incidents by providing real-time video imagery and live audio via a remotely operated ground-based robot.

USE

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot provides remote camera video imagery and audio during incidents involving:

- Barricaded suspects
- Hostage incidents, and
- High-risk tactical operations

The following rules and processes are required prior to each use of a FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot:

- All requests for FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot support can be initiated by any personnel who are or plan to be a part of a response to support a specific incident or event with a specific support objective.
- A SWAT supervisor must evaluate the request and approve the operation prior to deployment to support each incident. This SWAT supervisor is specially trained to assess the request and determine if the FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot operation will comply with the SDPD's authorized uses for this equipment.
- Only authorized members of the SWAT team shall use or be in possession of the FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot.
- The SWAT unit will ensure that when using the FLIR First Look (Gen 1), all citizen rights will be strictly observed.

DATA COLLECTION

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot can observe live video in both the visual spectrum and infrared spectrum, commonly known as "IR," "Night Vision," or "Low-Light" vision and send that video back to the operator's display screen. The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot does not record or have the ability to record video or take photographs.

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot is equipped with a microphone and can hear live audio and relay that sound back to the operator's controller. The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot does not record or have the ability to record audio.

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robots are only deployed with prior approval to specific, high-risk incidents with a specific objective.

During all operations, the Robot Operator is trained to make every effort only to capture visual imagery of the law enforcement contact or intended target of observation to protect the privacy of nearby uninvolved citizens and their property.

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DATA ACCESS

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) cannot record audio or video; thus, there is no data to access.

DATA PROTECTION

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) cannot record audio or video; thus, there is no data to protect.

DATA RETENTION

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) cannot record audio or video; thus, no data is retained.

PUBLIC ACCESS

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) cannot record audio or video; thus, there is no data for the public to access.

THIRD PARTY DATA SHARING

The FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) cannot record audio or video; thus, there is no third-party sharing. The manufacturer does not have the ability to access the signal transmission between the robot and the controller.

TRAINING

All sworn SWAT Officers who are designated as FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) operators shall receive appropriate training. Training should include guidance on the use of the FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1), interaction with dispatch and patrol operations, along with a review of relevant policies and procedures, including this policy and any applicable case law. Training should also address local, state, and federal laws related to the use of video recording equipment and privacy.

AUDITING AND OVERSIGHT

A SWAT supervisor is assigned the primary oversight and approval of each FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot deployment and operation. This SWAT supervisor is responsible for ensuring all actions by SWAT personnel comply with SDPD Department Procedures and the Surveillance Use Policy for each specific FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot deployment.

This technology is also audited by Assembly Bill 481 report which tracks the usage of the whole department's military related equipment. Furthermore, there are times that an incident commander of a SWAT scene is not part of the SWAT unit but may give permission to use the technology in accordance with this use policy.

MAINTENANCE

FLIR FirstLook (Gen 1) Robot equipment is inspected prior to every operation to ensure it is in proper working condition.