Surveillance Impact Report

Fixed Video Camera
San Diego Police Department

DESCRIPTION

The fixed video camera is a stationary video camera that is used as a part of a video recording system. The fixed video camera is connected to a DVR/NVR with a power over ethernet cord (POE). This cord provides power to the camera and sends the images to the DVR/NVR.

The current systems used by the SDPD are: Uniview IPC3615SE-ADF28KM-WL-10, Uniview IPC6424SR-X25-VF, Armix HNC5V181T-IRASE/4, Armix DBC8MV, Armix, ILP1080VLR, Armix BC6-EXIR-f, Armix HNC512-VBA94, Armix IBC5M-EXIR-6, Armix DCB8M, and Armix IBC4M.

PURPOSE

The San Diego Police Department utilizes fixed video cameras to create objective real-time recordings to develop and further investigations. The fixed video camera is used in areas where there are repeat offenses, and more evidence needs to be collected for a successful apprehension of a suspect.

LOCATION

The fixed video camera is used in the field to record video at a targeted location. The location picked is determined by the investigator based on their investigation. The video records 24 hours a day until the hard drive is full. The fixed video camera can be used department wide.

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

IMPACT

The fixed video camera is set up in public to watch a specific targeted location. The fixed video camera is used in areas where there are repeat offenses or where more evidence needs to be collected for a successful apprehension of a suspect. These cameras are placed in public spaces where there is no expectation of privacy. No warrant is needed to use this technology.

MITIGATIONS

The public has no access to the DVR/NVR or any data it may collect. The DVR/NVR is password protected. The system can only be accessed by the operators in the Robbery Unit. The investigator is given access to the system at the end of its deployment or during live view if requested. The investigator can transfer the timeframe they need for their investigation from the system. The hard drive is then reset, formatted, and cleared for the next deployment.

Authorized users must evaluate the areas surrounding the location of deployment to ensure no private areas, areas of curtilage, or areas where an individual would have a reasonable expectation of privacy are covered by the recordings.

Once the authorized user has impounded the video file physically, evidence retention and access are the responsibility of the SDPD Property Unit and all such evidence is controlled and regulated by SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence.

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DATA TYPES AND SOURCES

The system records in an MP4 format or as an AVI file, standard for videos. The system records video only. The system records in constant, meaning 24 hours a day for the length of the systems deployment. The system can record for multiple days or even weeks. If the device is deployed long enough the memory will write over the oldest recorded video. The amount of time this takes depends on how many cameras are being used, the quality of the camera and the frame rate.

DATA SECURITY

The password for the system is kept by the Robbery Unit. Access to the system is given by the Robbery Unit to the investigator at the end of the systems deployment. The system can be reviewed by the investigator or a member of their team. Once the video is viewed the investigator can download the video that applies to their investigation. The video is impounded per the evidence collection policy.

When an investigatory is finished using the DVR, the DVR's hard drive is formatted by the Robbery Unit, erasing the data from that deployment. The system is reset and ready for its next deployment.

FISCAL COST

A standard fixed video camera costs between $150 to $350. The cost is a one-time fee with no additional costs or subscriptions. When a failure with the camera occurs, the camera is usually replaced.

THIRD PARTY DEPENDENCE

A fixed video camera does not use a third party for any part of its operation.

ALTERNATIVES

Analog cameras are the only alternative for these types of cameras. Analog cameras are older technology, usually poorer quality, and require a power and video line per camera. The cost of the cameras would be similar in price. The analog cameras would need a different DVR/NVR to use.

TRACK RECORD

The fixed video camera and DVR/NVR systems have been used by the San Diego Police Department for several years. The systems have been deployed at arson scenes, burglary series, vandalisms, sexual assault cases and for undercover investigations. The DVR and NVRs' have consistently worked with little issues.

In August 2019, Cameras were placed in the rear alley behind a Buddhist Temple. This location was a victim of arson on several occasions. The cameras were placed overtly. The system showed two young males approach the structure and set it on fire. The suspects were identified from the video.

Between April and May of 2000, several fires had been started at a residence on Delta Street. The cameras were set up overtly on the residence to view the west side and the north side of the residence. A suspect was seen starting another fire. The suspect was identified and arrested.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMENTS

On March 7, 2024, at 1805 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. Covert Audio Recording Device
2. Covert Audio Recording Device (Record Only)
3. Covert Audiovisual Record Device
4. Motion Activated Trail Cameras
5. Pan Tilt Zoom Video Camera Mobile Unit
6. Pan Tilt Zoom Video Camera Mobile Unit with Cloud Based Storage
7. Power Over Ethernet Pan Tilt Zoom Video Cameras
8. Power Over Ethernet Digital Video Recorders
9. Power Over Ethernet Network Video Recorders
10. Power Over Ethernet Video Cameras

There were two attendees in District 1. There were no attendees in District 2. There were no attendees 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 were no attendees in District 7. There was one attendee in District 8. There were no attendees in District 9. There were no questions or comments from the three attendees. There was one question submitted to the online public comment form.

Question #1:

> Are motion-activated trail cameras going to be used on trails or is that just the name of the type of camera? Will there be signs notifying the public of their location?

Answer #1:

> "Trail Camera" is a generic term for battery-powered motion-activated cameras, which are not exclusively used on trails.
>
> The San Diego Police Department utilizes battery-powered motion-activated "trail" cameras. These cameras are used when normal power sources for other equipment are unavailable. The device is used in areas where there are repeat offenses and/or more evidence needs to be collected for a successful apprehension. The device may be installed overtly or housed in such a way that the identity of the device is not immediately recognizable or is hidden or otherwise concealed. The placement of all recording devices shall be done in accordance with all Federal and State laws and shall adhere to all established case law. Absent a court order, a search warrant, an undercover operation, or permission of the property

owner, motion-activated cameras may only be used to monitor public places or places visible to the public where persons do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

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 03/07/2024 - YouTube