Intelligence & Technology



Mobile Camera System (MCS)

Order 17.107

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Mobile Camera System (MCS) is to provide the Tempe Police Department and other regional partners in the public safety community with a camera system which will reduce harm by helping to safely manage special events/incidents and protecting critical infrastructure and key resources for the public.

B. Procedure

- 1. The MCS may be used for the following purposes:
 - a. Public Safety The primary use of the MCS is as a component of an overall public safety effort to maintain the safety and security of the public at public locations.
 - b. Large events or Incident Management –Large events and incidents are complex by nature and the more complete, accurate, and timely information available to public safety managers, the more effective they can be at managing or mitigating the situation.
 - The display of live video footage in a command center gives public safety managers more complete and timely situational awareness, allowing better decisions to be made more quickly.
 - c. Location security active monitoring of an event or incident is a crucial aspect of contributing to the overall security of the public against terroristic or criminal behavior. During times of heightened security or periods of unrest, the MCS can be instrumental in monitoring and protecting key locations and critical infrastructure as part of an overall security plan.
 - d. Force Multiplication Use of the MCS supplements the limited staffing available to the public safety community involved in an event or

incident, making that force more effective. Because of the configuration capabilities of the MCS, a relatively small number of camera operators can actively monitor a significant amount of area.

C. Deployment

- 1. When deploying the MCS, the Threat Mitigation Unit (TMU) must balance the security benefits derived from the use of the system with the privacy and rights of the individual(s) being observed.
- The TMU may utilize the MCS to assist outside agencies with security coverage of a location with the approval of the Metro Commander.
- 3. The MCS will only be temporarily installed on private property with the verbal or signed consent of the property owner or manager.
- 4. The MCS will not generally be used to monitor areas where the public has a higher expectation of privacy, such as a private residence or public washrooms unless exigent circumstances exist.
- 5. The TMU Sergeant and TMU Lieutenant will ensure individual privacy rights are protected in accordance with the state and federal laws.
- The display video from the MCS will only be viewable in a secured and controlled location (e.g., a Command Post or Emergency Operations Center.)
- 7. Access to the recorded video will be restricted to the camera operators and authorized members of the public safety management team responsible for the event or incident and their chain of command.

D. Logistical Considerations

- Due to the sophisticated nature of the MCS equipment, the actual deployment and configuration of the system in the field will be handled and managed by qualified members of the TMU or trained designees.
- 2. The wireless nature of the cameras allows for considerable flexibility for deployment locations in the field. Elevation, visibility, connectivity, and access to electricity will be key considerations for each camera location.

E. Video Equipment

- 1. The MCM captures HD video and transmits it wirelessly utilizing "end to end" encryption. The MCS does not record or transmit audio.
- 2. Video data is stored on a dedicated hard drive in the mobile server.
- 3. Authenticating data is embedded in the video feed by the software to prevent tampering. When in use, the mobile computer server is kept in the same secure location where the MCS is being monitored by the camera operators. When not in use, the entire MCS, including the mobile computer server, is kept in a secure location controlled by the TMU Sergeant.

F. Video Retention

- 1. Unless retained for evidentiary purposes, the MCS computer software will automatically purge data in accordance with current non-evidentiary video retention policies.
- 2. All recordings related to any criminal proceeding, claims filed, pending litigation, or a personnel complaint, shall be preserved until that matter and any possible appeal is resolved.
- 3. Recordings of evidentiary value will be retained in accordance with current evidence retention policies.
- 4. Recordings related to civil claims will be retained until any litigation holds are removed.
- 5. All recordings will be retained in accordance with the applicable Arizona State Library & Archives record retention schedule

G. Public requests for video

- 1. When deployed in support of the Tempe Police Department, public records requests will be handled in compliance with TPD Orders 15.102 and 15.103.
- 2. Public records requests for video will be fulfilled by the agency who utilized the MCS for an event or incident and in accordance with that agencies' policies.
- 3. Video data provided to another agency after an incident or event becomes the property of that agency. The requesting agency is solely responsible for proper retention of the video data provided to them. The

Tempe Police Department will maintain the original video data according to the above-mentioned standard video retention schedule unless otherwise directed by the Metro Commander.