

DIGITAL EYES

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THE LATEST GENERATION OF **IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEMS** OFFERS FEATURES THAT COULD ONLY BE DREAMED OF IN ANALOG SYSTEMS.

Next to concealable soft body armor few advances in technology have saved more American law enforcement officers than the development of in-car video systems.

In-car video systems have justified uses of force, exonerated officers accused of abuse, and incriminated motorists who were culpable of offenses. In-car video systems have even saved officers' lives by providing law enforcement with numerous vivid examples of what not to do at a traffic stop that can be used for training.

With each succeeding generation of cameras, improvements have been made in clarity, recording time, storage, and transfer capabilities. Physically, they are now designed to be less obtrusive to the officers working in the cars. Some agencies such as the Los Angeles Police Department even have cameras mounted so as to document what happens in the rear of the patrol vehicle.

But by far the greatest technological innovation in the short history of in-car video

has been the advent of digital recording systems. Whether they capture video on DVD discs, hard drive, or flash memory card, digital systems offer much greater resolution and easier and less expensive evidence storage than earlier analog VHS machines. They also capture the prelude to incidents by constantly recording video on a loop.

The following is a quick look at some of the finest digital in-car video systems on the market and why certain agencies selected them for their vehicles.



Digital Ally's display is in the rearview mirror.
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The advanced design of Digital Ally's DVM-500 system maximizes valuable real estate within the patrol car by integrating the entire video system into a replacement rearview mirror.

The 3.5-inch color video monitor is located behind a one-way mirror so that it's invisible when not in use. Buttons located around the margin of the mirror control the camera, microphone, speaker, and recording features. A GPS marking feature pinpoints the cruiser's location at the time of the incident being recorded. The system includes both a forward-mounted camera and a covert rear seat camera with infrared LEDs to capture sufficient video evidence to prosecute criminals.

User Experience: The West Virginia State Police have used the Digital Ally DVM-500 in their patrol cars for two-and-a-half years. Cpl. Jerald Dornburg cited price and the DVD recording capability as the two main reasons the department chose Digital Ally over other systems that utilize hard drives or servers.

With 62 offices dispersed throughout the state, the ability for individual supervisors to replace the flash card, review the footage, and burn and save DVDs for evidentiary use is an important factor for this department. They also found the units to be easy to install, taking less than 30 minutes per unit.