

The Benefits of Video for Law Enforcement



Video Saves Jobs, Time & Money

A majority of cases go uncontested and complaints against officers are dropped when complainants learn the incident was recorded on video. When available, research has shown that officers are exonerated over 99% of the time when video is part of the evidence.

An IACP study also found prosecutors, juries, and the general public were beginning to expect video evidence and that prosecutors were concerned that juries were becoming suspicious when video was not available.

Video Consistently Provides:

- Reduction in Frivolous Law Suits
- Reduced Agency Liability
- Increased Successful Prosecutions
- Reduced Officer Court Appearance Time
- Improved Community/Media Perception of Police
- Improved Officer Safety
- Useful In-Service Training (Post-Incident)
- Heightened Officer Performance and Professionalism
- Simplified Incident Review & Report Writing*

However, "about 90 percent of what police do is away from the car" (San Francisco Chronicle, 2/3/04). In-car video can not accompany an officer up to the door or inside a building. It can not see what the officer saw that caused him to pull his weapon. In-car video can record the officer walking up to a car and what transpires around it, but it cannot document what the officer saw inside the car while talking to the driver.

Mobile Video Systems are perfect to augment In-Car cameras for:

- DUI Stops
- Lawful Use of Force
- Resisting Arrest
- Lawful Entry
- Proper & Needed Use of Restraints
- Establishing Probable Cause
- Domestic Violence Calls
- Attempted Suicide Calls
- And So Much More...

**Wearable video systems have been shown to reduce paperwork by more than 30%, allowing officers to spend more time on patrol.*

OFFICERS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVE OF IN-CAR VIDEO

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Law enforcement agencies are embracing in-car video and choosing digital over analog, according to the results of the newest **POLICE** survey. While the idea of a camera recording officers' actions initially gave many officers an uneasy feeling, a resounding 93 percent of respondents whose agencies have in-car video now approve of the practice.

This practice has also become more widespread, to be sure. Of those who responded, 36.3 percent said every one of their agency's patrol cars is equipped with in-car video. The agencies of 28 percent have two-thirds of their patrol cars so equipped. Additionally, more than a quarter of respondents say their agencies will be outfitting all of their cars with in-car video in the next year.

Reasons for adopting in-car video no doubt reflect the positive benefits for police departments. Respondents cite

evidence and liability protection as the respective top benefits to law enforcement, each with an almost equal number of votes just over 37 percent. In contrast, only 16.2 percent credited in-car video systems with improving officer safety above all other benefits.

But that's not to say the cameras aren't useful to individual officers. Among write-in responses for top in-car video uses were training and backing up officers' stories in

internal affairs investigations.

When it comes to the type of in-car video used by law enforcement, digital is taking over. Only 15.4 percent of agencies in the survey use only analog video, whereas more than three-quarters use digital (54.1 percent) or a combination of digital and analog (23.8 percent). Of the digital systems used, direct systems are slightly more popular than server-based systems.

When asked what features readers would like to see in future in-car video systems, many wanted smaller units, while others were interested in improved range, image resolution, audio, and ease of use. Other items on officers' wish lists were wireless capability, real-time monitoring, and GPS locating services.

After the first qualifying question with a 13-percent response rate, results are based on responses from 515 of the 6,566 readers contacted, a response rate of 7.8 percent.

