

Body Worn Video (BWV) Pilot Project

2011-2014

Security Management Branch

Project Team

Peter Clissold – Director

Rick Tuson – Technical Security Advisor

Mary Stratton – Research Analyst/Coordinator

Body Worn Video (BWV) Technology

Body worn video (BWV) is a recording device worn as part of an officer's uniform in order to capture an audio/visual record of events as they occur.

BWV Pilot Project Objectives

To systematically assess the effectiveness of BWV to:

- ❖ Aid investigations
- ❖ Provide evidence to support prosecutions
- ❖ Record events requiring pursuit and/or use of force away from a police vehicle
- ❖ Make investigations more efficient and timely
- ❖ Reduce complaints from citizens
- ❖ Reduce hostility
- ❖ Provide real life training examples

BWV Project Investment Benefits

- ❖ Positions EPS as a model of evidence-based efficiency and effectiveness.
- ❖ May support citizen-centred policing for reduced crime and victimization
- ❖ Potentially improves police and public safety.
- ❖ Provides an evidence base on which to make future equipment decisions.
- ❖ Addresses the gap in research about the technical performance of BWV and its effectiveness for policing.

BWV Device Deployment Locations

Primary Intervention and Control Groups

- ❖ Downtown Division Patrols and Beats

Additional Special Context Testing

- ❖ West Edmonton Mall Beat
- ❖ Whyte Avenue Beat
- ❖ Traffic (Impaired Driving Counter Measures Unit)
- ❖ DEOPS – tri-service CBRN training exercise 2012

BWV Equipment tested

Taser Axon Flex on Left- Reveal RS3-SX on Right



BWV Example Clips

1. Night time clip showing responses to a weapons complaint. Shows quality of video and sound at night.

NIGHT SEGMENT

2. Daytime clip of one of the Beats using bicycles to monitor a parade route. Illustrates flexible roles devices can play along with pros and cons of devices in bad weather (wind and rain).

DAY SEGMENT

BWV Project: Some Preliminary Findings

PROS

- ❖ One piece design is easy to operate.
- ❖ Good horizontal field of view and audio video quality.
- ❖ Performs well in almost all light conditions and cold temperatures.
- ❖ Video clips are watermarked to the second for security.
- ❖ Captured video has the *potential* to contribute to investigations/prosecutions.

BWV Project: Some preliminary Findings

CONS

- ❖ **Data management is challenging and resource-intensive**
 - Management Software only just beginning to meet requirements
 - Requires considerable storage space
 - Additional resources are required to manage data disclosure and equipment maintenance.

- ❖ **There are significant operational challenges**
 - Manual activation at outset of critical situations
 - Appropriateness of filming all types of interaction

- ❖ **The RS3-SX lacks durability, has frequent malfunctions, short battery life, and current mounting options do not meet EPS uniform requirements.**

BWV Public Survey: Initial Observations

**Conducted by EPS volunteers
(WEM, Churchill Square and on Whyte Avenue)**

- ❖ Public generally very positive that EPS was consulting them about this pilot.
- ❖ Most thought BWV was a potentially valuable tool (but)
- ❖ Many gave thoughtful answers to questions based on potential benefits, that recognized pros and cons, and the legal complexities
- ❖ Feedback was richer than anticipated.

BWV Project: Final Report

- ❖ Project continues until 4th Quarter 2014, when the final report will be completed

- ❖ Will include thorough analysis of multiple forms of data
 - Comparisons with EPS general statistics
 - Public survey results
 - Systematic analysis of qualitative interviews with pilot members
 - Researcher observations from Ride/walk alongs
 - Systematic analysis of video clip random sample