Milwaukee Police Department Body Camera Pilot Program Summary

By Sergeant Douglas J. Wiorek - Office of Management, Analysis, and Planning
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POLICE BODY CAMERAS UP AND COMING

Police body cameras have been around for several years, but have taken the forefront in recent months, most notably accelerating after a judge's August 12, 2013 ruling over the New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk policy. The judge at that time ruled that certain NYPD officers (officers who had the highest number of 2012 citizen stops in each of the five boroughs) would be required to wear body cameras for one year. Law enforcement nationwide took this as a cue that body cameras may soon be required equipment for officers; however, an October 31, 2013, decision by a federal appeals court blocked the ruling until the city's appeal of the ruling could be heard. Further, the appeals court removed the original judge from the case.

With the case now awaiting appeal, the urgency for many law enforcement agencies to act immediately has decreased significantly. I mention this for several reasons. First and foremost, the department should not rush the final decision for purchase and implementation of body cameras. Why? As a department, we need to establish clear goals for our use of the body cameras. Will the focus be crime fighting, evidence collection and court use, accountability of police and/or the public? Whatever the goal, it will need to be conveyed to the department for officer buy-in well in advance of implementation. This can take place at one of the future in-service sessions.

Additionally, there is a joint research study being conducted by the Phoenix Police Department and the School of Criminology at Arizona State University on the effectiveness of body cameras in domestic violence situations and officer accountability in general. This study is expected to be released during the 1st quarter of 2014. Preliminary information from the study is suggesting that in addition to all the positive effects of body camera use, some consequences of the technology are emerging. The study mentions that officer productivity may be at risk; however it is premature to elaborate any further and suggest that until the study is released and evaluated that any major decisions as it relates to purchasing body cameras be delayed.

PILOT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

From July 18, 2013 through September 22, 2013, the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) conducted a pilot program to test some of the body cameras on the market. MPD is aware of studies conducted by other police departments which have shown significant reductions in use of force incidents and complaints against officers when body cameras are in use, therefore it was the goal of MPD to perform a body camera

pilot program in order to determine what types of body cameras are on the market and which camera options best suit the needs of the department and its officers.

The first step in the pilot program was the development of a policy document (attached as addendum 1). First and foremost, the document established policy and procedure in the areas of: when to use the camera, when the cameras are to/are not to be used, how to download video evidence, supervisor oversight and to address common questions/concerns which could arise during the pilot program. In the development of the policy document, the Office of Management, Analysis and Planning (OMAP) reviewed and evaluated policies from other agencies utilizing body cameras, as well as, reviewing camera promotional material and other applicable documents. Larger law enforcement agencies included in the policy review were the cities of Cleveland, OH, Cincinnati, OH, Tallahassee, FL, Santa Clara, CA, San Jose, CA, Oakland, CA, Fort Worth, TX, and Scottsdale, AZ. In addition to these larger law enforcement agencies, numerous other smaller law enforcement agencies policies were also reviewed. The MPD policy document will set the stage for future Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) development when the department makes the decision to implement body cameras.

Utilizing Survey Monkey, OMAP developed a brief survey, which was to be filled out by the user member after each use of a camera system. Through the survey, user members would evaluate and provide feedback on the particular system that was used during their shift. The survey consisted of questions related to topics such as ease of use, features users found most useful and/or beneficial in the field and the types of incidents they captured. To conclude the pilot program, comprehensive one on one evaluations were conducted with most user members to further enhance opinions already rendered in the submitted surveys.

THE CAMERAS

The MPD pilot program tested four camera manufacturers and five different camera systems. Each camera manufacturer provided at least two body cameras from the following list. The camera systems tested included:

- Taser Axon Flex
- Taser Axon Body (was a Prototype on July 18…released for sale by Taser on Aug 1)
- Panasonic WVTW310
- Digital Ally *FirstVu™ HD*
- VIEVU LE2

While our selected cameras comprised of some of the more expensive body cameras on the market, these particular models were selected in our pilot because of the inability to edit/delete video recordings. Many “lower priced” camera options are on the market, but because of the lower price, they failed to meet MPD’s own quality benchmarks such as providing protections against intentional/unintentional editing or deleting of video and pre-event recording options. MPD considers these very important factors in maintaining the integrity of the recordings and for the accountability and credibility of the department.

All the cameras and instructions for use were received in the mail with the exception of the Taser cameras. Taser provided a personal company representative to demonstrate and instruct user officers in the use of their product. The rep remained on-site until he was sure user members were comfortable with each of the Taser products. Not having a knowledgeable rep from the other manufacturers proved problematic especially with the operational aspects of the Panasonic *WVTV310*, as will be discussed later in the report.

Much like our Federal *DP3* in-car video system, all the cameras (with the exception of the VIEVU camera) constantly buffer and record at least thirty (30) seconds BEFORE the record button is triggered, as well as everything that happened afterwards. Just like the *DP3* in-car system, there is no sound for the initial seconds of operation.

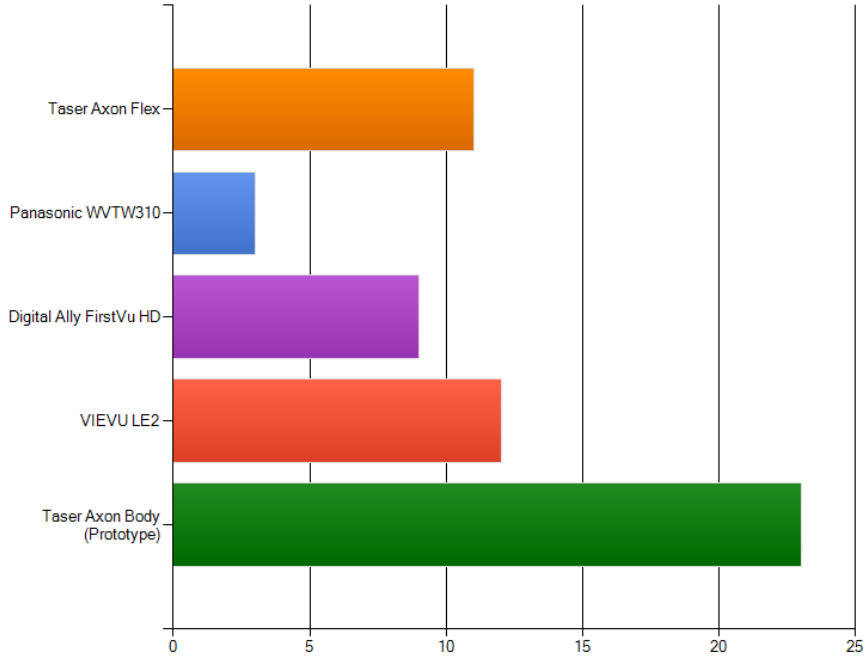
In 2013, each of the major camera suppliers made major strides in improving their product line. Taser created a low cost yet powerful Axon Body in August to supplement their Axon Flex. Digital Ally introduced the *FirstVU HD* in July 2013, and already added the next building block, *VuLink,* to the product in October (discussed more in detail later). And finally, at the 2013 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in October, VIEVU introduced the *LE3* camera with enhanced features. Fierce competition for business, better technology and lower prices are expected as the cameras continue to improve into 2014.

SURVEY RESULTS

Over the course of the 60-day pilot program, user members completed 58 surveys. Unfortunately, this number was far less than what was projected; however in concert with the post-pilot one on one interviews enough information was garnered to render decisions on product performance.

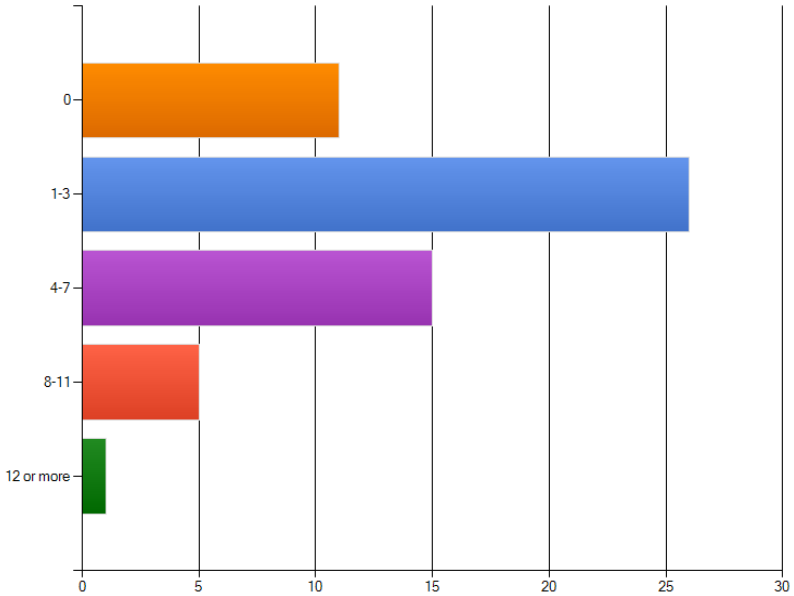
The graphs on the next few pages depict key survey questions and how user members answered the questions.

What camera system was used and on how many occasions?

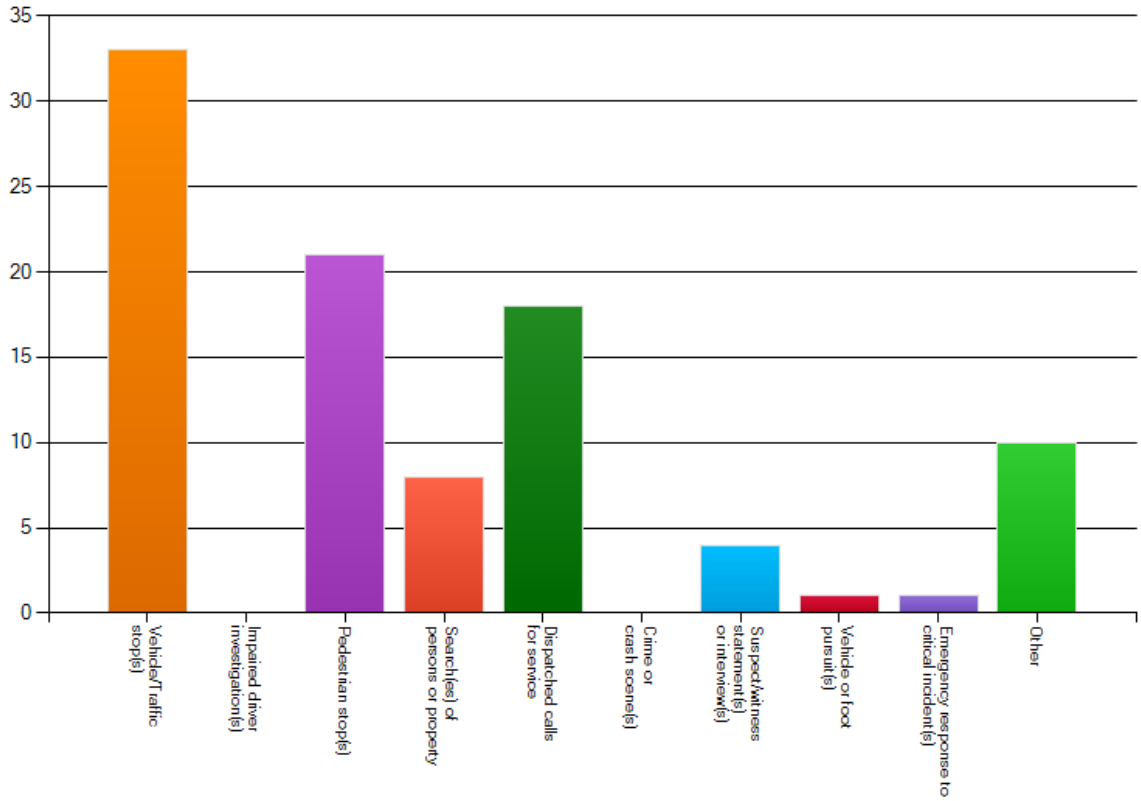


While only 58 surveys were completed, it was evident that all the cameras were used more frequently than what was reported in the surveys. Review of the video servers indicated many more events were recorded on dates for which there were no completed surveys and the survey reported "event" count was much lower than what was on the video servers. The low survey count was due to a user misunderstanding that surveys were required after each use. Many users believed they were only required to fill out the survey after a cameras first use and not on subsequent uses.

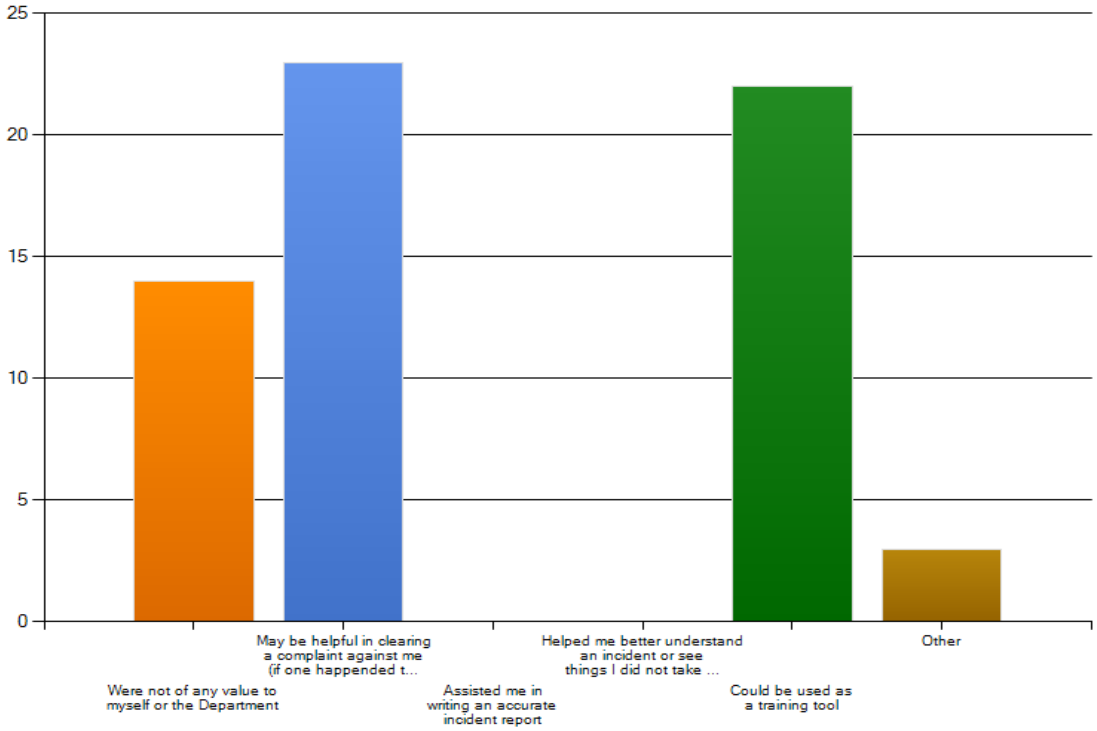
Number of "events" captured per shift



Types of events captured?



User opinion regarding value of captured video.



Most liked feature/qualities

	Taser Axon FLEX	Taser Axon Body	VIEVU LE2	Digital Ally FirstVu HD	Panasonic WVTW310
Perfect size / Small & Discreet	1	4	5	5	
Ease of use	4	6	5	4	
one piece unit		1			
location of on/off switch			1	1	1
Short cord				1	
Easy on and off	1		1		
Easy review of events in the field	3	2			
recording of events easy-just move head	1				
lightweight			1		
Durability		1			

Least liked features/qualities

	Taser Axon Flex	Taser Axon Body	VIEVU LE2	Digital Ally FirstVu HD	Panasonic WVTW310
No playback feature in the field			2		1
multiple pieces - cumbersome/hard to find locations to mount	2				
battery power insufficient - stopped recording			1		1
Loud beep-constant backlight		1			
on/off switch awkward				1	1
unable to tell if on or off			1		
Cord was too short-unable to clip to belt				1	
Small-hard to use with big fingers				1	1
orientation - right to left hand user	2				
Sunglasses	1				
Camera to battery wire too long - hard to hide-caught on things	3				
Download issues	1		1		1
forgot to turn it on			1		
inadequate training			1		

THE PANASONIC *WVTW310* BODY CAMERA

The Panasonic *WVTW310* cameras were not well received by the user members. The cameras arrived almost 3 weeks after the start of the pilot (early August). After receiving the cameras, the pilot technology coordinator reported difficultly synchronizing the cameras with MPD video data storage and retrieval systems already in place. Once that issue was resolved, user members reported not being able to conduct downloads of the recorded video. Because of this issue and the difficulty in resolution for the average street officer, the technology coordinator had to take physical custody of the camera and do a download from another location. This took the camera out of service for extended periods of time.

The Panasonic *WVTW310* offers some remarkable features, but with those features came criticism and built in expense.

- 1.3 megapixel resolution
- Wide Angle Fish-eye Lens: Approx. 180° horizontal and 140° vertical angular field of view
- By the gyroscope compensation, the vibration image can be stabilized.
- Wide Dynamic Range allows the camera to capture details in dark and light areas simultaneously
- High-color reproduction by primary (RGB) color filter
- Color mode / black & white mode automatic switching is available by simple Day/Night function
- H.264 recording of 1280 x 960 image size, up to 30fps
- H.264 images are recorded on the SDHC memory card of the camera, up to approximately 32 hours depending on the video bit rate
- Event pre-recording of up to 30 seconds
- Continuous operating time is approximately 5 hours
- IP65-compliant Dust and Water-resistant of the camera and the battery

- By Wearable Camera Agent Software, the video image data on the camera is automatically uploaded to a PC via the conversion box
- Viewer software enables fish-eye original images to play back with stabilization distortion correction
- The video image data can be scrambled and the scrambled image data uploaded to a PC can be verified by the Viewer Software

User members found *WVTW310* camera operation challenging and awkward, as such it was not used very often during the pilot program. When it was used, a reoccurring theme was the user difficulty in locating and manipulating the on/off switch. Users also expressed concern that this same switch issue would be exacerbated in the colder months when hands are gloved or during the stress of a critical incident. User members also noted that the *WVTW310* was ridiculously large as compared to the other cameras tested. One user remarked how the camera had a fish eye lens and night vision. That member used the analogy "I have neither a fish eye or night vision, why would I want a jury to see more than I'm capable of seeing at the time of the recording?"

Note: The horizontal field of view for this camera is about 40 degrees larger and the vertical field of view is significantly larger than any other cameras tested.

THE TASER *AXON FLEX* BODY CAMERA

The video camera itself on the *Axon Flex*, as seen below in relation to a pair of shooting glasses to which they're attached is very small and lightweight. It was barely notice by most users when attached to a pair of glasses.

The *Axon Flex* has the following features, according to Taser:

- Video resolution of 640x480
- 75 degree field of view
- Record time of 4 hours (12 hours in stand-by mode)
- 30 second pre-record time

The Taser *Axon Flex* comes with a wide variety of mounts and other accessories, including everything pictured below.

The mounts included are a headband mount, a collar mount, a shirt mount, and a glasses mount. The camera has a small yet very powerful magnet embedded on its side. It marries up with a similar strong magnet in each of the provided mounts. Taser designed the mounts very thoughtfully. The magnet mounts do not move very much, if at all, once it's locked into place. All allow for the camera to be quickly attached at the right angle.

User members tried all of the mounts provided. Most reported the glasses mount worked the best and provided the best overall recordings (we agree). The *Axon Flex* is the only camera of those tested that offers Point of View (POV) capture. The camera is always pointing in the right direction when worn on the glasses; it basically sees what the officer sees (more so than the cameras mounted on the body). Think of hearing a sound off to your side and then turning your head in the direction of the sound. With the glasses mount, the camera will see what the officer does verses the body mounted camera which would record only the direction that the officer's torso is facing.

Most users who reported success with the glasses mount regularly wore sunglasses or glasses and those who found it cumbersome were not frequent wearers of glasses.

The *Axon Flex* package also includes charging accessories and a non activated smartphone. The smartphone is provided for those officers who do not want to use their personal Bluetooth capable Smartphone or for those who do not have a smartphone, but want to utilize the next best thing Taser offers with their camera systems; Bluetooth technology.

The *Axon Flex* (as well as the *Axon Body)* has the ability to link to nearby smartphones via the Taser *Axon* mobile app. The Bluetooth connection is a two-fold plus of Taser's cameras. First, it allows an officer the ability to remove the camera from its mount and hold it around a corner or to peer into a dangerous area. While remotely extending the camera, the officer can use the Bluetooth connected smartphone to view the desired area while remaining behind cover. Secondly, it allows for test views of the system and gives the ability to review recordings on scene prior to a download. This may be particularly helpful at critical incidents or lend help in writing a report or locating evidence after a foot chase for example. Since this is a secure technology, the recordings remain safe from accidental or unintentional editing or deletions.

Video recorded by Taser systems are stored in a tamper-resistant file format that has all sorts of forensic goodies attached to it. As a result, it requires proprietary software to recover the video. Those tools are found on EVIDENCE.com or if the video will be stored in house by the department, the required tools are provided for internal downloading.

The major downside reported with this camera is that you need to run a wire between a battery power pack (kept in the pocket or attached to the duty belt) and the video camera. Some reported the wire was too long or was annoying to try and hide/secure unneeded wire in the shirt. Tucking the wire away worked for most users, but then there seemed to be a concern of not having enough slack and the camera being ripped from its magnetic mount. Another complaint was the headgear required for those who do not normally wear glasses. Some were uncomfortable wearing the glasses or headband at night. Others had trouble adjusting to having no lenses or clear lenses. While the glasses mount was reported as the best option for providing the best recording, it was the mounting option that was complained about the most.

THE TASER *AXON BODY* CAMERA

The *Axon Body* is Taser's answer to providing a simple, low cost, yet high quality camera product. Almost all the features found in the *Axon Flex* are available on the *Axon Body*. The main difference between the two is the loss of the POV feature from the glasses, which was discussed earlier in this report.

According to Taser, the *Axon Body* system features include:

- Pre-event buffer captures 30-second video before activation
- Full shift 12+ hour battery / record time
- 130-degree wide-angle lens provides tremendous field of view.
- Low light recording captures video comparable to the human retina.
- Automatically charge and upload videos to EVIDENCE.com or download to local server
- Video hashing algorithm ensures tamper-proof video
- Automated video offload untouched by human hands from sensor to storage
- Live stream or review video over secure Bluetooth® to a smartphone with Axon mobile app
- Configurable video quality and audio recording settings
- IPX2 weather resistance
- Multiple mounting options include chest, belt, in-car, and more

THE DIGITAL ALLY *FIRSTVU HD* CAMERA

The *FirstVu™ HD* is a fairly new introduction (July 2013) to the line of police body cameras. It is comprised of a small 1.75" camera and a separate, thin 2.75" x 4" recording module which may be securely mounted together or separately for more versatile body, vehicle and other mounting options.

The *FirstVu™ HD* weighs a mere 4 oz. and features a user-replaceable battery designed to outlast a full shift.

Digital Ally reports that *FirstVu™ HD* features:

- Wide field of view (130 degrees)
- Detailed 720p HD resolution (1280 x 720 pixels)

- A minimum of 16 hrs. recording time at the highest quality setting
- Enhanced low light sensitivity for night recording
- Up to 60 sec. (user set) pre-event recording to capture the events that transpired before pressing record
- Instant record ON from stand-by mode with easy one-button operation
- Date/time stamp marks
- Vibrating covert mode
- Non-proprietary AVI videos
- Secure USB access for downloading recordings or applying software upgrades
- Ruggedized and weather-resistant casing
- Evidence security and more.

A recent new addition for this camera system is a product Digital Ally is marketing as *VuLink.* While it was not available during testing and we no longer have Digital Ally in-car systems, it bears mentioning for the purposes of showing how body cameras are evolving quite rapidly. *VuLink* is the first system that allows body cameras and in-car video systems to be automatically or manually activated simultaneously. Essentially, it allows Digital Ally's in-car video systems and *FirstVu HD* body cameras to work cohesively together, both in the field as well as in Digital Ally's *VuVault* back-office management and reporting software.

The *FirstVu™ HD* was reported as having too short of a cord for most users, as seen in the pictures above. A good number of the videos recorded early in the pilot had no audio. It was learned a few weeks into the pilot that someone turned the audio on/off switch to "off" on the side of the unit and it went unnoticed. The playback video quality is adequate to above average, but is hampered by the lack of POV as explained earlier.

THE VIEVU *LE2* BODY CAMERA

User members found the *LE2* camera easy to use and operate. One thing well emphasized by the user members was the lack of wires or distracting buttons. The only time wires are attached to it is when you use the proprietary, two-USB connector to download the videos from the unit to a computer. The *LE2* contains one moving part to operate the camera; a lens cover. To activate the camera, you simply swipe the lens cover down, and to shut it off, swipe it back up again — no fine motor skill necessary!

The major operational deficiencies noted for this model is the lack of a pre-event buffer, limited internal storage capacity, short battery life and inability to review video without being tethered to a software equipped computer.

VIEVU reports the *LE2* has:

- Capability to record up to four hours of video
- Four hour battery life with non-removable Lithium-Ion battery (charges via USB cable connected either to a computer, or in conjunction with an adapter, directly to a wall outlet)
- 4 GB internal memory
- Date and time stamp
- SD video resolution of 640x480
- 71 degree field of view
- 3.5 oz in weight

The VIEVU was well liked by our motorcycle officers when they tried them “unofficially” in 2011/2012. This was the only camera they tried (with no comparison camera) and they used an older model camera. Operationally however, the older camera had the same basic swipe on/swipe off function.

Downloading of video was performed using our current Federal *DP3* system. The technology coordinator reports no issues with integration and overall good performance from a technological standpoint.

CAMERA AND MEDIA STORAGE COSTS

There are cost considerations that must be made when purchasing body cameras. There are two start-up costs that can be fairly expensive. The first is the purchase of the cameras and second, providing adequate digital storage of all recordings from each camera. Video and audio files can take significant storage space. With each camera in use, significant secure server storage space will be required which can translate into a major expense. Some factors which will manipulate storage expenses included the number of cameras in use (initially and projected maximum), the criteria of what officers are required to record, the video quality settings on the camera (High Definition vs. 640x480 resolution or less quality), and record retention requirements. The VIEVU *LE2* and the *FirstVu HD* system integrated well with Federal's *DP3* software solution already installed, so it should be just a matter of increasing storage capacity only.

Another option the department has, proprietary to Taser, is one of the most sophisticated "cloud" based off-site secure video storage solutions available called EVIDENCE.COM. Evidence.com is an optional purchase which is charged at the rate of $9.95 through $50 per user/per month based on options purchased. Evidence.com works with all existing Taser camera products including the X26C (ECD with camera) and the *Axon Body* camera. This solution would provide unparalleled access for each registered user, allow for easier sharing of videos/evidence with authorized persons (including prosecutors), and will allow for easier organization and classification of video evidence. During our pilot, we used evidence.com exclusively for downloading and viewing video.

The technology coordinator suggests that the Taser products will work with existing DP3 infrastructure in the event we choose to not use EVIDENCE.com as our evidence server.

Other cost considerations for a body camera include training for officers, battery replacement when required, maintenance agreement costs, and other equipment repair related expenses that may occur.

- Taser *Axon Flex* Camera - $500-$700 (option dependent)
- Taser *Axon Body* Camera - $300
- Taser *Evidence.com* storage/software – as low as $9.95 per month/per officer
- Digital Ally *First VU HD* - $795

- VIEVU *LE2* - $895
- Panasonic *WVTW310* - about $1,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

Since the selection/purchase of body cameras will likely be governed by the bidding process, a Request for Proposal (RFP) is under development by the Field Technology Unit. The specifications will be written to address the needs, wants, likes and dislikes of our user members and the overall requirements identified by the department as a whole.

Putting aside the bidding process momentarily for the purpose of making a recommendation or endorsement, a summary of our findings follows:

After careful consideration of user member's feedback, product options, versatility, ease of use, durability, battery life, video and audio quality, pricing, reputation & warranty, as well as data storage considerations, we find this to be a very difficult decision to be made between three of the units tested. The top three choices are the Taser *Axon Flex*, the *Axon Body* and the Digital Ally *FirstVu HD.* All three are excellent cameras and in our view there is no clear-cut choice as to which is truly the more superior camera.

For us, the consideration more or less boils down to two (2) main issues: Cost effectiveness vs. camera options. In our view, the $500-$700 *Axon Flex* has a slight advantage over the *Axon Body* largely because the *Axon Flex* is able to achieve "close to true" point of view (POV) recording, however, as commented earlier in this report, unless the department mandates head mounting of the camera, it will likely not be used often. Controversially, if the department desires to spend less money and get a very similar quality product without the POV recording capabilities, the $300 A*xon Body* should be considered as the next best option. In our side by side comparison, based on the above considerations, Taser *Axon Flex* provides the greatest value at $500-$700/unit. Cost alone, our recommendation is to go without the POV option of the *Axon Flex* and spend $300 for the *Axon Body*.

The Digital Ally *FirstVU HD* system is nearly equivalent to the capabilities of the Taser units, but has some nice "extra" features. Unfortunately, those additional upgrades bring the cost of the unit up significantly to nearly $800 per unit. For this reason, *FirstVu HD* should not be considered as a viable cost effective alternative.

The VIEVU *LE2* is simply too expensive and lacks pre-event recording. Overall the features offered seem inferior to those of the other cameras. While not tested in this trial, the newly introduced *LE3* model may be a viable option for the department at a later date, particularly with a price cut.

Finally, the Panasonic *WVDT310* body camera. This product is overpriced and lacks critical basic functionality to be considered for purchase as explained in the camera summary.

ADDENDUM 1

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use and management of body worn cameras otherwise known as BWC technology during the designated thirty day pilot period. The 30 day pilot project will commence on Thursday, July 18th, 2013 and will end Sunday, August 18th, 2013. Extended though Sun, September 22, 2013.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

This thirty day pilot project being implemented by the Milwaukee Police Department will assign selected uniformed members of District Five with one of four types of BWC's. The four BWC manufacturers that the Milwaukee Police Department will pilot are:

1. Taser Axon
2. Taser Body (Prototype on July 18. For sale to public Aug 1)
3. Panasonic WD3022
4. Digital Ally FirstVu HD
5. VIEVU

Each BWC system will be used to document various events that occur during the duty shift of the assigned member. Upon completion of the assigned member's shift, all captured data will be preserved in a secure video storage location. Once captured, these recordings are protected with multiple layers of encryption and cannot be altered in any way. BWC technology facilitates the Department's objectives to collect evidence for criminal prosecutions, ensures both officer and citizen accountability, provides administrative inspection functions, and has the potential to provide a valuable training aid by allowing for the evaluation of officer safety and tactics.

The BWC Pilot Project Coordinator is sergeant Douglas J. Wiorek from the Office of Management, Analysis and Planning.

The BWC Pilot Project Technology Liaison is police officer Ken Cecil from the Field Technology Unit.

The BWC Pilot Project is District 5 AGU sergeant Gregg Duran

3. SCOPE

These policies and procedures will apply to all members involved in the BWC pilot program, to include all user members, investigative personnel, and any support staff responsible for preparing cases for criminal prosecution and the release of public records.

4. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. TRAINING

Members participating in the BWC pilot program will receive requisite training prior to participation on their assigned device. The training provided will be commensurate with the level of participation (i.e. camera wearer, detective, administrator, etc).

B. EQUIPMENT

1. All BWC's and related equipment will be issued to user members and will remain in the possession of the member for the duration of the pilot project.

2. Any lost, stolen or damaged BWC's will be reported as required by SOP 340.55.

5. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

A. PRE-SHIFT INSPECTION

Prior to each shift, user members will ensure their issued BWC is adequately charged. Prior to each shift, user members will inspect their assigned BWC and the charging cable(s) to ensure there is no visible damage and the device is in good working order. Any visible damage or concerns about the functionality of the equipment will be brought to the attention of the member's immediate supervisor as soon as it is practical to do so.

B. AUDIO / VIDEO RECORDING

1. Wearing Position of the BWC

   a. Taser Axon Flex

      The preferred mounting location for the AXON camera is on a set of glasses. Since the AXON camera provides the best performance at the shoulder level or above, secondary mounting locations may include mounting the camera on the brim of an MPD PPI ball cap, the side of an MPD uniform cap, the shirt lapel, a shoulder epaulette or by using an earpiece adapter.

   b. Panasonic WD3022

      The Panasonic WD3022 camera is worn vertically on the shirt placket (the double layer of fabric attaching the buttons and button holes) at or above the center of the shirt pockets on the outside of the uniform shirt or at or above the center of the "shirt style" pockets of the outer vest carrier. If a uniform jacket or authorized sweater is worn, the camera will be affixed to these clothing items in a similar fashion, so that the functionality of the camera is not compromised in any way.

c. Digital Ally First VU HD

The FIRST VU HD camera must be worn vertically on the shirt placket (the double layer of fabric attaching the buttons and button holes) at or above the center of the shirt pockets on the outside of the uniform shirt or at or above the center of the “shirt style” pockets of the outer vest carrier. If a uniform jacket or authorized sweater is worn, the camera will be affixed to these clothing items in a similar fashion, so that the functionality of the camera is not compromised in any way.

d. VIEVU PVR-LE2

The VIEVU PVR-LE2 camera must be worn vertically on the shirt placket (the double layer of fabric attaching the buttons and button holes) at or above the center of the shirt pockets on the outside of the uniform shirt or at or above the center of the “shirt style” pockets of the outer vest carrier. If a uniform jacket or authorized sweater is worn, the camera will be affixed to these clothing items in a similar fashion, so that the functionality of the camera is not compromised in any way.

2. Use of and Recording with the BWC

a. The assigned camera must be worn at all times when the user member is likely to become involved in any enforcement activity during their assigned shift.

b. The Department recognizes that officer safety is paramount. Bearing this in mind, all user members who arrive on a scene or engage in an enforcement contact must place their camera in the “On/Record” Mode as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.

c. The BWC will be activated during all investigative or enforcement contacts such as, but not limited to, the following examples:

1. Vehicle stops
2. Impaired driver investigations
3. Pedestrian stops
4. Consensual encounters that are investigative in nature
5. Searches of persons or property
6. Dispatched calls for service
7. At crime or crash scenes
8. Suspect/witness statements and interviews
9. Vehicle and foot pursuits
10. Emergency response to critical incidents

d. Once a BWC is in the “On or Record” mode, members must continue to record until either the completion of the event or until they leave the scene.

e. User members can view captured video utilizing the provided manufacturer software once the data has been downloaded from the BWC. This will allow for user members to refresh their memories prior to the completion of a citation, ARS report or to prepare for court proceedings.

C. PROHIBITED RECORDING

1. In keeping with the Department's core value of respect, user members will adhere to the following guidelines:

   a. BWC's will not be activated in a place where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists, such as dressing rooms, locker rooms and restrooms.

   b. BWC's will not be intentionally activated to record conversations of fellow members without their knowledge during routine and non-enforcement activities. This includes while a member is on a rest break, while report writing, general discussions with other members, discussing a case with another member, or performing other administrative functions.

   c. BWC's will not be utilized to surreptitiously record conversations of citizens and employees.

   d. User members will not knowingly record undercover officers or confidential informants.

   e. BWC's will not be utilized to record any off duty or personal activity and will not be worn while working special events.

D. CRITICAL INCIDENT PROTOCOL

In the event of a critical incident, (i.e. officer involved shooting, serious injury or death, serious use of force incident, serious police equipment accident, etc.), user members will refrain from viewing the recorded data until the investigative entity responsible for the investigation arrives on scene and it can be done in conjunction with current critical incident protocols that are in place. This will not prohibit members from viewing the recorded data captured by the BWC in the event of an exigency where viewing will assist with critical details pertinent to the investigation such as the description of outstanding suspects, suspect vehicles and direction of travel, etc.

E. IMPOUNDING OF DATA AND DATA UPLOADING

1. At the end of each shift, assigned members must connect their BWC according to the specific manufacturer guidelines of the BWC and download all recorded data utilizing the manufacturer provided software for their particular device. The recorded data is considered to be impounded at this point and the BWC will be cleared of existing data.

2. After videos are downloaded, members must assign the appropriate category to each individual video utilizing the corresponding CAD number.

3. After videos are downloaded, user members must add detailed comments or tags in the corresponding sections. Examples include an incident number, a CAD number or citation number when applicable.

F. USE SURVEY

After each tour of duty, the user member will complete a brief survey concerning the performance of their assigned BWC. The survey will be conducted via Survey Monkey and accessed via the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MPDBWCSurvey

A more comprehensive individual debriefing will occur with user members after the pilot project has concluded.

G. REPORTING / DOCUMENTATION

1. The use of a BWC will be documented in the opening paragraph of all official police reports and in the narrative section on citations.

2. When the BWC is used on a traffic stop that results in an arrest or citation, the use of the BWC will be documented in the citation and/or the ARS narrative. If a citation is issued, the words "On Officer Video" will be written in the lower right hand corner of the citation or typed in the "Agency Notes" section when using TraCS.

3. Members will immediately report any loss of, or damage to, any part of a BWC and/or data captured to their immediate supervisor who will prepare the proper report.

H. DEPARTMENT REVIEW

1. The District Five BWC pilot project sergeant will randomly inspect sixteen (16) videos each week, two (2) videos from each BWC participating in the pilot program. The district sergeant will ensure the videos reviewed comply with this policy and report his/her findings on Form PM-9E *Departmental Memorandum*. The weekly completed memorandum will be submitted through the chain of command to the BWC Pilot Program Coordinator.

2. The Department will have the ability to review captured video at any time to ensure compliance with policy, to investigate personnel complaints, for training purposes, etc.

I. DATA PRIVACY / RETENTION OF RECORDINGS / RECORDS REQUESTS

1. All digital media that is captured during the pilot program is the property of and will be retained by the Milwaukee Police Department for a minimum of 120 days following the date it is recorded. Captured video may be retained for longer periods in the event the video is the subject of a litigation hold, a criminal case, part of discovery, etc.

2. Accessing, copying, or releasing captured video without the approval of the Chief of Police or his designee is strictly prohibited. Members are also prohibited from making copies of a BWC audio/video recording by using another recording device such as a cell phone.

3. Members will not allow citizens to review video captured by a BWC unless there is an investigative reason to do so. Members shall advise citizens they may obtain a copy of the recording through the open records process.

4. The release of video requested through a public open records request will be handled in accordance with existing policy and public records laws. See SOP 260 Open Records for additional information.

MARY K. HOERIG
INSPECTOR OF POLICE
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

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