

Deputy Sheriff Lamantaine (PDAM)

Policeone recently reported that the costs for storage of the data could bankrupt most police agencies;

A quality body camera can cost around \$1000, once you've bought the charging/docking cradles, maybe an extra battery or two, and the hardware necessary to mate the camera to the officer/user's shirt, shoulder, or head. They're reasonably sturdy devices, and should be good for a few years.

The gift that keeps on giving here is the video those cameras produce. That video consumes a lot of disk space, and there will be more every day.

### **Adding it Up**

Here's a calculation based on a 50-officer agency: say 60% of your cops work on a typical day, and each produces an average of four hours of video. If the video is encoded at 640x480 VGA (the format stored by the TASER AXON system, one of the more popular models) it's going to take up 15-20 MB of space per minute (TASER may compress the video better than that- this is just an estimation). That's just over 1 GB per hour, times four hours, times 30 cops, times three shifts: 360 GB per day, more than a terabyte every three days, ten terabytes per month.

How long do you want to keep that video on file before you delete it? If you say "forever," get ready to write an increasingly large check each month. If you can live with, say, three months,

that's about 30 terabytes worth of storage, plus whatever you keep around for open cases.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is one of the largest cloud storage services in the world. Netflix uses them for their trove of streaming video. There are a lot of variables, but the figure I got for keeping this volume of video online with AWS, creating a new volume at the end of each sift, is \$6260.79. Apply whatever multiples you might need for more cops or a longer retention interval.

It's easy to see that the cost of purchasing the body cameras is almost trivial compared to the price tag for maintaining the video archive.

Police officers already work in the most regulated industry there is. Police Officers are required to complete a daily activity log which documents every second of their shift. Each instance that they are sent on a call is documented and tracked electronically. They are required to use computers that track their location, the speed in which they drive. How long they are at a particular place. They are required to talk on recorded phone lines, and their radio traffic is recorded. They use FOIAable e mail systems. Any internet use is tracked and monitored. Police officers are already required to wear a body microphone which is to be activated every time they have contact with a citizen. The police car is equipped with a camera system that is activated every time the overhead lights come on. It also records inside the vehicle. How much is too much?

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Recently the Detroit News offered an Op/Ed pertaining the Detroit Police Departments request to access "live" feeds of cameras in the City. The ACLU objected to this stating that they believed that public privacy would be unduly violated. This is one of many examples of the issues associated with cameras whether body mounted or otherwise.

The recently published Presidents Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing broaches the subject of "law enforcement implementation of technology" should be "designed considering local needs aligned with national standards" This report also states that " as a part of national standards, the issue of technology's impact on privacy concerns should be addressed".

Further, the US Department of Justice is developing best practices that can be adopted by States to "govern the acquisition, use, retention, and dissemination of auditory, visual, and biometric data by law enforcement.

The Police Officers Association of Michigan, the largest police association in the Midwest, continues to take a lead role in the discussions surrounding these serious issues. We look forward to thoughtful and deliberate discussions on the proper use of the available technology.