



SWAT Body Worn Cameras

Eff. Date 02/24/2020

Purpose

To outline the guidelines for the use of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) by Madison Police Department (MPD) SWAT personnel.

Procedure

- SWAT supervisors will assign body-worn cameras to team members prior to tactical operations (unless it is impractical to do so or cameras are unavailable). Available BWCs will be assigned in such a way to maximize audio/video capture of the operation.
- Briefings for pre-planned operations will specify which personnel are assigned to wear BWCs.
- For pre-planned search warrants, recording should begin during vehicle movement to the target location. For extended tactical operations, recording should begin prior to anticipated tactical intervention and should capture any negotiations or other relevant activity when possible. Recording should continue until the incident is resolved.
- Team leaders or personnel wearing a BWC should advise other team members when recording is beginning and when it has ended (unless it is impractical to do so). The command post should also be advised when practical (if applicable).
- Team members assigned BWCs for an operation will turn the camera over to a team supervisor or commander after the incident.
- Video files shall be tagged as evidence with the deployment case number by the team supervisor or commander within 48 hours or as soon as practicable. A copy of the video file may also be saved for training purposes.
- Video files are considered MPD records and may not be released or distributed except as provided for in MPD standard operating procedures.
- A SWAT supervisor will document who wore the cameras in an MPD police report.
- SWAT team leaders will periodically review video from tactical operations to ensure compliance with MPD's Code of Conduct and Standard Operating Procedures, and to identify areas for performance improvement or additional training.

Original SOP: 10/20/2016
(Reviewed Only: 12/26/2017, 02/04/2022)
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