



SWAT Body Worn Cameras

Eff. Date 11/24/2025

Purpose

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

Procedure

- SWAT supervisors will assign a BWC to each member of the tactical team. A list will be kept documenting which camera is assigned to each member of the tactical team.
- All tactical team members assigned to the operation will wear their assigned BWC, unless it is impractical to do so.
- For pre-planned search warrants, recording should begin during vehicle movement to the target location. Recording should continue until the warrant service is complete. For extended tactical operations, recordings should begin prior to anticipated tactical intervention and should capture any negotiations or other relevant activity when possible.
- The command post should be advised, when practical, that recording has started.
- Tactical team members will return their assigned BWC to the docking cradle for download upon conclusion of the operation or notify a supervisor if unable to do so.
- Video files shall be tagged as evidence with the deployment case number by each tactical team member at the conclusion of the operation. If tagging cannot be done at the conclusion of the operation, it should be done within 48 hours or as soon as practicable. A copy of the video file may also be saved for training purposes.
- Team members shall notify IMAT and a SWAT Supervisor as soon as practicable if the BWC fails to operate or download video.
- 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 that each team member assigned to the operation was wearing their assigned BWC in a MPD police report. A SWAT supervisor should also document if a team member was not wearing their assigned BWC, and the reason for not wearing it.
- SWAT Tactical 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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