

From: Werner, William C.
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 07:58
To: Dotson, Doyle
Cc: McAteer, Michael W; Carnaghi, John M; Obermark, Edward D
Subject: Week Two BWC Survey Results

Sir,

The purpose of this email is to update you on the results of the week two surveys regarding BWCs. At 7am Monday, December 28, 2015, 75% of Sergeants wearing issued BWCs had completed the survey. The numbers of surveys completed by Assignment Code are as follows:

Assignment Number	
301	2
302	1
303	3
304	2
305	3
306	3
340	2
341	2

The below table is a list of questions with the average response from the officers that completed the survey. A rating of 3 is neutral. The higher the score the more officers **DISAGREED** with the statement. The **LOWER** the score the more they **AGREED**. The rating scale is as follows:

1=Strongly Agree 2= Agree 3=Neutral 4=Disagree 5=Strongly Disagree

Average responses for week two:

Question	Pre	Average
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I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.64	3.84
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.86	2.68
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.64	2.47
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.73	3.95
BWC's make my job easier	3.57	3.79
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	2.86	2.89
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	3.11
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	3.21
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.07	3.16
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.15	4.84
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.27	3.32
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.31	3.47
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.88	2.42
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.56	2.05
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	1.56	1.68
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	2.25	2.00
Officers will act more professionally	2.63	2.79
BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	2.31	2.11
It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.86	2.26
BWC Equipment is easy to use	2.8	2.47
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.27	3.58
Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.93	2.37
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	2.93	2.05
The SO is easy to understand	2.73	2.53
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.93	2.89
The SO is too detailed	3.27	3.26
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.38	4.42
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	3.13	3.11
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	4	4.05

Cameras improve officer training	2.67	2.63
Cameras improve overall job performance	3.56	3.32
Cameras tend to increase office safety	3.56	3.37
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.38	3.47
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.81	3.79
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	3.31	3.42
The training I received on the technology was adequate	2.94	2.95
The training I received on the SO was adequate	3.38	3.11

Written responses include:

Please indicate what you believe to be the STRENGTHS of wearing a BWC.

- *My experience with the BWC has been limited, therefore, I do not have a comment at this point.*
- *The BWC is one more means of documenting an incident.*
- *The BWC allowed me to record a victim's injuries and statement in a serious felony case. The BWC may have painted a more complete picture of the scene, the victim, and his statement, than a still camera could have in this particular instance.*
- *More detailed account of events by officers.*
- *The strengths, as I have experienced, are that while at scenes we can capture most individuals in the crowds (for identification later, if needed) and document scenes with the camera without having to hold anything in our hands.*
- *The strength of this program lies in the fact that erroneous / false citizen complaints can be stopped at the onset.*
- *They do depict an accurate assessment of a situation. I have found citizens do not necessarily like being on camera and they seem to think first before making their own statements.*
- *The strengths of wearing the camera would be having documented video evidence to support the officer's account of events when disputed by other persons.*
- *I believe that body cameras have the potential to record video of arrests, which Officers will be able to use later to corroborate their version of events.*
- *The strength would be if someone were to make a false complaint against you, it may or may not help you.*
- *It is easier to recall the specific details of events that you were a part of.*
- *Evidentiary values could be good but it is too soon to tell. In addition, the CAO has become increasingly more difficult to deal with in regards to issuing cases.*

I feel the cameras could potentially be useful, but until the program goes longer and there is more evidence to verify that the pros outweigh the cons, I will have to remain neutral.

Please indicate what you believe to be the WEAKNESSES of wearing a BWC.

- *My experience with the BWC has been limited, therefore, I do not have a comment at this point.*
- *The BWC, when required for supervisors, likely creates hesitancy on the part of officers to solicit supervisory advice.*

Additionally, operating the BWC redirects my attention when my focus should be on operating in a safe manner during high-risk situations.

- *It allows civilians too much insight into our tactical operations. It somewhat eliminates the amount of police discretion that we would have if not being recorded.*
- *Much like the process for seizing video from an in-car camera, the method for saving BWC footage is cumbersome and time consuming. Additionally, the BWC emits two loud beeps every so often while the device is recording. While I welcome the friendly reminder the device is recording, the audio alert can represent a serious officer safety issue. For example, when conducting a building search or a similar task, broadcasting the location of an officer is a serious safety concern.*
- *Negative effects on morale, officers will hesitate to make decisions believing that they will be questioned on everything they do.*
- *The BWC is in the way on my uniform. There needs to be a way to clip the BWC on the outer garments.*
- *The main weakness, as I have experienced, is that this piece of equipment is not well received by other members of this department and has created a sense of paranoia.*
- *It creates a distraction to the officer. Instead of thinking about the task at hand (safety etc.), they are more focused on the camera. That distraction creates a substantial risk of officer safety.*
- *I have a fear that cameras will cause hesitation for an officer when the use of force is necessary. I would hate to see it become an officer safety issue.*
- *Wearing the body camera makes me feel very self conscience of what I am doing and what I can say. It does not feel natural. I don't feel as if I can be myself that I will always be judged on every little thing I do or say. I feel it is a hindrance.*
- *Officers already do not have a lot of extra room on their duty belts and on their persons to store extra equipment. This particular model has two components (the battery pack and the camera), which must be connected with the use of a wire. This makes the wearing of the camera somewhat cumbersome and the wire connecting the two components will sometimes get in the Officer's way.*
- *Having the camera strapped to my head with the wire is a distraction. I often find myself adjusting the camera wire as I move so it does not tug and change the direction of the camera. I also do not like that I have to take my eyes off of the target of my investigation as I approach so that I can activate the camera. Also the device around my head gives me a headache at times.*
- *The flex system specifically is too complex. On several occasions the cable has disconnected from the unit by simply sitting in my vehicle or exiting. It also has police officers scared to make decisions as freely as they would have before and as a result I feel that Officer safety is compromised.*
- *As shown with the initial usage of vehicle mounted cameras, there have been numerous instances where officers failed to act appropriately to save their lives in instances of lethal force. Based on that, coupled with the more increasingly biased charging of police officers by courts to appease a small percentage of people, the cons seriously outweigh the pros for me.*

Please generally describe your experience wearing the BWC during the pilot period.

- *The BWC only captures a small fraction of events occurring during the time it is recording. Additionally, in the capacity within which I am using it (search warrants), it is difficult to physically mount it in a place where it doesn't interfere with the necessary equipment I am carrying: rifle, magazine carrier, radio, etc.*
- *I ran into an issue with the basic recording operations which caused me to have to contact the IT personnel for a one on one briefing.*
- *Another concern regarding the chest-worn camera is that everything I write in my notebook is recorded, including sensitive information such as other officer's telephone numbers. This situation should be addressed in subsequent training and steps should be taken and taught on how to prevent this from occurring.*

- *It is extremely difficult to get the BWC out of the carrying clip. I attempted to stop recording and the device did not respond. I had to power it off to end a recording.*
- *Thus far, my experience with the BWC has been ok.*
- *I was issued the Axon Body device. Fortunately it was warm enough to not have to wear a coat. Otherwise I do not know how or where I would wear the device.*
- *I think the FLEX is too bulky. I would prefer to wear the Body Flex regularly and save the Flex for tactical operations*
- *It is difficult to be ostracized by the very people you trust your life with on a daily basis. Officers feel uncomfortable talking to you while it is recording.*
- *I have found they are easy to operate and wear.*
- *Problematic. The cord connecting the camera to battery pack kept pulling the aim of the camera in other directions*
- *It is definitely an adjustment. You hear commanders say, "The cameras are here to stay so you better get use to them". Well, in my experience so far that is easier said than done. I believe commanders need to experience wearing the camera while performing street patrol and supervision because I believe it definitely effects the officer's street presence.*
- *I have not experienced any major problems or complications with the camera, during the pilot program, thus far*
- *From reviewing the videos, I find it interesting since I wear the (FLEX) model how often I take my focus off the subject I am investigating and constantly scan the area for other threats. I am accustomed to doing this and am able to listen and use my peripheral vision to still maintain control and observation of the subject. I often look toward the ground (which appears funny on the video) but I do this more to create a relaxed interaction while cuing into the subjects body language and voice changes.*
- *The Flex camera was broken and I had several days off so I was unable to utilize the camera this week.*
- *The camera does not stay pointed in the correct direction and the cable easily disengages by making minimal movements. I believe that the system itself is a strong point in that it*
- *So far, I have only had the camera during one instance and it appears to have worked. There was no issue with turning it on or recording the series of events. I saw nothing that indicates that wearing the camera increased officer safety or citizen compliance.*

Please list any changes to the proposed policy/SO you would make.

- *For the purpose of the pilot program, I would suggest that the SO should have been written for the Sgt.'s not PO's.*
- *I would remove the requirement for SWAT supervisors to carry BWCs during the execution of search warrants.*

A supervisor from the investigating unit could easily document the search warrant execution from outside the target building, and this would allow SWAT supervisors to focus on

- *Specifically prohibiting the recording of officer/attorney communications would be prudent.*
- *I would not require Sergeants to wear this*
- *There needs to be more leeway / discretion when recording. Example: On a scene where there are multiple locations. It is silly to keep the device on when moving from one location to another, but by SO, the camera must remain on once started. Impractical. Example #2: On a scene where officers have completed their initial investigation and are waiting for a specialized unit. At that point, there is no reason to have it on unless the scene or investigation is still active.*
- *I think the best way to implement this program would be to allow the officer to use the camera when they feel it may be beneficial and use it on a voluntary basis. After it saves a few police officers or captures some really helpful video the officers perceptions may change.*

- *I would definitely make changes should the camera be forced on police officers assigned to the Special Operations Unit. I would like to see more protections in regards to undercover activities and intelligence based policing activities.*

Please list any other information you believe is relevant to this pilot program.

- *More training needs to be given on the use of the cameras. We were given a brief "how to" class then were instructed that the use would begin within a week later which is definitely NOT enough time to work out what ever user errors which may occur.*
- *It will be a problem for Officers to upload the information on line for every recording at the end of their shift.*
- *I noticed that while making phone calls on my personal cell for work purposes, that the camera may be picking up numbers on my cell etc. I find that to be disturbing and do not wish my personal numbers on a recording. Furthermore, if I receive a personal call while the device is recording, it will record even the briefest moments of that call and possibly pick up the caller ID. I do not like that.*
- *The Flex may not be the best choice for the officers due to the numerous plastic pieces that I feel over the course of time will break or be lost. I think a wireless camera would also be helpful.*
- *Currently, it serves no purpose for Sergeants to be wearing these cameras. The usual response times for sergeants to any scene is delayed and I feel there can't possibly be any benefits from them.*