



Surveillance Use Policy

Power Over Ethernet Digital Video Recorders (Record Only) San Diego Police Department

PURPOSE

The San Diego Police Department utilizes power over ethernet digital video recorders (POE / DVR) to create objective real-time recordings to develop and further investigations. The POE / DVR is used in areas where there are repeat offenses and / or more evidence needs to be collected for a successful apprehension of a suspect.

USE

A POE / DVR is used as a part of a video recording system. The POE / DVR is connected to a video camera with a power-over ethernet cord that powers the camera and sends the images to the POE / DVR. The POE / DVR is not networked and not enabled to allow remote viewing. The POE / NVR is scheduled to record 24 hours a day and seven days a week when operating.

When a POE / DVR is requested by an SDPD member, a Special Equipment Technician of the Robbery Unit will be assigned the request. The technician will speak with the SDPD member to fully understand the mission of how the device will be used. The request will be evaluated for equipment suitability and legal standing. If equipment deployment is appropriate, a request form will be completed stating the crime being investigated.

All requests for a POE / DVR must be approved by a Robbery Unit sergeant and Robbery Unit lieutenant.

The POE / DVR is installed and the operation of the unit is confirmed by the Robbery Unit. Once it is determined the device is no longer needed, the Robbery Unit removes the camera system, including the POE / DVR. The review and determination of the evidentiary value of all recorded video media and its appropriate documentation is the responsibility of the requesting SDPD member.

Department procedures associated with a POE / DVR are:

- 3.02 - Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence
- 3.26 - Media Evidence Recovery and Impounding/Preserving Procedures.

DATA COLLECTION

Any usage of a POE / DVR must be done in a legal and ethical manner, recognizing constitutional standards of privacy. The placement of all recording devices shall be done in accordance with all Federal and State laws and shall adhere to all established case law. Absent a court order, a search warrant, an undercover operation, or permission of the property owner, video cameras may only be used to monitor public places or places visible to the public where persons do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. It is the responsibility of the assigned Robbery Unit Special Equipment Technician, as well as the requesting SDPD member, to make sure all recording devices are placed in a location that will safeguard and protect citizens' constitutional rights.

The recorded video media is evaluated by the requesting investigative unit and only video deemed evidentiary is collected for retention and impounded per D.P. 3.02 Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence and D.P. 3.26 Media Evidence Recovery and Impounding / Preserving Procedures.



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DATA ACCESS

Personnel authorized to use POE / DVR or access the data through the use of such equipment shall be specifically trained in such technology and authorized by the Chief of Police, or designee. Such personnel shall be limited to designated captains, lieutenants, sergeants, officers, detectives, and police department personnel unless otherwise authorized.

Those authorized to have access to the data can view it from the device, or the impounded media evidence downloaded from the device. All such evidence is controlled and regulated per D.P. 3.02 Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence and D.P. 3.26 Media Evidence Recovery and Impounding / Preserving Procedures.

DATA PROTECTION

The POE / DVR devices have local memory and are physically locked and secured when installed. The device is username / password protected. After the recorded video from the device is reviewed, the video with evidentiary value is downloaded onto an external media device by an authorized user to be impounded. All such evidence is controlled and regulated per D.P. 3.02 Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence and D.P. 3.26 Media Evidence Recovery and Impounding / Preserving Procedures.

DATA RETENTION

Once the authorized user has impounded the downloaded video file physically, evidence retention is the responsibility of the SDPD Property Unit, and all such evidence is controlled and regulated by SDPD Procedure D.P. 3.02 Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence. After the evidentiary video files are impounded the memory of the POE / DVR will be erased and no video files will be on the device before it is returned to the inventory of the Robbery Unit.

If the device is deployed long enough the memory will write over the oldest recorded video. The amount of time this takes depends on how many cameras are being used for the deployment and camera settings.

PUBLIC ACCESS

The public has no access to a POE / DVR or any data it may collect.

Once the authorized user has impounded the video file physically, evidence retention and access are the responsibility of the SDPD Property Unit and all such evidence is controlled and regulated by SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence.

THIRD PARTY DATA SHARING

Video files may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies for legitimate law enforcement purposes, which includes criminal investigations and prosecution as allowed by law. The video files will not be used in immigration enforcement.



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TRAINING

Individualized training is provided to new users of the POE / DVR by Robbery Unit personnel once it is installed. Assistance is also provided during video review and downloading of evidentiary video files.

AUDITING AND OVERSIGHT

Personnel who are authorized to use the POE / DVR shall ensure that their access and use of the device comply with the Surveillance Use Policy.

The request forms shall be retained of who has access to the POE / DVR, who requested a device and for what purpose. The request forms shall be available for presentation for all required internal and external audits, and oversight will be maintained by the system Program Manager or their designee.

MAINTENANCE

The San Diego Police Department shall maintain robust security procedures and practices, including operational, administrative, technical, and physical safeguards, to protect recorded video files from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure.

The Robbery Unit shall maintain all POE / DVR devices.