

# Mobile Audio Video

## 421.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The West Bountiful City Police Department has equipped marked law enforcement vehicles with Mobile Audio Video (MAV) recording systems to provide records of events and to assist officers in the performance of their duties. This policy provides guidance on the use of these systems.

### 421.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Activate** - Any process that causes the MAV system to transmit or store video or audio data in an active mode.

**In-car camera system and MAV system** - Synonymous terms that refer to any system that captures audio and video signals, that is capable of installation in a vehicle, and that includes at minimum, a camera, microphone, recorder, and monitor.

**MAV technician** - Personnel certified or trained in the operational use and repair of MAVs, duplicating methods, and storage and retrieval methods, and who have a working knowledge of video forensics and evidentiary procedures.

**Recorded media** - Audio-video signals recorded or digitally stored on a storage device or portable media.

## 421.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the West Bountiful City Police Department to use mobile audio and video recording technology to more effectively fulfill the mission of the Department and to ensure these systems are used securely and efficiently.

## 421.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to going into service, each officer will properly equip themselves to record audio and video in the field. At the end of the shift, each officer will follow the established procedures for providing to the Department any recordings or used media and any other related equipment. Each officer should have adequate recording media for the entire duty assignment. In the event an officer works at a remote location and reports in only periodically, additional recording media may be issued. Only West Bountiful City Police Department identified and labeled media with tracking numbers is to be used.

At the start of each shift, officers should test the MAV system's operation in accordance with manufacturer specifications and department operating procedures and training.

System documentation is accomplished by the officer recording their name, serial number, badge or personal identification number (PIN), and the current date and time at the start and again at the end of each shift. If the system is malfunctioning, the officer shall take the vehicle out of service unless a supervisor requests the vehicle remain in service.

# West Bountiful City Police Department

West Bountiful City PD UT Policy Manual

## Mobile Audio Video

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### 421.4 ACTIVATION OF THE MAV

The MAV system is designed to turn on whenever the vehicle's emergency lights are activated. The system remains on until it is turned off manually. The audio portion is independently controlled and should be activated manually by the officer whenever appropriate. When audio is being recorded, the video will also record.

#### 421.4.1 REQUIRED ACTIVATION OF MAV

This policy is not intended to describe every possible situation in which the MAV system may be used, although there are many situations where its use is appropriate. An officer may activate the system any time the officer believes it would be appropriate or valuable to document an incident.

In some circumstances it is not possible to capture images of the incident due to conditions or the location of the camera. However, the audio portion can be valuable evidence and is subject to the same activation requirements as the MAV. The MAV system should be activated in any of the following situations:

- (a) All field contacts involving actual or potential criminal conduct within video or audio range:
  - 1. Traffic stops (to include but not limited to traffic violations, stranded motorist assistance, and all crime interdiction stops)
  - 2. Priority responses
  - 3. Vehicle pursuits
  - 4. Suspicious vehicles
  - 5. Arrests
  - 6. Vehicle searches
  - 7. Physical or verbal confrontations or use of force
  - 8. Pedestrian checks
  - 9. Driving under the influence (DUI) investigations, including field sobriety tests
  - 10. Consensual encounters
  - 11. Crimes in progress
  - 12. Responding to an in-progress call
- (b) All self-initiated activity in which an officer would normally notify Dispatch
- (c) Any call for service involving a crime where the recorder may aid in the apprehension and/or prosecution of a suspect, including:
  - 1. Domestic violence calls
  - 2. Disturbance of the peace calls
  - 3. Offenses involving violence or weapons
- (d) Any other contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact, in a situation that would not otherwise require recording

# West Bountiful City Police Department

## West Bountiful City PD UT Policy Manual

### Mobile Audio Video

---

- (e) Any other circumstance where the officer believes that a recording of an incident would be appropriate

Activation of the MAV system is not required when exchanging information with other officers, during breaks or lunch periods, or when not in service or not actively on patrol.

#### 421.4.2 CESSATION OF RECORDING

Once activated, the MAV system should remain on until the incident has concluded. For purposes of this section, conclusion of an incident has occurred when all arrests have been made, arrestees have been transported and all witnesses and victims have been interviewed. Recording may cease if an officer is simply waiting for a tow truck or a family member to arrive, or in other similar situations.

#### 421.4.3 SURREPTITIOUS RECORDING

No member of this department may surreptitiously record a conversation of any other member of this department except with a court order or when lawfully authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee for the purpose of conducting a criminal or administrative investigation.

#### 421.4.4 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should determine if vehicles with non-functioning MAV systems should be placed into service. If these vehicles are placed into service, the appropriate documentation should be made, including notification of Dispatch.

At reasonable intervals, supervisors should validate that:

- (a) Beginning and end-of-shift recording procedures are followed.
- (b) Logs reflect the proper chain of custody, including:
  1. The tracking number of the MAV system media.
  2. The date it was issued.
  3. The name of the department member or the vehicle to which the media was issued.
  4. The date the media was submitted for retention.
  5. The name of the department member submitting the media.
  6. Holds for evidence indication and tagging as required.
- (c) The operation of MAV systems by new employees is assessed and reviewed no less than biweekly.

When an incident arises that requires the immediate retrieval of the recorded media (e.g., serious crime scenes, officer-involved shootings, department-involved traffic collisions), a supervisor shall respond to the scene and ensure that the appropriate person properly retrieves the recorded media. The media may need to be treated as evidence and should be handled in accordance with current evidence procedures for recorded media.

# West Bountiful City Police Department

West Bountiful City PD UT Policy Manual

## Mobile Audio Video

---

Supervisors may activate the MAV system remotely to monitor a developing situation, such as a chase, riot, or an event that may threaten public safety, officer safety, or both, when the purpose is to obtain tactical information to assist in managing the event. Supervisors shall not remotely activate the MAV system for the purpose of monitoring the conversations or actions of an officer.

### **421.5 REVIEW OF MAV RECORDINGS**

All recording media, recorded images, and audio recordings are the property of the Department. Dissemination outside of the Department is strictly prohibited, except to the extent permitted or required by law.

To prevent damage to, or alteration of, the original recorded media, it shall not be copied, viewed, or otherwise inserted into any device not approved by the department MAV technician, or forensic media staff. When reasonably possible, a copy of the original media shall be used for viewing (unless otherwise directed by the courts) to preserve the original media.

Recordings may be reviewed in any of the following situations:

- (a) By officers for use when preparing reports or statements
- (b) By a supervisor investigating a specific act of officer conduct
- (c) By a supervisor to conduct documented reviews of their subordinate's MAV media at least annually to evaluate the member's performance, verify compliance with department procedures, and determine the need for additional training. The review should include a variety of event types when possible. Supervisors should review MAV media with the recording member when it would be beneficial to provide guidance or to conduct one-on-one informal training for the member.
- (d) To assess proper functioning of MAV systems
- (e) By department investigators who are participating in an official investigation, such as a personnel complaint, administrative inquiry, or a criminal investigation
- (f) By department personnel who request to review recordings
- (g) By an officer who is captured on or referenced in the video or audio data and reviews and uses such data for any purpose relating to their employment
- (h) By court personnel through proper process or with the permission of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee
- (i) By the media through proper process
- (j) To assess possible training value
- (k) For training purposes. If an involved officer objects to showing a recording, their objection will be submitted to the command staff to determine if the training value outweighs the officer's objection
- (l) As may be directed by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee

# West Bountiful City Police Department

West Bountiful City PD UT Policy Manual

## Mobile Audio Video

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Members desiring to view any previously uploaded or archived MAV recording should submit a request in writing to the Sergeant. Approved requests should be forwarded to the MAV technician for processing.

In no event shall any recording be used or shown for the purpose of ridiculing or embarrassing any member.

### **421.6 DOCUMENTING MAV USE**

If any incident is recorded with either the video or audio system, the existence of that recording shall be documented in the officer's report. If a citation is issued, the officer shall make a notation on the back of the records copy of the citation indicating that the incident was recorded.

### **421.7 RECORDING MEDIA STORAGE AND INTEGRITY**

Once submitted for storage, all recording media will be labeled and stored in a designated secure area. All recording media that is not booked as evidence will be retained for a minimum of 180 days and disposed of in compliance with the established records retention schedule.

#### **421.7.1 COPIES OF ORIGINAL RECORDING MEDIA**

Original recording media shall not be used for any purpose other than for initial review by a supervisor. Upon proper request, a copy of the original recording media will be made for use as authorized in this policy.

Original recording media may only be released in response to a court order or upon approval by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. In the event that an original recording is released to a court, a copy shall be made and placed in storage until the original is returned.

#### **421.7.2 MAV RECORDINGS AS EVIDENCE**

Officers who reasonably believe that a MAV recording is likely to contain evidence relevant to a criminal offense, potential claim against the officer or against the West Bountiful City Police Department should indicate this in an appropriate report. Officers should ensure relevant recordings are preserved.

### **421.8 SYSTEM OPERATIONAL STANDARDS**

- (a) MAV system vehicle installations should be based on officer safety requirements and the vehicle and device manufacturer's recommendations.
- (b) The MAV system should be configured to minimally record for 30 seconds prior to an event.
- (c) The MAV system may not be configured to record audio data occurring prior to activation.
- (d) Unless the transmitters being used are designed for synchronized use, only one transmitter, usually the primary initiating officer's transmitter, should be activated at a scene to minimize interference or noise from other MAV transmitters.

# West Bountiful City Police Department

West Bountiful City PD UT Policy Manual

## Mobile Audio Video

---

- (e) Officers using digital transmitters that are synchronized to their individual MAV shall activate both audio and video recordings when responding in a support capacity. This is to obtain additional perspectives of the incident scene.
- (f) With the exception of law enforcement radios or other emergency equipment, other electronic devices should not be used inside MAV-equipped law enforcement vehicles to minimize the possibility of causing electronic or noise interference with the MAV system.
- (g) Officers shall not erase, alter, reuse, modify, or tamper with MAV recordings. Only a supervisor, MAV technician, or other authorized designee may erase and reissue previous recordings and may only do so pursuant to the provisions of this policy.
- (h) To prevent damage, original recordings shall not be viewed or otherwise inserted into any device not approved by the Department, the MAV technician, or forensic media staff.

### 421.9 MAV TECHNICIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

The MAV technician is responsible for:

- (a) Ordering, issuing, retrieving, storing, erasing, and duplicating of all recorded media.
- (b) Collecting all completed media for oversight and verification of wireless downloaded media. Once collected, the MAV technician:
  - 1. Ensures it is stored in a secure location with authorized controlled access.
  - 2. Makes the appropriate entries in the chain of custody log.
- (c) Erasing of media:
  - 1. Pursuant to a court order.
  - 2. In accordance with established records retention policies, including reissuing all other media deemed to be of no evidentiary value.
- (d) Assigning all media an identification number prior to issuance to the field:
  - 1. Maintaining a record of issued media.
- (e) Ensuring that an adequate supply of recording media is available.
- (f) Managing the long-term storage of media that has been deemed to be of evidentiary value in accordance with the department evidence storage protocols and the established records retention schedule.

### 421.10 TRAINING

All members who are authorized to use the MAV system shall successfully complete an approved course of instruction prior to its use.

### 421.11 ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW

The MAV technician should complete an annual administrative review of the MAV program and provide it to the Chief of Police for review.