



Mobile-Vision Flashback and Digital Evidence

by Kevin Gordon

Mobile-Vision has developed an impressive and unique digital evidence management solution, their Flashback™ in-car system and Flashback™Cycle Vision. This is one of the few digital solutions for motorcycles. This is only part of the overall solution. The other components include the Digital Evidence Tracker and Digital Evidence Pro. Together, these items comprise very comprehensive, digital evidence collection systems.

The Flashback in-car system has the same features of cameras from many vendors including zoom lenses, high performance Nite-Watch™ camera, and enhanced near dark viewing. It has integrated GPS, records officer information as well as speed, date, etc. The camera can record two cameras at once, such as out in front of the vehicle and the back seat, as well as three audios concurrently.

The differences of this unit are what separate it from others. The extremely rugged digital camera is 100% solid state, with no moving parts, which means bouncing and vibration have no effect on the video. The digital video is stored on up to an 8 gig Flash, which is about 10 hours of video.

Just as unique is the USB system. An officer starting his shift inserts his USB device, which logs him in. Every recording made until he logs out is shown as his recording. A similar camera is now available for motorcycles.

At the end of shift, all video is transferred wirelessly back to the station. The officer pulls up to the station, logs out with his USB, and immediately the video starts uploading the files to the server. Within just a few minutes, all videos from all vehicles for the entire shift are now on the server and next shift is ready to go in the time it takes to have a squad meeting.

If a unit happens to have a lot of video, the unit can stop by the station during the shift and it will take some files off then, with the rest coming off at the end of shift. No officer or supervisor has to come out with key, unlock the unit, and transfer data by tape or disk. It is a hands-off transfer of data. Pull up to the station, park, and the videos are taken care of, simple and secure.

Five priorities are available to be set by the department administration. For example, the department may decide a DUI stop is a priority 3. After the traffic stop the officer simply enters what priority the stop was. Later an administration can automatically view all videos, just priority 1 or priority 3, etc. The administrator also sets who can view what video, investigations, patrol commander, etc.

Also pre-determined is how long a video will remain. For example, all videos can remain 30 days unless electronically tagged, which may result in a 90-day period. This also means that if some type of stop is required to be eliminated in a certain time frame, that information can be established in the priority settings. This results in less administrative time and cost.

A great variety of options are available at the server end of the system. The digital case management also separates the system from its competitors. A chain of evidence report can be generated in 10 to 15 seconds in an encrypted PDF format that cannot be modified. The system also permits the saving of evidence as a packet.

For example, if three vehicles were involved in a pursuit, all three vehicles' videos can be attached to the case that you create. Unlike most systems, this one can ingest any digital media. That means all videos, interrogation video, digital camera pictures, scanned documents, digital audio, all added to the same case file.

Comments can be added and when ready, you simply request an auto export. The server receives that

request, the DVD robot pulls a DVD and burns it with all the attached media. The system also verifies that it is an untouched video, who did it, when, from what car, and it verifies that each file on the DVD is exactly what is on the server for chain of evidence concerns.

L-3 Communications, parent company of Mobile-Vision, indicates the system is "a digital evidence management solution for smaller agencies with less than 10 vehicles."

It is also more affordable than you would imagine. The cost of ownership is more than just the cost due to the automation of the system and the amount of work hours it eliminates in file transfer, storage, searches and just general management of the videos. L-3 has automated everything they possibly can and the user friend system allows officers, whether a user at the patrol level or administration, to think like cops, not computer people.

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This article was printed in Law and Order Magazine, March 2006.