

Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff
Tactical Core Camera System
Annual Surveillance Report: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

1. Description of How the Technology was Used

The Tactical Core Camera Systems is to be deployed during high-risk and tactical operations to assist Sheriff’s Deputies to locate, identify, and potentially mitigate risks to responding personnel and citizens. The cameras can be thrown into or extended into a potentially dangerous area with a telescoping pole to gather real-time intelligence in the form of a stream of images. This information is useful in obtaining identifiable information about individuals or threats near the camera prior to any human engagement and thus mitigating liability.

The Sheriff’s Office has been working for several years to replace an antiquated camera system and received state homeland security grant funds to acquire the state-of-the-art Tactical Core Camera System. The Board of Supervisors approved the associated surveillance use policy for the new Tactical Core Camera System on September 14, 2021, and the Sheriff’s Office took delivery of new equipment in April 2022. Below is a summary of the bomb disposal robot uses during this reporting period.

Tactical Core Camera System Deployments
7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023

Date	Incident Type	Use Summary
3/1/2023	High Risk Search Warrant	The Sheriff’s Emergency Response Team (SERT) assisted the District Attorney’s Office with a high-risk warrant service for firearms. A suspect with multiple warrants barricaded himself inside a single-family residence and there was information that a firearm was associated. The Tactical Core Camera System was deployed to search the interior of bathroom prior to deploying personnel inside a dangerous situation. The cleared the bathroom of any hazards and confirmed the suspect was not barricaded in that space. The suspect was hiding in the attic and later surrendered to SERT members.

2. Data Sharing with Outside Entities

No data was shared with outside entities during this reporting period.

3. Community Complaints or Concerns

Any community complaints regarding the use of the Tactical Core Camera System are routed to the Internal Affairs Lieutenant for tracking and response. There were no community complaints or concerns expressed to the Office of the Sheriff regarding the Tactical Core Camera System during this reporting period.

4. Non-Privileged Internal Audits / Policy Violations

All Office of the Sheriff staff are provided all Surveillance Use Policies via an internal web-based portal requiring annual review and attestation of acknowledgement completed. Specialized unit supervisors are trained to periodically audit the data obtained by and the use of the Tactical Core Camera System to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Use Policy and other department policies. Internal audits were performed during this reporting period and no violations were observed during this reporting period.

5. Effectiveness in Achieving its Identified Purpose

The Tactical Core Camera System is extremely useful to the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) in high-risk and tactical operations in efforts to gain intelligence of an area before exposing staff to potential dangers.

6. Public Records Act Requests

The Office of the Sheriff has a process in place to track California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests where designated staff are assigned to receive and respond to each request. The Office of the Sheriff did not receive any California Public Records Act requests for the data related to the Tactical Core Camera Systems during this reporting period.

7. Annual Costs

The purchase of the Tactical Core Camera Systems was a one-time purchase before this reporting period and there were no additional costs during this reporting period.