

Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff
Direct-Link Bridge Series System
Annual Surveillance Report: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

1. Description of How the Technology was Used

There are several primary purposes of the Direct-Link Bridge Series System by Enforcement Technology Group Inc. The primary uses are to provide law enforcement with the ability to use this equipment as a throw phone during crisis incidents, such as a barricade or hostage situation, for the purposes of establishing communications and de-escalating the situation. Although the associated Surveillance Use Policy was approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 14, 2021, the Office of the Sheriff did not receive the Direct-Link Bridge Series System from the manufacturer until July 2022. Members of the Sheriff's Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) are continuing to familiarize themselves with the new equipment and will become proficient at its use. The Direct-Link Bridge Series System has been utilized in a crisis incident once, which is outlined below.

Date	Incident Type	Result
3/26/2023	Patrol responded to a welfare check of a subject. When units arrived, the subject started shooting at Sheriff's deputies. SERT and CNT responded as the situation escalated. The subject continued to shoot at Deputies on and off for over six hours and lit his structure on fire. One deputy was struck by the suspect's gunfire in his ballistic vest. CNT negotiators attempted contact with the subject via the Direct Link System, but no communication was established as the subject did not answer. SERT operators were able to deploy chemical agents safely from the ARV in an attempt to resolve the situation with compliance despite the gunfire. The situation escalated the suspect dove through the window onto the hood of an ARV while holding a firearm and attempted to access law enforcement personnel inside the vehicle through the roof port. The suspect posed in imminent threat to life and was neutralized with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect was taken into custody for a multitude of crimes including PC 246 [Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling] and PC 664/187 [Attempted Murder] on a peace officer.	No recordings generated

2. Data Sharing with Outside Entities

No data related to the Direct-Link Bridge Series System was shared with outside entities during this reporting period.

3. Community Complaints or Concerns

Any community complaints regarding the use of the Direct-Link Bridge Series System are routed to the Internal Affairs Lieutenant for tracking and response. There were no community complaints or concerns expressed to the Sheriff's Office Direct-Link Bridge Series System during this reporting period.

4. Audits and 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 completion. Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) supervisors are required to periodically audit the data obtained by and the use of the Direct-Link Bridge Series System to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Use Policy and other department policies. The audits did not reveal any policy violations.

5. Effectiveness at Achieving its Identified Purpose

The Direct-Link Bridge Series System is expected to be extremely useful to the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) in diffusing and de-escalating crisis incidents.

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 Direct-Link Bridge Series System during this reporting period.

7. Annual Costs

The Direct-Link Bridge Series System was a one-time purchase, and no additional costs were incurred during this reporting period.