



# INSIGHTS

THE SMALL RURAL TRIBAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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## The Policy Wizard

One of the SRT grant requirements is to submit a BWC policy for review and acceptance. For those agencies that have not submitted a policy, we strongly encourage you to consider using the Policy Wizard located [here](#). The Wizard provides a comprehensive policy framework while allowing your agency to choose how you want to address each core issue. We are striving to support you to develop a comprehensive policy that matches the needs of your agency.

## Body-Worn Camera Training Tips

Training is one of the most important components of a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program. A training guide (available on the SRT website) provides a recommended approach on how agencies could roll-out their BWC programs. The authors make suggestions to augment your training material with vendor-specific training material, agency policy, and specific situations where there may be exceptions to normal protocols.

The guide provides links to video footage which are designed to highlight the key learning objectives within each of the four training modules. For scenario-based training, the guide recommends that the agency insert its own training materials and videos to build out the scenarios. The guide also illustrates the kinds of scenarios other agencies have used.

Here are the four basic modules and a brief description of each.

**Module 1:** Introduction and Background on BWCs. BWC training should begin with a review of the role of cameras in policing generally, as well as key events and issues that have led to the spread of BWCs. Trainers should cover the most common goals of the agency (e.g., evidentiary value, civil liability, transparency, and accountability). Trainers should discuss major challenges and concerns associated with BWCs, from citizen and officer privacy to citizen attitudes, and the logistics and resource commitments required to manage a BWC program.

**Module 2:** BWC Device Specifications and Operations. During this phase of the training, trainers should provide the officers with hands-on instruction with the actual device.

**Module 3:** BWC Policy and Practice: This portion of the training is devoted to a detailed discussion of the department's policy and procedures. Using scenario-based exercises is suggested to address key policy issues. Scenario-based training helps officers to establish the

“muscle memory” they will need to use BWCs on a regular basis.

**Module 4:** Agency Accountability. One of the primary perceived benefits of BWCs is its utility for enhanced accountability. Many law enforcement agencies have developed separate procedures for critical incidents (e.g., officer-involved shootings). Key issues following a critical incident include when the officer can review the footage (before or after making a statement), other conditions for officer review (union representative present, where the review will occur), who takes possession of the BWC and when; the investigation process, and who outside of the agency has authority to view the BWC footage (and when).

For more on training go [here](#).



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