



INSIGHTS

THE SMALL RURAL TRIBAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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Policy in Practice Officer and Supervisor Review of Video Footage

Popular questions about body-worn cameras involve the review of video footage by officers and supervisors. That is, when can officers review their footage? When should supervisors review footage?

At Arizona State University, Mike White and his colleagues have been reviewing BWC policies for the past five years. In a recent study of over 400 agencies they found the following:

Nearly all agencies (95 percent) allow line officers to review their own BWC footage for routine report writing. For critical incidents like officer involved shootings, the vast majority of agencies (86 percent) allow officers to view video of the incident before making a statement.

Nearly all agencies (97 percent) permit supervisors to review BWC footage for

administrative purposes, such as investigation of citizen complaints and use of force. Reviews by supervisors may also take place to determine compliance with BWC policy and procedures (84 percent) and for general performance review (84 percent).

Two-thirds of agencies suggest that supervisors review footage on a regular basis (monthly or weekly) for policy compliance, performance review, and/or administrative investigations. The most common interval for BWC supervisory review is monthly (43 percent). Most agencies do not specify how many videos are required for review during each supervisory audit (67 percent). And finally, over 30 percent of agencies require random selection of videos for review.

For more information about officer and supervisor review of BWCs go [here](#).

Peer Groups: Learning about Promising Practices with BWC Policy

During the month of June, the SRT BWC team is working to connect your agency with other agencies involved in the policy review process. We will be inviting you to join in zoom calls to participate in discussions about your policies and promising practices with experts and your peers. Be on the lookout for these invitations. We thank you for submitting your policies, and we are learning much about operations within Small, Rural and Tribal agencies as part of our review. During these peer group sessions, experts will facilitate discussions of core components of a comprehensive policy, such as activation/ deactivation, when officers can/should review the footages, and when supervisors should review officer footage. We will share what we have learned from our review and promising practices.

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.



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