



# INSIGHTS

THE SMALL RURAL TRIBAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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## Success Stories from the Field: Positive Outcomes Using BWCs

The Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program continuously collects success stories from grantees. Since its inception in 2021, the program encourages agencies to tell us how BWCs have assisted them in increasing officer and citizen safety, how they help to resolve complaints, and how they assist with improving investigations.

Sixteen agencies submitted 24 success stories to the BWC SRT portal over the last three years. Many of these success stories showed linkages to the goals of the program. The most common goal that was served by the BWC was complaint resolution. Indeed, there were 15 reports of incidents where a complaint against an officer was reported to supervisors. Typically, this involved a citizen complaint of inappropriate officer behavior. In each of these reports, the BWC footage provided evidence of the encounter and in all these reports, the officer or officers were exonerated through the clear video and audio evidence.

The next most common success story involved the BWC providing documentation of outstanding officer behavior that demonstrated service to the community, and in several instances, saved lives.

Other success stories documented BWCs contributing to officer accountability, providing training opportunities, improving investigations, and supporting evidence collection. This list just scratches the surface of success stories emerging from the field. Indeed, one supervisor stated, we could give you a “new success story weekly.” We encourage participating agencies to send us your success stories. Be sure to visit the [SRT BWC website](#) to learn more about success stories submitted from the field.

### Washington County (OH) Sheriff's Department

The Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) received a complaint of a serious allegation of misconduct involving several deputies stemming from a traffic stop. Supervisory review of the audio and video evidence from the BWCs revealed that the complaint was unfounded and that the deputies were completely exonerated. Following this review of BWC footage, WCSO Captain Eric Hunter spoke with the complainant who then chose to withdraw their complaint. Captain Hunter reported, “The clear and high-quality evidence provided by the BWC avoided what would have been a lengthy internal affairs investigation and thereby saved public taxpayer expenses as well as prevented undue stress for the deputies.”

### Fulton County (NY) Sheriff's Office

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office and other first responders were dispatched to a boat launch for a call about a one-year-old infant who was not breathing. While enroute, callers notified the communications center, that the infant had left the boat launch and was being transported in a private vehicle. Deputies were notified of the description of the vehicle. Fulton County Deputy Nathan Marshall observed the vehicle and stopped the car.

The BWC footage captured the deputy successfully performing lifesaving procedures. Fulton County Sheriff Richard Giardino noted: “Deputy Marshall's training and experience led to an excellent result Sunday night. I commended Deputy Marshall for his quick lifesaving actions. We always hear of the bad when law enforcement officers make mistakes, and we rarely hear the good things officers and deputies do every day. The good things far outweigh the bad, and we need to let the media and the public know what good their officers and deputies do every day.”



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