

**STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**STOCKTON POLICE OBSERVATION TRUCK**  
**SUBJECT**

**DATE:** February 13, 2018

**NO:** J-5

**FROM:** CHIEF ERIC JONES

**TO:** ALL PERSONNEL

**INDEX:** Stockton Police Observation Truck  
S.P.O.T.

**I. PURPOSE**

To establish the operational guidelines for the use of the Stockton Police Observation Truck (S.P.O.T.). Additionally, the policy will identify the procedures for storage, retention, and release of any media captured from the on-board camera system.

**II. LAW AND PRIVACY**

4th Amendment - The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. The Stockton Police Department shall not use audio recording capabilities in conjunction with S.P.O.T. in a manner that would be a violation of one's privacy rights.

**III. POLICY**

S.P.O.T. shall be used in locations that are in public view and where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.

**IV. DEFINITION**

A. Stockton Police Observation Truck (S.P.O.T.) – An armored truck equipped with video capabilities to be strategically positioned as an overt visual deterrent to potential crime.

**V. DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURE**

A. The Stockton Police Department will operate and utilize S.P.O.T. to complement its anti-crime strategy and to enhance public safety and security in public areas. S.P.O.T. may be placed in strategic locations throughout the City to detect and deter crime, to help safeguard against potential threats to the public or in other instances approved by the Chief of Police. Personnel will ensure the positioning of S.P.O.T. will allow video surveillance to be conducted in a legal and ethical manner while recognizing and protecting the constitutional standards of privacy.

B. S.P.O.T. may be useful and deployed for the following purposes:

1. To prevent, deter, and identify criminal activity.
2. To target identified areas impacted by violence in support of Ceasefire goals, property, and nuisance complaints or activity.
3. To respond to critical incidents.
4. To assist in identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting offenders.
5. To document officer and offender conduct during interactions to safeguard the rights of the public and officers.
6. To augment resources in a cost-effective manner.
7. To monitor pedestrian and vehicle activity for public safety concerns.

8. Community relations and engagement events.
  9. Large-scale training events.
- C. The deployment of S.P.O.T. will be at the discretion of the Special Operations Division Commander or their designee.
1. In the event the Special Operations Division Commander or their designee is not available, the on-duty Watch Commander can authorize deployment if an incident is time sensitive in nature.

**VI. PROHIBITED USE**

- A. S.P.O.T. shall not be used:
1. To harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group solely because of their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or other classifications protected by law.
  2. Personnel will not use the S.P.O.T. for any purpose other than its intended and designed purpose, as outlined in this General Order, or inappropriate use of the camera system to monitor or view the activities of citizens.

**VII. RETENTION OF S.P.O.T. VIDEO RECORDINGS**

- A. RETENTION AND HANDLING OF DOWNLOADED VIDEO FOOTAGE
1. Raw S.P.O.T. video recordings shall be retained for a period of 72 hours in order to allow time for Department members to determine whether any of the captured video is of evidentiary value.
  2. Any S.P.O.T. video footage which is identified as having evidentiary value shall be copied in accordance with the procedure set forth in Section VIII., below. All recorded copies shall be booked and handled as evidence and in accordance with General Order G-1, Property Room Operations for booking evidence.
  3. After the expiration of the 72-hour retention period, any S.P.O.T. video footage which has not been identified as being of evidentiary value shall be recorded over or otherwise permanently deleted.

**VIII. REQUESTS FOR VIDEO RECORDINGS**

- A. COPY REQUESTS
1. Written requests for a copy of video surveillance footage from community members will be addressed per the instructions in General Order C-6, California Public Records Act.
  2. A request for a recorded copy of video surveillance footage that is evidence of criminal activity related to a crime or significant incident report may be requested via MDS message, email, or a phone call to the on-duty Watch Commander.
  3. All requests for a copy of a specific recording of an event shall be made prior to the elapse of 72 hours after the occurrence of the event.
  4. When a request is received and authorization is granted, the assigned officer will locate the desired video footage on the DVR and utilize the designated thumb drive to make one DVD or CD copy of the incident. The designated thumb drive will be located within the S.P.O.T. vehicle, adjacent to the DVR system. This thumb drive shall be replaced to this same location after every use. The assigned officer shall clearly write with indelible ink on the DVD or CD itself the DR number or call history number, the date of the recording, and the date the information was saved to disk, with his name, ID number, and initials.
  5. The assigned officer who saved the information to the thumb drive and transferred it to a

disk will make the appropriate log entry for the DVD or CD recording and also note the person's name and ID number who took custody of the disks. The log will be maintained inside the S.P.O.T. vehicle.