Dickinson Police Department

Texas Police Department Cracks Down on Crime with Mobile Video Surveillance - A Sierra Wireless® Video Surveillance Solution



Texas Police Department Cracks Down on Crime with Mobile Video Surveillance

A Sierra Wireless® Video Surveillance Solution

Dickinson Police Department (DPD) is responsible for helping to prevent crime, patrolling neighborhoods, responding to calls for service, investigating crimes, arrestingoffenders and working closely with the community to identify and solve neighborhood problems. DPD also provides educational and outreach programs to assist the residents and youth of the community.

Business Challenge

For the Dickinson Police Department (DPD), escalating narcotics sales had becomea particularly virulent problem, contributing to the overall crime rate and placing aninordinate burden on both patrol officers and investigators.

In order to limit direct contact with drug dealers, which placed officers in physicaldanger, manpower-intensive undercover operations were staged to aid in successfularrests and prosecutions. Unfortunately, traditional methods of relaying criticalinformation lacked the timeliness and quality critical in high-threat, fast-pacedoperations. Suspect identity was relayed verbally, via radio, and confirmed by patrolofficers face-to-face, with potential for miscommunication and operation

compromise.The DPD relied on antiquated video equipment that, due to its short-range limitations,could not be used in certain investigations. The DPD wanted to supplement its voicecommunications and limit the need for eyes-on operations by enabling remote dataaccess to allow officers to safely and efficiently monitor suspects at all times.

Sierra Wireless AirLink® Solution

Dickinson Police Department’s Criminal Investigation Division selected a covert IP videosurveillance system, solution allows the agency to gather intelligence for a variety ofcases. The solution features pervasive mobile broadband communications provided bythe Sierra Wireless AirLink Gateway.

The solution allows officers to leave surveillance equipment in a covert location,and watch the activity live over their laptops, desktop computers, or smart phonesfrom a safe, remote site, while simultaneously recording high-quality evidence. Theequipment can be programmed to generate photo alerts on motion, while officersengage in other tasks.

The video solution can be disguised and deployed in multiple ways and is engineeredto withstand the high temperatures of southeast Texas. Mobile broadband enablesthe DPD to rapidly deploy the equipment anywhere it’s needed - no wired internet connection required.

According to Dickinson Police Department detective Frank Price, the wirelesssurveillance solution enhances efficiency, as well as safety. Fewer officers are requiredto serve as ‘eyes’ in immediate proximity to drug buys. With the equipment disguisedas an ordinary commercial product in an undercover vehicle, the investigators are able to zoom in and capture evidence.

“It’s no longer just the investigators doing the surveillance,” explained Detective Price.“The patrol officers can watch the camera from their laptops. With access to live video,they are receiving better quality information than getting it from me verbally. I programthe system to send photos when there’s motion, and that way we can mobilize a coordinated response instantly.”

Results

The surveillance solution has helped Dickinson Police Department transform thelandscape of the city’s neighborhoods, increasing safety not only for law enforcementofficers, but also for the community. In the two years since the system

was purchased,street corner narcotics sales have virtually disappeared.

The surveillance system has also provided an unexpected side benefit: minimizing theimpact of protracted criminal cases. Despite the high-quality evidence Detective Priceand his team have gathered, Price has not yet had the opportunity to use it in court.

“As soon as the lawyers learn we have video, the suspects plead out,” explainedDetective Price. “With the wireless surveillance system’s flexibility, there is no limit towhat it can be used for. It is portable and concealable, with a wide range of capabilities.It has proven to be an extremely valuable tool for our agency.”

CUSTOMER CRITICAL CHALLENGE

- Difficult to perform covert surveillance with unreliable connectivity
- Required high-speed data, but in a portable and covert form factor

SOLUTION

- IP video surveillance system with integrated AirLink® Gateway for monitoring drug deals and collecting evidence for prosecution

BENEFITS

- Improved safety for officers in undercover operations
- Portable surveillance solution for temporary use and mobility to other areas
- Quick and easy installation, while compact form avoids detection
- Reliable remote management, configuration, and control of devices