

SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT – BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM

1. **PURPOSE.** Pursuant to [Executive Order \(EO\) 14074—Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety](#), this notice establishes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Police Services process for ensuring consistent nationwide implementation and operation of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) worn by VA Police Officers. The national policy offers additional technology to be used by Department police officers to maintain law and order under the jurisdiction of the Department in accordance with 38 U.S.C. §§ 901-904.
2. **POLICY.** This notice establishes policy and mandatory procedures for VA's BWC Program. This policy and associated procedures are consistent with EO 14074 and are equivalent to or exceed the requirements of the policy issued by the [Department of Justice Memorandum dated June 7, 2021](#). Mandatory procedures for implementation and operation of BWCs will be incorporated in a BWC Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The BWC SOP is required to be implemented immediately for any VA Police Service that is currently operating a BWC program. The VA notice will be incorporated in Directive 0730, Security and Law Enforcement, and in standard operating procedures, as well as in training at the Law Enforcement Training Center.
 - a. The mandatory procedures outlined in the BWC SOP must address:
 - (1) The type(s) of equipment authorized for use.
 - (2) The duration of time and scope of the BWC footage prior to its activation.
 - (3) Specialized or sensitive investigative techniques or equipment that may require treatment under the BWC policy.
 - (4) Procedures governing the collection, storage, access, retention, use and dissemination of BWC recordings.
 - (5) Procedures governing the use of BWCs by all members of Department-sponsored task forces.
 - (6) Procedures for the expedited public release of recording in cases involving serious bodily injury or death.
3. **RESPONSIBILITIES.**
 - a. **The Under Secretary for Health** shall:
 - (1) Ensure VA Police receive training on the use of BWCs and any other required specialized or sensitive investigative techniques or equipment before wearing BWC.

- (2) Require stations deploying the BWC to adhere to the mandatory procedures incorporated in the BWC SOP.
- (3) Designate VA Chiefs of Police at each facility to be the BWC Program Administrator with full responsibility of ensuring compliance with all BWC procedures.
- (4) Develop a phased implementation plan for an enterprise-wide VA police BWC Program in consultation with the Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness (HRA/OSP).
- (5) Develop a cost estimate for implementation of an enterprise-wide BWC Program in consultation with HRA/OSP.

b. The Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness shall:

- (1) Provide guidance and oversight to the Veterans Health Administration for the implementation of the BWC Program.
- (2) Develop training on the use of BWC and any other required specialized or sensitive investigative techniques or equipment.
- (3) Develop, and update as needed, the BWC SOP and ensure VA Police Services are notified when alterations or amendments are made to the SOPs.
- (4) Design evaluation metrics to measure the impact of the BWC policy.
- (5) Consult with the Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology to ensure any BWC policies and procedures are fully compliant with laws, regulations, rules, policies and guidance related to Government records.

c. The Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer shall:

- (1) Conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment of the planned use of BWCs and equipment prior to implementation of any BWC Program.
- (2) Develop a plan for annual privacy reviews.
- (3) Develop strategy for storing digital footage in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, rules, policies and guidance related to Government records.

4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE. Office of Human Resources and Administration/
Operations, Security and Preparedness (006), Office of Security and Law
Enforcement (07B).

5. RESCISSION. This notice will be rescinded and guidance incorporated into VA
Directive 0730, Security and Law Enforcement, no later than one year after the date
of publication.

CERTIFIED BY:

**BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS:**

/s/
Shana Love-Holmon
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Enterprise Integration

/s/
Gina M. Grosso
Assistant Secretary for
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