



FAIL-SAFE IN BODY CAMERAS CAPTURES EVIDENCE WHEN RECORDING WASN'T INITIATED

TECHNOLOGY ENSURES CRITICAL INCIDENTS GET RECORDED EVERY TIME, MAINTAINING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE COMMUNITY

CHALLENGE

After Michael Brown was shot by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9, 2014, law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and abroad began equipping officers with body-worn cameras. The devices promised to increase transparency and accountability by providing an unbiased account of interactions between officers and the public via recorded video. Since then, body-worn camera use within law enforcement continues to grow and the technology continues to evolve. In the midst of these positive indicators, however, news stories regarding an officer's failure to activate the body camera during critical moments persist — and the consequences continue to escalate.

On January 1, 2020, Oklahoma [House Bill 3515](#) introduced as legislation the placement of a misdemeanor crime on any police officers that “fail to turn on, to disable, to turn off or operate body-worn recording equipment in any manner that prevents the creation of evidence.” On June 1, 2020, the Louisville, Kentucky, Chief of Police was [fired](#) by the mayor following a Louisville Police Department officer-involved shooting in which the officers failed to activate their body cameras.

As operating procedures and the disciplinary actions associated with non-compliance continue to be updated following these tragic incidents, officers in fast-escalating, highly-stressful situations with a priority to reduce the immediate threat to themselves and surrounding citizens cannot be expected to activate a recording in every situation. Technology must step in to assist the officer.

SOLUTION

Your goal is to ensure the safety of your teams while they're doing what they do best — protecting the communities they serve. Motorola Solutions is committed to aligning to your goals by innovating solutions designed to protect people and communities, including looking at the existing technology we have in the market that can help protect law enforcement officers during fast-escalating, highly-stressful encounters with the public.



When enabled by a system administrator in accordance with department policy, patented Record After the Fact® (RATF) technology on Motorola Solutions body-worn cameras provides authorized users the ability to “go back in time” and create a recorded event of an incident even when a recording failed to be initiated manually by an officer or automatically by an electronic triggering device. Critical evidence, once thought to be lost through a missed recording, is now available to corroborate the officer’s report and build trust in the community through unbiased evidence and transparency.

RATF works by making use of the camera’s ability to continuously record video in the background to a buffered loop when the camera is powered on. A RATF recorded event is created when the body-worn camera is docked and connected to the evidence management system. With input from the officer, an authorized system administrator instructs the system to access the background recording on the docked body-worn camera and insert a starting and stopping point based on the day and time the officer recalls the incident. The buffered video within the specified time period is tagged as a recorded event and is made available for review, categorization and submission as evidence within the system. All metadata (such as officer name, time of day, location, etc.) is retained and included in the RATF recording.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RATF & PRE-EVENT RECORDING

The practice of continuous background recording is common among body-worn camera suppliers that provide pre-event recording, a practice that adds up to two minutes of video footage before an initiated recording to every captured event. Pre-event recording, however, provides no fail-safe for incidents for which a recording was never initiated.

RATF doesn’t require a recording to be initiated and extends the ability to reach further back in time for evidence, even days after the incident. Additionally, RATF doesn’t add two minutes of overhead to each recorded event submitted as evidence. RATF events are individually created within a specified window of time and only by authorized users.

OFFICER PRIVACY

The background recording loop on the body-worn camera is inaccessible to any unauthorized personnel, which is the first step in protecting the privacy of the officer.

Secondly, the video and data on the camera is encrypted at rest and in-transit, denying any physical or electronic access attempts.

Finally, creation of a RATF recorded event is typically performed by a system administrator in the presence of the officer, the officer’s supervisor, department head and union representative, utilizing a [published policy](#) designed to protect the privacy of the officer while capturing evidence.



Motorola Solutions proudly manufactures and deploys the sophisticated, cutting-edge communications, software, video security and analytics technologies that keep communities and nations safe. We have been on the frontlines with federal, state and local governments, including in times of crisis, for over 90 years. Today, our 17,000 innovators, engineers and manufacturing specialists are eager to assist officers and the communities they serve with the technology needed during these exceptionally stressful and challenging times.

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS STANDS READY
TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY IN THIS
MOMENT THAT MATTERS.

FAIL-SAFE ASSISTS OFFICERS

RATF technology has been used to retrieve evidence critical to the exoneration of officers, including three [Des Moines Police Department](#) officers in a 2017 fatal shooting incident. RATF evidence captured from the in-car video system in a stolen police car along with footage from a fixed surveillance camera provided the critical lead that successfully ended a manhunt for the man who shot and killed a sheriff's deputy. Shortly after an April 20, 2019 officer-involved shooting in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Raleigh Chief of Police [shared a plan](#) with the Raleigh City Council to activate passive recording on officer body cameras to "prevent the human error of not turning the camera on."

As law enforcement continues to strive for transparency, RATF is one technology that can immediately assist agencies in building confidence with officers and the communities they serve.



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