

The Complete Guide to Mobile Video Solutions for the Security Industry

Mobile video solutions are becoming more commonplace in the security industry. While the interactions within the security industry differ slightly from those in law enforcement, the reasons for implementing a mobile video solution are fairly similar. Security officers may have to defuse an altercation between civilians or chase after a perpetrator just like a police officer.

The significant difference is security officers don't respond to 911 calls or other emergencies but still could be involved in other high-pressure situations.

What is a Mobile Video Solution?

Simply put, a mobile video solution is a set of cameras and DVRs (digital video recorders) implemented to record around moving objects, whether it's side-, rear- and forward-facing cameras on a vehicle or a body-worn camera on an officer. This differs from CCTV, which is stationary and only records one specific area.



Body-worn Cameras Capture Every Detail

Body-worn cameras, typically mounted on the officer's upper chest, are designed to closely replicate the officer's point of view. Some body-worn cameras can be attached to sunglasses or the brim of a baseball cap, but those cameras can be easily removed during an altercation, so depending on the environment, they may not be the best option.

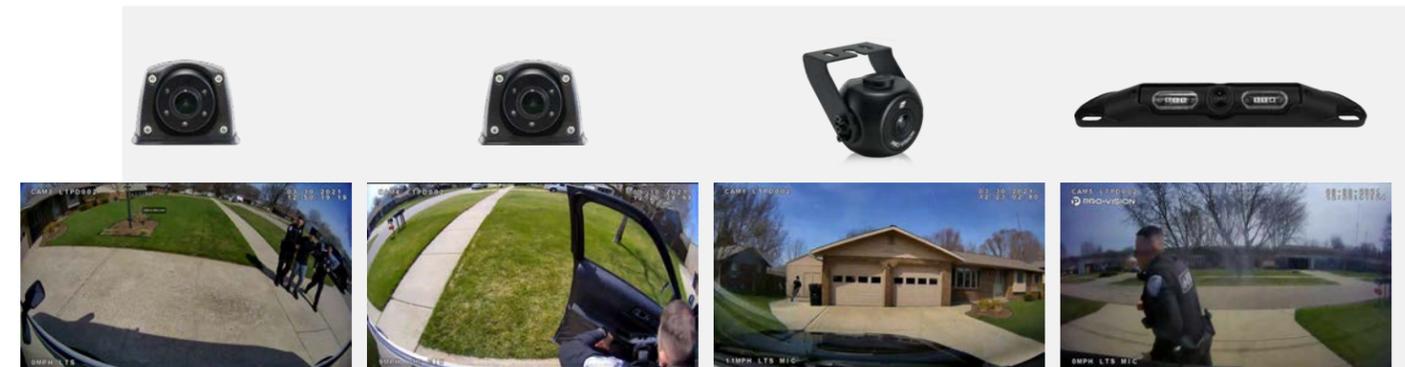
Security officers deal with civilians and need a camera that cannot be easily removed. The last thing an officer needs to worry about is whether their camera that was forcibly removed recorded the incident at hand.



Vehicle Cameras Offer 360° Coverage

In addition to body-worn cameras, security companies could opt to install cameras on their vehicles. These cameras, which record on each exterior side as well as the interior, monitor incidents from every angle to give you 360° coverage. Continuous recording can be set up to record as soon as the ignition switch is on and stay on for a set number of minutes after the ignition is off, meaning you won't miss a crucial event.

Some mobile video solutions also include a monitor in the cab of the vehicle so the driver can see their blind spots for maneuvers such as reversing or making tight turns.





Why Consider Mobile Video Solution?

The reasons for considering a mobile video solution are similar to the reasons the law enforcement industry invests in the same technology.

Exonerate Officers

With body-worn cameras, officers can capture an incident and the footage can be reviewed, exonerating an officer from any wrongdoing following a false claim.

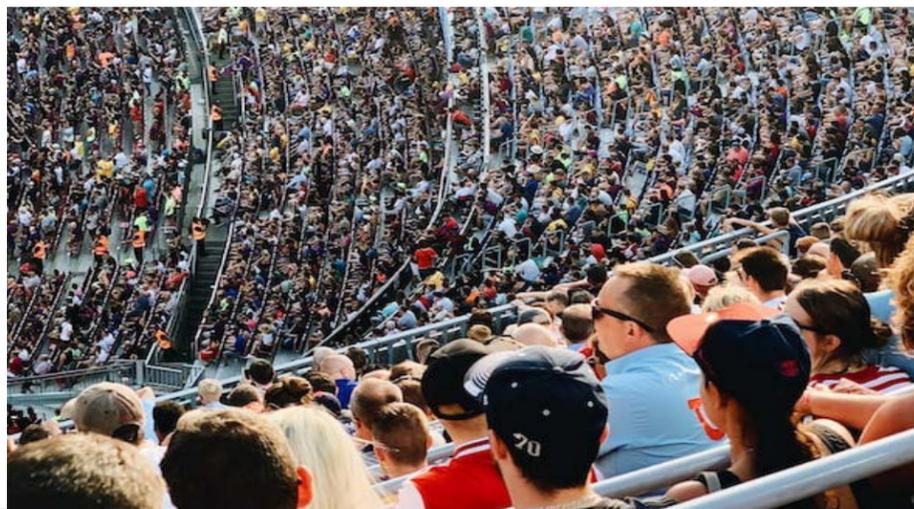
Body-worn cameras also mean the onus isn't on the officer to remember every single detail. Incidents happen quickly, and it can be difficult for security officers to recall the events exactly as they happened while trying to de-escalate a situation.

Safety

The biggest reason to implement a mobile video solution is to keep everyone safe — not just the security officers but also the public. If an arena or stadium hires a security team during a concert or sporting event, security officers may be asked to break up fights or remove unruly patrons from the premise.

The fact is body-worn cameras often deter individuals from making poor choices, and the presence of a body-worn camera could dissuade unwanted behavior. Likewise, the presence of body cameras aims to put security officers on their best behavior.

Security companies want to be transparent with the public and equipping their staff with body cameras means they are doing their part in showing the public that proper procedures are being followed.





Tell the Whole Story

Everyone wants to know the truth, and body-worn cameras show exactly what happened. If there are several officers involved in a single incident, that means there are multiple points of view involved, making it easier to figure out how an incident took place.

Even if a security officer wasn't involved in an altercation but witnessed it, a body-worn camera shows exactly how an event unfolded, meaning false claims can be debunked.

Accountability

Security companies want to hold their officers accountable. The presence of body cameras means there is no denying how an incident unfolded. And should an officer cross the line while on the job, then the accountability falls on the organization in disciplining the officer appropriately.

What Features Does a Mobile Video Solution Offer?

Whether your mobile video solution just includes body-worn cameras or also includes vehicle cameras, there are several features to consider.

Field of View

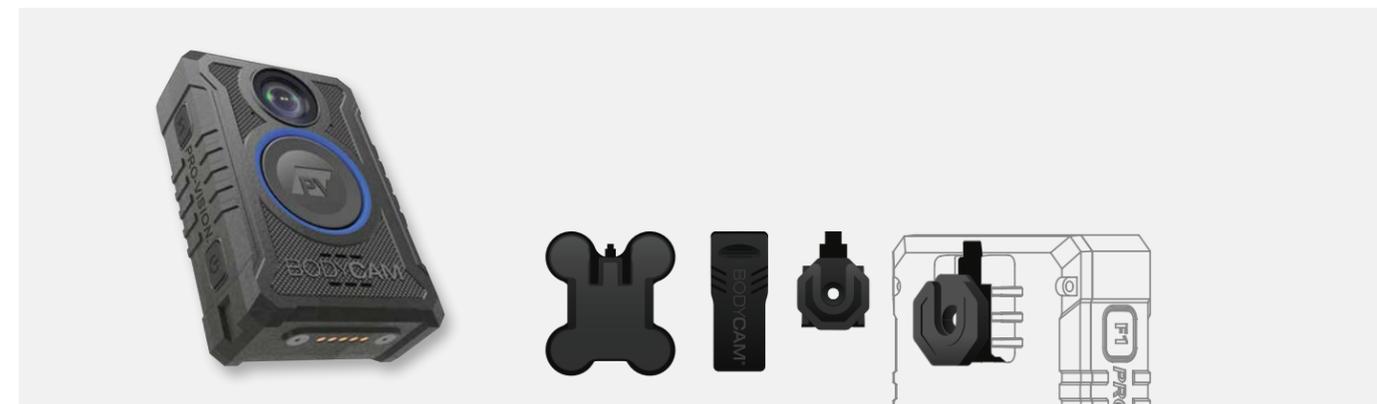
Where the body camera is located will determine the video that is captured. Place the camera too low on the chest, and you could be recording the ground and missing the action. It is recommended to place the camera on the outside of a breast pocket to offer the best view. Pro-Vision offers several mounting options, including a magnet mount, garment clip, epaulette mount and more.

The field of view also is an important factor in determining which camera to purchase. The bigger the field of view, the more activity that can be recorded. Most body-worn cameras provide anywhere from 95- to 170-degree field of view.

Enhanced Video Stability

Because the body-worn camera is attached to a mobile person, the field of view is constantly moving. And if a security officer is chasing a perpetrator or involved in an altercation, it can be hard to see what is happening.

Pro-Vision's Bodycam® 4 body-worn camera features electronic image stabilization technology, which substantially reduces erratic movement in your videos.



Durability

Because of the environment a security officer works in, body cameras must be durable. Pro-Vision's Bodycam 4 cameras are IP68 waterproof rated and meet military specifications, meaning it's designed for rough environments.

Continuous Recording

Bodycam 4 cameras offer continuous recording, which means every facet of a security officer's shift can be captured — even without hitting record. Coupled with automatic activation and pre-event recording, you won't miss a crucial event.

Battery Life

Battery life can make or break a body-worn camera. Security officers will need a camera that can last throughout the entirety of their shift. Bodycam 4 body-worn cameras feature a 14-hour battery life, meaning there will be no low-battery interruptions throughout the day. As a bonus, Pro-Vision's body camera docking stations not only charge the device but automatically upload video footage to be reviewed.



RFID Technology

If buying a body-worn camera for every officer is not fiscally possible, then you'll need an easy way to assign cameras to officers.

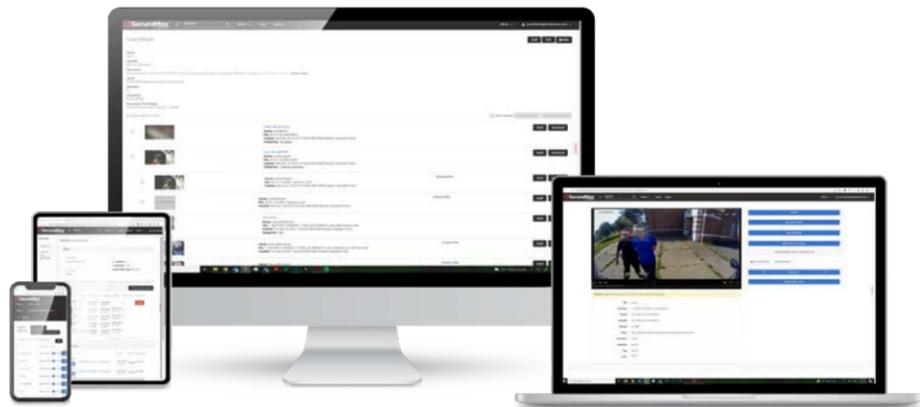
Bodycam 4 features RFID Login, which allows body cameras to be easily assigned to officers with a scan. Just pick a camera, scan and you're ready to begin. Plus, there's no need to designate a certain camera for each officer, as the RFID Login allows any officer to swap cameras from shift to shift.



Proximity Activation

Proximity Activation allows body cameras to be automatically activated when within a 30-foot range of another body camera, keeping the focus on the situation at hand. Sometimes an altercation escalates quickly, and the last thing a security officer needs to worry about in a life-or-death situation is whether their body camera is on.





Data Management

Once you start using your body-worn cameras and vehicle cameras to record footage, you're going to need a way to access and maintain that video footage.

Video files can be stored in one of three ways: on a local computer, a department's network or the cloud. The cloud is the safest of the three, as files stored on a cloud server are encrypted, making it harder for hackers to access or tamper with the files.

With hours and hours of video footage, it's essential that your data management software makes it easy to locate files, so you don't have to dig through complicated folder structures to find the video you want. Additionally, you may want to be able to organize your data with customizable categories and specify viewing privileges, ensuring only the proper people are viewing your footage.

Pro-Vision's optional evidence management program, SecuraMax, is a CJIS-compliant solution that simplifies the data management process and saves time. SecuraMax, which offers cloud storage, allows you to automatically upload video data, tag evidence immediately after events happen and share footage with individuals either inside or outside your organization.

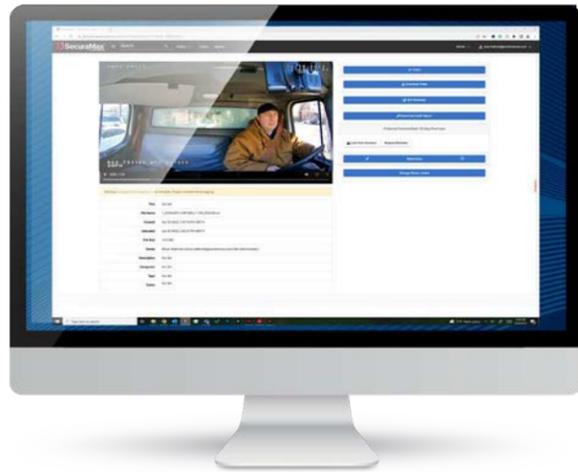
What Questions Should I Ask When Considering a Mobile Video Solution?

Now that you've got a good understanding of what a mobile video solution is and why it would be beneficial to your organization, you've probably got a lot of questions.

Every organization's wants, needs and capabilities will be different, but every mobile video solution can be customized to work for you.

Some key questions to ask are:

- What type of warranty comes with the products?
- Can the solution be upgraded should you need to add more coverage later?
- Is extensive training needed to learn how to use the solution?
- What type of training is included?
- How do I keep software up to date?
- How do I access the video footage?
- What happens when the DVR runs out of space?
- Does it matter what operating system (Windows, Mac, etc.) I use when accessing videos?
- Are there any monthly costs associated with a mobile video solution?
- Is it a one-size-fits-all type of solution or is there a variety of options that are selected to fit my unique needs?
- Where and how exactly are the cameras going to be mounted on the vehicles and what will the views look like?
- Who is handling the installation & implementation process?
- Is the system integrable to other programs and ecosystems?
- Does the system utilize an open API architecture ?



Accessing Video Footage

To access video footage from Pro-Vision cameras and DVRs, you use the PV Player program to submit a video request. The footage is sorted by date and camera. You could also hook up an SD card to your computer if you don't want the footage to be on a network or the cloud.

DVR Out of Space

When there is no more free space left on the DVR, it begins recording over the earliest recorded footage. However, automatically triggered events or events marked with an event marker button will never be recorded over.

Warranty/Upgrade

Most Pro-Vision cameras and products come with a 5-year warranty, and more cameras/DVRs can easily be added should you decide you want to expand your coverage later.

Training/Software Updates

Extensive training is not needed to operate the solution, but should you need assistance, Pro-Vision's support team is just a phone call or email away. Your installation technician will configure your mobile video solution to your desired settings and answer any questions you have about using the system.

Pro-Vision's support page offers firmware updates to make sure your equipment is running smoothly.



Operating System

Pro-Vision's equipment only works on Windows operating systems.

Monthly Fees

Should you decide you want to host your video footage on our cloud, there would be a monthly fee to store and keep that data secure. Otherwise, there are no other monthly fees.

One-size-fits-all

Every mobile video solution can be customized to fit your needs. Even if you've got an out-of-the-box idea for how you want your company to utilize a mobile video solution, we will work with you to determine the best way to accomplish your goals.

Where Are Cameras Mounted?

Dash cams generally are mounted on the windshield inside the vehicle, side cameras generally are mounted on exterior body panels near the side view mirrors and rear cameras generally are mounted behind the vehicle, either on the bumper or on top of the vehicle. Of course, depending on the vehicle and your goals, the location of these mounts could change.

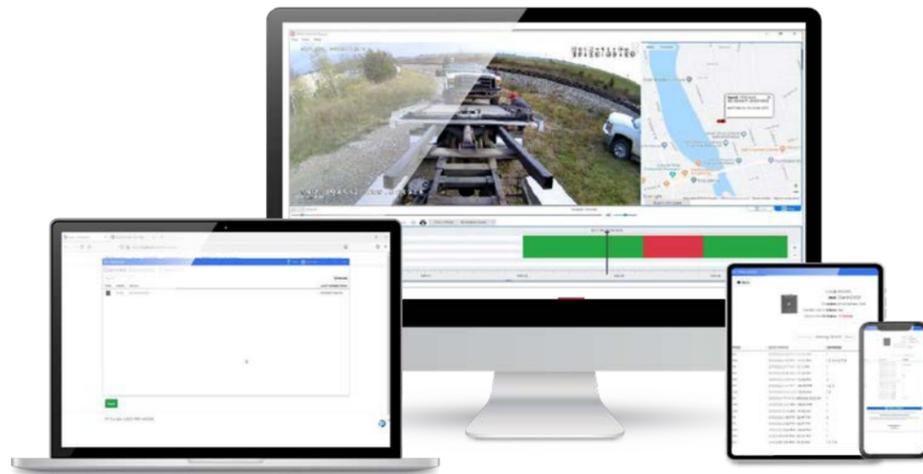


Installation Process

Pro-Vision has a national team of installation experts that will set up your system and configure system settings so when installation is complete, you're ready to go.

Ecosystem Integration

Pro-Vision's system can be integrated with other programs and mobile video solutions. For example, if you have a dash camera but are looking to add side and rear cameras, Pro-Vision's hardware will work with your old hardware for a complete view of your vehicle.



Whether it's patrol or guard services, bodyguard or surveillance officers, Pro-Vision's mobile video solutions protect your personnel and give them the tools they need to do their jobs effectively.



API Utilization

If you were previously working with a telematics company to obtain vehicle tracking data, Pro-Vision's API (application programming interface) allows you to seamlessly integrate the mobile video solution into a telematics company's back-end dashboard.

Do you have more questions that we haven't covered here or in our other industry-specific articles? Contact a sales representative to help get your questions answered and find a mobile video solution that fits you.

About Pro-Vision

Founded in 2003, Pro-Vision is a leading video technology solutions provider trusted by thousands of organizations in 58 countries. Pro-Vision solutions include vehicle video recording systems, body-worn cameras, data management and cloud-based storage solutions. Pro-Vision's transit, law enforcement and commercial partners utilize these solutions to enhance safety, increase productivity and protect critical assets.



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