

Dickinson Police Department



Texas Police Department Cracks Down on Crime with Mobile Broadband IP Video Surveillance Solution

Located along the Gulf Coast, the Police Department of Dickinson, Texas, provides law enforcement services to a population of about 20,000 in an 11 square mile area.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

For the Dickinson Police Department (DPD), escalating narcotics sales had become a particularly virulent problem, contributing to the overall crime rate and placing an inordinate burden on both patrol officers and investigators. In order to limit direct contact with drug dealers, which placed officers in physical danger, manpower-intensive undercover operations were staged to aid in successful arrests and prosecutions. Unfortunately, traditional methods of relaying critical information lacked the timeliness and quality critical in high-threat, fast-paced operations. Suspect identity was relayed verbally, via radio, and confirmed by patrol officers face-to-face, with potential for miscommunication and operation compromise. The DPD also relied on decade-old video equipment that, due to its short-range limitations, could not be used in certain investigations. The DPD wanted to supplement its voice communication and limit the need for eyes-on operations by enabling remote data access to allow officers to safely and efficiently monitor suspect situations at all times.

SIERRA WIRELESS AIRLINK® SOLUTION

Dickinson Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division selected a covert IP video surveillance system, developed by Crime Point, a valuable Sierra Wireless solutions partner. The Crime Point/Sierra Wireless solution allows the agency to gather intelligence for a variety of cases. Crime Point's IP video surveillance solution features pervasive mobile broadband communication provided by the Sierra Wireless AirLink Raven X. The intelligent gateway features a compact, rugged form factor, high-speed Ethernet interface, and 3G-optimized architecture. Coupled with AirLink management software, ALEOS embedded intelligence simplifies installation, deployment, and remote management of any wireless implementation.

The Crime Point video surveillance solution allows officers to leave the equipment in a covert location, and then watch the activity live over their laptops, desktop computers, or smart phones from a safe, remote site, while simultaneously recording high-quality evidence at the camera. The equipment can be programmed to generate photo alerts on motion, while officers engage in other tasks.



APPLICATION: SECURITY

CUSTOMER CRITICAL CHALLENGE:

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

SOLUTION:

- Crime Point IP video surveillance system with integrated AirLink® Raven X for monitoring drug deals and collecting evidence for prosecution

BENEFITS:

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

AIRLINK RAVEN X



POWERED BY: ALEOS



AirLink®

Dickinson Police Department

SIERRA WIRELESS AIRLINK® SOLUTION (CONT'D)

Crime Point's versatile mobile solution can be disguised and deployed in multiple ways and is engineered to withstand the high temperatures of southeast Texas. Mobile broadband enables the DPD to rapidly deploy the equipment anywhere it's needed - no wired internet connection required.

"The AirLink devices from Sierra Wireless have enabled us to take our business to a new level. The devices are easy to integrate with our IP cameras, provide a reliable, secure connection, and can be configured and managed from anywhere," remarked Dan McLeod, president of Crime Point.

According to Dickinson Police Department detective Frank Price, the wireless surveillance solution enhances efficiency, as well as safety. Fewer officers are required to serve as 'eyes' in immediate proximity to drug buys. With the equipment disguised as 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 program the system to send photos when there's motion, and that way we can mobilize a coordinated response instantly."

RESULTS

The Crime Point/Sierra Wireless surveillance solution has helped Dickinson Police Department transform the landscape of the city's neighborhoods, increasing safety not only for law enforcement officers, 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 the impact of protracted criminal cases. Despite the high-quality evidence Detective Price and his team have gathered, Price has not yet had the opportunity to use it in court.

"As soon the lawyers learn we have video, the suspects plead out," explained Price. "With the wireless surveillance system's diversity, there is no limit to what 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."



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