

Hytera Body-worn Cameras Help Royal Thai Police Enhance Professional Standards and Transparency



Introduction

The Royal Thai Police wanted to invest in new body-worn cameras to enhance professional standards and transparency, increase public trust, and ensure compliance with the 2022 Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Forced Disappearance Act. The cameras needed to be light, easy to use, and the video and audio recordings had to be secure and tamper-proof. Hytera supplied its GC540 Pro body-worn cameras and EDS30 portable desktop docking stations, which are simple and easy to operate and fully encrypted to prevent tampering or wiping.

The Background

The Royal Thai Police (RTP) is the national police force of Thailand. RTP employs between 210,700 and 230,000 officers, who are responsible for providing law enforcement service throughout Thailand. In 2022, the Thai Government introduced the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and

Customer name

Royal Thai Police

Project time

2024

Project Location

Thailand

Industry

Public Safety

Products/Solutions

Hytera GC540 Pro Body Camera
Hytera EDS30 Portable Desktop
Docking Station

Forced Disappearance Act, which came into force on 22 February 2023. The Act is designed to counter torture and enforced disappearances of citizens by police officers. To help enforce the Act, police officers must record images and audio at all times using body-worn cameras (BWCs).



The Challenge

The key goals of deploying BWCs are to uphold professional conduct, enhance the transparency of police processes and operations, provide proof of compliance with the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Forced Disappearance Act, and ease to use.

In the past, the recording devices used by the police were complicated to operate, lacked adequate protection for the chain of evidence, had a short battery life, and were bulky and difficult to handle. This posed significant challenges for the police in terms of adopting body-worn cameras.

Royal Thai Police launched an initiative to purchase new BWCs, which will be used in crime suppression, road traffic and investigatory works. For this latest procurement of body-worn cameras, RTP significantly upgraded the technical requirements.

The devices must not only be lightweight, compact, highly integrated and user-friendly, but also feature a wide field of view and long battery life. Additionally, they must ensure evidence protection by being tamper-proof and resistant to malicious deletion. Evidence collection and management must be conducted exclusively through dedicated software, ensuring the security and integrity of the chain of evidence.

The Solution

Hytera provided RTP with highly integrated Hytera GC540 Pro body-worn cameras and collection stations. Each BWC weighs less than 120g, while supporting over 10 hours of continuous 1080p full HD video recording. The cameras provide a field of view exceeding 152 degrees, offering a wider evidence recording angle and are simple to operate.

In addition, the GC540 Pro is equipped with a built-in battery. The cameras also provide a feature of pre-event recording as long as 60 seconds, to provide a complete evidence for any accidental events during law enforcement.

The BWCs are paired with Hytera's EDS30 portable desktop docking station, which weighs less than 10kg. The EDS30 supports simultaneous data collection and charging for up to eight BWCs. The docking station is fully compatible with Hytera's IDS (integrated docking software). It is simple and easy to use, and, more importantly, it's designed to ensure comprehensive protection against evidence tampering or deletion.

The Benefits

Upholding Professional Standards

By recording interactions between police and the public, BWCs help establish an accurate and impartial account of events to help refute, moderate or confirm the verbal testimony of both police officers and members of the public involved in an incident or witnesses to it. BWCs can encourage responsible conduct during field operations, as officers are aware that their actions are being documented. Conversely, BWCs can also promote respectful interactions between officers and members of the public during encounters.

Enhanced Transparency

BWCs help to build and improve community relations between police and the public by offering greater transparency. If the public knows there are video and audio recordings of interactions between police and citizens, and that BWCs are helping to moderate police behaviour, this can increase public trust in the police. Research has shown that officers who wear BWCs have fewer complaints against them than those who do not.

Compliance with the Act

BWCs provide proof of police compliance with the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Forced Disappearance Act, as all police actions are, or should be, recorded. This helps to restrain police from acting illegally. The Hytera IDS ensures the camera footage is immediately uploaded to the local or central digital evidence management system when the device is docked, while the AES256 encryption technology ensures it cannot be tampered with.



Products

- Hytera GC540 Pro Body Camera
- Hytera EDS30 Portable Desktop Docking Station



The Benefits

Improved Evidence Gathering

BWCs can help officers document evidence, including the ability to record statements, make observations and document behaviors at the scene of an incident or elsewhere in the field, rather than having to bring people back to the police station for interviews. The video and audio recordings can also help officers remember key events and provide direct evidence to support prosecutors, which can lead to earlier guilty pleas.

Ease of Use

The GC540 Pro is the smallest and lightest Hytera body-worn camera. It is smaller than a standard business card and weighs less than 120 grams. It is easy to hold in the palm or clip onto the outfit of officers who are always on the move, so it adds very little extra to the officer's gear load. The quick and simple sliding switch makes recording activation very easy.



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