

Case Study

New recorder shows improved capability for Hostage and Siege situations in live operation at Stansted airport

Essex Police's Technical Support Unit has recently seen the improved capability offered through the demonstration of a 16 channel audio and video digital recording system for Hostage and Siege situations.

D.S. Andy Richardson of Essex Police's TSU is expecting users to benefit from the increased capacity and flexible replay and monitoring options offered by the AudioSoft digital recorder.

Background

Hostage and Siege situations are a harsh reality of modern day policing. In order to resolve the situation safely and effectively, constabularies need to:

- ▶ Live monitor a large number of video and audio channels, in particular the '4 corners' minimum.
- ▶ Immediately replay important sequences whilst still recording;
- ▶ Be able to give a full audit trail of their decisions and actions;
- ▶ Provide evidence for quick and efficient convictions.
- ▶ Provide live information to decision makers.

Detective Sergeant Andy Richardson is tasked with providing Essex constabulary with solutions to these requirements. Andy therefore requested a use of a new 16 channel audio and video recorder during a recent hostage and siege simulation at Stansted Airport.

Currently, Essex Police do not have an effective way of digitally recording or live monitoring the number of audio and video

channels required in a hostage or siege situation.

Andy Richardson explains further, "Hostage and siege situations require intensive data gathering. It would be of great benefit to us to record and live monitor this data effectively".

Essex Police require a ruggedised system that will be easily deployable and offer flexibility through a variety of replay options. This will help the situation to be resolved with reduced risk to officers by arming them with critical information.

After the event, the recordings need to give a complete and accurate record of events that are legally admissible.

Proven Technology

The H&S recorder is based on AudioSoft's AudioPC-LE system, which is currently operational within 85% of UK police forces. Andy Richardson was reassured that the AudioSoft H&S recorder was based on proven technology.

The live operation was carried out at Stansted airport, the designated Hostage & Siege destination for all hijacked flights within Europe.

*"AudioSoft's proven track record of supplying to the UK's leading constabularies gives us immediate confidence in the system",
Andy Richardson,
Essex Police*



Case Study Solution

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A Comprehensive Solution



The 16 channels of lip synchronised high quality audio and video are recorded to a rugged 19" 4U rack mount chassis with approximately 1000 hours* of on line storage and dual layer DVD archiving.

command hierarchy so officers can make effective decisions from their offices.

Essex police would benefit significantly from being able to stream the feed to the Gold Centre in Chelmsford and then from there to COBRA in London.

Bookmarking facilities allow precise location of significant events within the recording session which can be swiftly located during subsequent transcription or replay sessions and replayed on a standard DVD player.

Clear Benefits

As well as the ability to capture large volumes of data, Andy saw the benefits of:

► **Improved Live Communication**

Flexible replay options allow officers to:

- Monitor, pause, rewind and playback live feeds whilst still recording
- Replay data in standard DVD Player
- Remote live monitor on Police Wide Area Network (WAN)
- Export and print single video frame
- Lip synchronised audio and video for clear understanding

AudioPC-HS supports simultaneous playback and replay of both current and previous recordings both at the recorder and on networked PC's whilst still recording. This means that the '4 corners' and other video or audio feeds can be monitored effectively to reduce the risk to officers in difficult situations.

By using the latest streaming technology it is possible for officers with appropriate access to view live data remotely on the Police secure wireless network. This allows instant communication up the

All recordings are legally admissible, having been evidentially proven and complying with Home Office guidelines.

► **Improved Security**

Restricted user access rights ensure that only appropriate personnel have access to different types of covert and overt data.

*"It is of vital importance that we have an accurate and legally admissible record of events",
Andy Richardson,
Essex Police*

► **Improved Reliability**

Reliability is fundamental and AudioSoft's heartbeat health monitoring system provides immediate system alerts.

As well as the standard ruggedised system, AudioSoft also provide a MIL SPEC variant for increased robustness.

► **Reduced Costs**

*Continues Andy Richardson,
"As well as the improved operational capability, Essex police could save significant time and money through the reduced time to court".*

* assumes 4CIF resolution, 15 frames per second, activity rate of approximately 160 vehicles per hour moving in shot