Washington State Patrol
Homeland Security Division
Automated License Plate Plate Readers

April 6, 2011
Overview

• How ALPR is used by the Washington State Patrol

• Policy Guidelines

• Legal Issues

• Implementation Challenges
Washington State Patrol
ALPR Use – Overview

• Regional Auto Theft Teams (3 Units)
  – Genetech Autovu Mobile Systems

• Commercial Vehicle Division – Weigh Stations for Trucks

• Homeland Security Section
  – Security for Washington State Ferries
  – 7 units permanently attached at toll booths
  – PIPS Technology
Washington State Ferries – Overview

• Transit agency
  – 22 million passengers annually
  – Over 500 transits per day
  – Largest U.S. ferry system, 4th largest in the world

• Marine highway
  – Essential link in highway network
  – 10 million vehicles transported across 200 miles of marine highway (20 terminals, 22 vessels)

• Mover of freight and goods
  – Only freight link for Vashon, San Juan Islands
  – Vessels and terminals built to handle truck volumes
Vessel and Terminal Security

- Large system with limited security resources
- 24/7 security measures at terminals was limited to Video Monitoring
- ALPR provides notice of vehicles of concern entering terminals
- Challenge to respond before vehicles loaded on vessels
Basic Policy Guidelines

• Guidelines/Model Policies for Law Enforcement
  – Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs,
  – International Association of Chiefs of Police

• Administration (Oversight, Training, Protocols)

• System Usage (Official Purposes)

• Retention/Sharing of Data
  – Access to data
  – Shared databases
  – Retention Period
Legal Issues

• 4th Amendment Question – Does a database search of a license plate implicate privacy protections?

• Probable Cause from an ALPR Hit
  – Complete, Correct, and Timely Information
    • Is the “Hot List” up to date or is the check run real time
    • Does your ALPR consistently differentiate between states
    • Misreads of characters
  – Is there probable cause if the plate was manually entered?
Implementation Challenges

• Privacy Issues – Analysis Software
• Retention of Data/Data Sharing/Vehicle Tracking
  – Community Concerns - ACLU
  – State Legislators
  – U.S. Representative
  – Public Perception - Newspapers
• Physical Location
  – Open to Vandalism
  – Marine Environment
Contact Information

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