AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to establish a baseline of knowledge on the Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs).

BACKGROUND

The ALPR technology, also known as License Plate Recognition (LPR), allows for the automated detection of license plates. It is used by the Los Angeles Port Police since 2007, to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates, and missing persons. It may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery. Most recently, the Los Angeles Port Police has selected *Vigilant Solutions* as the company to provide this technology for tactical and operational use.

DEFINITIONS

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR): A device that uses cameras and computer technology to compare digital images of license plates to lists of known plates of interest.

Hot List: License plates associated with vehicles of interest from an associated database, including, but not limited to, NCIC, DMV, Local BOLOs, etc.

Hit: Audible and Visual Alert from the ALPR system that a scanned license plate number may be in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or other law enforcement database for a specific reason including, but not limited to, being related to a stolen car, wanted person, missing person, domestic violence protective order or terrorist-related activity.

POLICY

Please refer to the Los Angeles Port Police Department, Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) Policy Section 462.

CAPABILITIES

"LPR Patrol"- is intended for operational use by police officers who will be operating an ALPR system from a marked police vehicle.

A profile will enable an officer to login to the in-car ALPR system through a unique user ID and password (**must be reset every 90 days**).

The ALPR system, when operational, will automatically:

I. Collect license plates from designated cameras installed on the police vehicle.

   a. The system incorporates two cameras, one Infra-red, one color, into a single self-contained device.
   b. The system has the ability to capture quality images in a variety of settings including darkness, oncoming headlights, bright sunlight, low sun, deep shadows and glare.

II. Query those collected plates through Vigilant's Databases. Specially, the databases referred to as:

   a. *"State Hot Lists"* (stolen and wanted vehicles that is updated periodically throughout each day by Vigilant).
   b. *"Local Hot Lists"* (manually populated and updated by the LAPP Criminal Investigations Unit or other authorized LAPP personnel).

III. Alert the user of any *"Hit"*

   a. If the vehicle receives a match and gets a hit, the system will alert the officer with both an audible and visible alert.
   b. Images of the license place and vehicle, as well as a brief explanation of what the vehicle is wanted for will be displayed.

IV. Retain the queried license plates and collected metadata including:

   a. Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates where license plate was captured
   b. Date of the capture
   c. Time of the capture

For additional ALPR User Profiles and responsibilities please refer to the Los Angeles Port Police Department ALPR User Profiles Reference Sheet.

OFFICER RESPONISIBILITES

Officers **SHALL** verify any "hit" with the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) and/or the LAPP Communications Unit and/or the LAPP Criminal Investigations Unit before taking any official enforcement action.

All arrest reports that result of the ALPR system should contain the following disclaimer:

- "The vehicle was initially brought to my attention via the use of an automated license plate recognition system. I visually verified the license plate of the vehicle in question and ran it through CLETS to confirm it was a wanted vehicle".

TRAINING VIDEOS / AIDS

- Car Detector Mobile System V.5.0 – Operator Training PowerPoint