



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2024-1385

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 121 W. Perry St., Tiffin, OH,
44883 (L)

Date of Activity: 05/08/2024
Activity Location: Tiffin Police Department – Business – 51 East Market Street, Tiffin, OH 44883
Author: SA Ryan Emahiser, #36

Narrative:

On May 8, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Emahiser, after discovering that Tiffin Police Department (TPD) Officer Drew Westenbarger's Getac Body Worn Camera (BWC) was not activated at the time of the investigated incident due to a syncing issue, asked that the Getac BWC camera system be explained to document. SA Emahiser spoke with TPD Lt. Jake DeMonte who oversees the department's Getac camera system and provided the following information explaining why Officer Westenbarger's camera likely did not activate or record the incident being investigated.

Lt. DeMonte advised that the TPD purchased the Getac camera system approximately 14 months prior to this report, and that TPD's BWC's and cruiser cameras are all on the Getac system. Lt. DeMonte explained that officers are assigned a different cruiser on a daily basis. At the beginning of a shift each officer is required to log in with their own login information to the Getac system located in each cruiser's Getac monitor. While logging in, the officer's BWC must be placed into the Getac BWC docking station in the cruiser as part of the syncing process. Once synced with the Getac cruiser system, which can take anywhere from two to four minutes, the officer's BWC is synced with the cruiser's Getac system. During the syncing process the cruiser MUST be within the TPD's secure Wi-Fi system to ensure security protocols for the Getac system. If this syncing process is interrupted or disconnects from TPD's Wi-Fi system, the syncing and login process will be delayed and potentially interrupted causing it to error out. Typically when officers are synced to the Getac cruiser system with their BWC, their BWC's are automatically activated upon activating their emergency lights and recording 30 seconds prior to that activation.

SA Emahiser asked Lt. DeMonte to demonstrate the Getac login and syncing process on a replica system to Officer Westenbarger's cruiser used on the day of the incident investigated. Lt. DeMonte started the cruiser, logged in to the Getac system, and placed his BWC into the Getac data/sync docking station located in the cruiser. At that time SA Emahiser began recording the time with a stopwatch application. The syncing completion time was approximately four minutes and 15 seconds. Lt. DeMonte again reiterated that the syncing

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Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
06/21/2024

times vary and believed that it is typically anywhere between two and four minutes. Lt. DeMonte was unable to retrieve login records for Officer Westenbarger's Getac account and inquired with Getac the actual login time. Getac responded in an email to Lt. DeMonte, which Lt. DeMonte forwarded to SA Emahiser and is attached to this report. Getac shows that Officer Westenbarger logged in to the Getac system at 11:51:41 AM.

The time that Officer Westenbarger logged in to the Getac system is consistent with the time that he entered his assigned cruiser that day for the first time, according to reviewed surveillance video footage outside of the TPD. At the time Officer Westenbarger entered the cruiser his patrol shift was just beginning, and he had not yet entered the cruiser or logged in to the Getac system for the day. According to Lt. DeMonte and other TPD staff, it was known that Officer Westenbarger's BWC had not yet synced with the Getac cruiser system. While the Getac system is syncing with the BWC, the BWC is not able to be utilized. Due to Officer Westenbarger's quick response from TPD, and allegedly viewing a red pickup truck matching the description of the truck that Blake Fleure was reported to be driving, it is likely that the Getac BWC was unable to sync to the Getac cruiser system. Officer Westenbarger logged in at 11:51:41 AM and did not complete the sync with the Getac cruiser system rendering the BWC inoperable at the time Officer Westenbarger stopped the Red Chevy pickup truck being driven by Blake.

Lt. DeMonte did not have any additional information to provide in regard to the Getac BWC and syncing process or encountered issue.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Lt DeMonte email re Getac Log In

Ryan Emahiser

From: Jake DeMonte <jademonte@tiffinohio.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 6:55 PM
To: Ryan Emahiser
Subject: Fwd: Cruiser log? #GVSS00042109

Here is the log of when he signed in to cruiser 56 on May 3

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Getac Video Solutions Support <support@getacvideo.com>
Date: Fri, May 17, 2024 at 6:49 PM
Subject: Re: Cruiser log? #GVSS00042109
To: <jademonte@tiffinohio.gov>

New reply for the ticket #GVSS00042109

My logs show 10:51:41am CDT (my time) so should be 11:51:41am PDT

Drew Westenb...			05/03/2024 10:51:41 AM	I
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Wesley Livingston
Wesley Livingston
Getac Video Support

Client: Jake DeMonte
Status: Waiting Customer

Have questions? Please visit our [Knowledge Base](#) for helpful tips!

<https://support.getacvideo.com/ticket/42109/>