

Brief reason for the revision:

The benefit of in-car radio recorded on Body-Worn and Vehicle Camera Systems during a pursuit does not outweigh the confusion caused by officers being told to use their in-car radios.

This policy itself states, "under normal circumstances". Pursuits are not normal circumstances. WAV files of all radio transmissions are recorded and, therefore, can be viewed later and synced to recorded video.

Vehicle radio mics are in an awkward position, poorly mounted on the vehicle's passenger side or MDC, and often fall to the passenger floorboard during pursuits. Ear buds are quickly accessible, immediately identifiable to the officer, and permit better control of the officer's vehicle during pursuits. Most officers use ear buds to talk and hear, even while driving in normal conditions.

Vehicle pursuits often end in foot pursuits. The officer now has the additional responsibility to remember to turn on their handheld or turn up the volume on their handheld during the foot pursuit. Suppose an officer lowers the volume or turns off their handheld radio during a vehicle pursuit just so the radio transmissions are recorded by the in-car radio on their BWC/DMAV. Then the officer may forget to put the handheld radio back up, forcing radio contact to be broken. In turn, this could cause the foot pursuit to end (GO214.3.2 "the quality of radio communications between the pursuing units and the dispatcher/supervisor", an ONA, and/or place the officer at far more risk for serious injury or death.

It may be convenient for those who review the pursuit to watch a video and have the audible transmissions play in real-time. However, this causes said officer to deviate from his normal behaviors in the middle of a GO 214.1 "Vehicle pursuits expose innocent citizens, law enforcement officers, and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death."

305 Radio and Mobile Data Computer Use

305.3 RADIO USE GUIDELINES

305.3.2 RADIO TRANSMISSION PROTOCOL

- (h) Under normal circumstances, employees will not turn off or lower their in-car police radios to a volume that cannot be captured by the vehicle's DMAV equipment, regardless if the employee is wearing an ear-bud listening device on their portable radio. An exception ~~would be~~ is a pursuit or under circumstances when it is deemed necessary to safeguard transmissions from a prisoner seated in the patrol car during an incident.