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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2017
TO: Chief Morrison
FROM: Detective B. Reitmeyer
REFERENCE: T&E of Starwitness Field Interviewer

I have had occasion to test/evaluate the Field Interviewer in a number of different settings. The system is intuitive and easy to use. I conducted recordings in both indoor and outdoor settings. The microphone does a good job of producing quality audio recordings and ambient noise usually is not a factor. That being said, just like a body camera, wind noise can at times effect audio quality when recording outdoors. When the recording is done indoors, the microphone is sensitive enough that the camera can be placed several feet away from the individual(s) talking and still produce audio that is clear and easy to hear upon playback. I used the system to record a conversation approximately 20-25 feet away from the camera with little change in the audio quality.

Video quality is of sufficient quality to be used for evidentiary purposes. Playback is crisp and clear and the camera provides a good field of view, even with the standard lens. The additional lens included with the system further increases the field of view, but does so at the expense of some of the up close detail (overall image clarity remains the same).

The software included with the system makes it easy to manage recordings. Transferring recordings from the camera to a PC is a simple process. The software provides the capability to "tag" recordings similar to the Arbitrator system: recordings can be tagged with case number, subject's name, interviewer's name, and notes about the interview. While playing a recording through the software, the user is able to add bookmarks to important segments of the recording. Those bookmarks can be labelled, as well.



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I liked that I was able to export unaltered, uncompressed video to DVD or a USB thumbdrive. The process was easy and relatively quick; a 46 minute interview only took 5 minutes 30 seconds to export to a USB thumbdrive.

It is my opinion that the Star witness Field Interviewer system would be of great use to our Criminal Investigations Division (if cost effective) due to the fact that it is a self-contained and highly portable system, it is easy to use, and provides a means of "tagging" the recordings similar to the bodycam system already in place at our Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Detective Bill Reitmeyer