

Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau Joins Digital Recording World

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Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau (SHB) is the hub of information dissemination for the entire Sheriff's Department. SHB personnel handle all high-profile or noteworthy Department-wide media events that occur within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department, as well as neighboring municipal police agencies who contract for Sheriff's Department resources.

SHB is also responsible for keeping the Department's executives apprized of the daily events which chronicle local, national, and international law enforcement in general, and the Sheriff's Department in particular, as well as the media's portrayal of such events. SHB records all local news broadcasts, as well as several national news magazine programs, 24-hours per day, seven days per week, while logging individual pertinent news stories for later review.

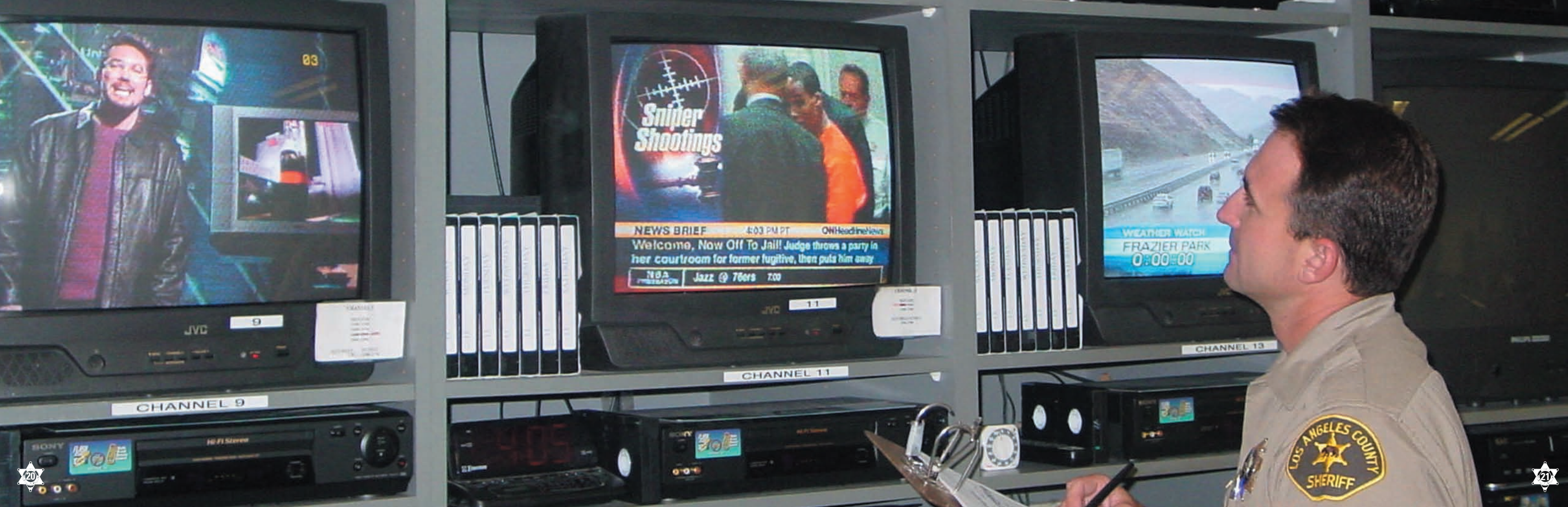
The recordings are used for several important purposes. At the end of each day, early morning shift deputies review the day's television log and select the best news story(s) for each noteworthy event for inclusion on the Sheriff's daily tape, a compilation of several news stories in a single streaming video that can be easily reviewed by Department executives. These recordings are also routinely requested by various Detective Division units and station detectives for investigative use.

Until earlier this year, SHB was forced to manually activate a bank of eleven videocassette recorders several times per day, in order to capture the numerous daily news programs aired by Los Angeles area stations. The recording limitations of these videocassette recorders prohibited the presetting of the machines, due to the numerous start times of the news programs.

SHB has taken advantage of TiVo digital recording technology to move its operation into the 21st Century. TiVo digital recording is far superior to that obtained through videocassette recordings and produces cleaner, more professional results. TiVo also allows for advanced search functions, allowing SHB deputies to use their time more efficiently when attempting to locate a specific news item for transfer from the TiVo to another medium. Most importantly, though, is that TiVos are capable of having the start times of every news program of interest preprogrammed into the units, thereby virtually eliminating the instances of missed recordings.

Another major enhancement to the program is in the area of storage capacity. Prior to the acquisition of the TiVo units, SHB was limited to archiving two weeks of news coverage through the rotation of color-coded videocassette tapes. With the addition of the TiVos, SHB is now capable of storing 140 hours of coverage on each of the eight units, resulting in access to virtually several months of coverage on each news channel.

The acquisition of these TiVo units is just another step in the ongoing quest for SHB to keep pace with advanced technology. The TiVos have made the SHB operation more professional, accurate, and efficient, thereby allowing personnel to focus their attention on the myriad of other responsibilities confronting them. SHB will not stop here. As new tasks and improved ways of doing business are introduced, every attempt will be made to acquire the necessary technology to accomplish those tasks routinely required from the information hub of the Sheriff's Department.



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