



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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DHA-Policy Memorandum 24-026
September 10, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Termination of Body Worn Camera Programs

- References:
- (a) Directive-type Memorandum 23-007, "Interim Policy and Guidance for Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras by DoD Law Enforcement Officers," November 14, 2023
 - (b) DoD Directive 5210.56, "Arming and the Use of Force," November 18, 2016, as amended
 - (c) DoD Instruction 5015.02, "DoD Records Management Program," February 24, 2015, as amended
 - (d) DoD Instruction 5400.11, "DoD Privacy and Civil Liberties Programs," January 29, 2019, as amended
 - (e) DoD Instruction 5505.17, "Personally Identifiable Information and Law Enforcement Information Handling by DoD Law Enforcement Activities," August 22, 2023
 - (f) DoD Instruction 5000.64, "Accountability and Management of DoD Equipment and Other Accountable Property," April 27, 2017, as amended
 - (g) DoD Manual 5400.07, "DoD Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Program," January 25, 2017
 - (h) DHA Administrative Instruction 5015.01, "Records Management Program"
 - (i) Office of the Secretary of Defense Records Disposition Schedule, current version

This Defense Health Agency (DHA) Policy Memorandum, based on the requirements listed in References (a) thru (i), directs military medical treatment facility (MTF) Directors to immediately terminate Body Worn Camera (BWC) programs and properly dispose of BWCs and BWC footage.

Reference (a) requires DoD Components with law enforcement officers (LEO) to establish policies for acquisition, distribution, accountability, storage, control, access, use, and management of BWCs. LEOs are defined as "DoD law enforcement personnel who have statutory authority to conduct search and seizure of persons and things in accordance with law and DoD policy, including arrests of persons for violations of law."

The DHA does not employ LEOs and, accordingly, is not required to establish BWC policy per reference (a). DHA Security Guards are not LEOs, they are General Schedule (GS)-0085, Guard Series employees. Their mission, authority, training, and pattern of work is different from GS-0083 (Police Series) employees or other LEOs.

Effective immediately, in accordance with Reference (a), DHA Security Guards will not use a BWC (or other similar wearable camera or recording device). In addition, MTFs with DHA Security Guards assigned who currently have BWCs will dispose of BWCs pursuant to Defense Logistics Agency and DHA Medical Logistics guidance and in accordance with Reference (f). MTFs will also coordinate with their local records management offices and DHA Office of General Counsel to ensure the proper disposition of BWC footage (in accordance with References (c), (e), (h), and, in general, File Numbers 101-05 and 204-21 of Reference (i)).

Please address questions regarding this DHA-Policy Memorandum to Mrs. Suzanne Robinson, DHA/J34 Protection Operations Division, (210) 551-5203, suzanne.l.robinson.civ@health.mil.

This DHA-Policy Memorandum is cleared for public release and available on the internet from the Health.mil site at <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Policies> and is also available to authorized users from the DHA SharePoint site at <https://info.health.mil/cos/admin/pubs/>.

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