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Forensic video unit available for videotape analysis by law officers

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LINCOLN -- The Nebraska State Patrol now has a forensic video unit available for law enforcement agencies to perform videotape analysis.

With videotape playing an increasingly significant role in law enforcement, the State Patrol has expanded its video and audio capabilities to include state-of-the-art forensics.

No tax dollars were spent to purchase the video system.

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The agency used \$44,000 in seizure funds, or money seized from drug dealers, to purchase the Avid/Ocean Systems dTective Forensic Video System.

A State Patrol audio and video specialist attended two weeks of training provided by the manufacturer and the



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FBI to become proficient as a system operator.

There have been about 30 requests for analysis already.

The dTective system can be used to isolate single-camera views from multiplexed security systems, convert time-lapsed footage to real time, clarify dark footage, stabilize shaky video, magnify sections of video, isolate fields instead of just frames of videotape, and perform frame averaging to produce clearer images.

"Law enforcement must stay on top of technology to keep pace with criminals," said State Patrol Col. Tom Nesbitt. "With the proliferation of security cameras, many criminal cases involve suspects caught on tape.

Often, that tape is low quality or difficult to decipher.

"With a steadily increasing number of requests for video analysis, both from our officers and from local law enforcement agencies, the patrol recognized the need for a forensic video system. This system will be a great asset to Nebraska law enforcement," Nesbitt said.

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