Training Bulletin

Los Angeles Port Police

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AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to establish a baseline of knowledge on the Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs).

BACKGROUND:

The ALPR technology, also known as License Plate Recognition (LPR), allows for the automated detection of license plates. It is used by the Los Angeles Port Police since 2007, to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates, and missing persons. It may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction, and stolen property recovery. Most recently, the Los Angeles Port Police has selected *Vigilant Solutions* as the company to provide this technology for tactical and operational use.

DEFINITIONS:

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR): A device that uses cameras and computer technology to compare digital images of license plates to lists of known plates of interest.

Hot List: License plates associated with vehicles of interest from an associated database, including, but not limited to, NCIC, DMV, Local BOLOs, etc.

Hit: Audible and Visual Alert from the ALPR system that a scanned license plate number may be in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or other law enforcement database for a specific reason including, but not limited to, being related to a stolen car, wanted person, missing person, domestic violence protective order or terrorist-related activity.

POLICY:

Please refer to the Los Angeles Port Police Department, Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) Policy Section 462.

CAPABILITIES:

"LPR Patrol"- is intended for operational use by police officers who will be operating an ALPR system from a marked police vehicle. A profile will enable an officer to login to the in-car ALPR system through a unique user ID and password (must be reset every 90 days).

The ALPR system, when operational, will automatically:

- I. Collect license plates from designated cameras installed on the police vehicle.
 - a. The system incorporates two cameras, one Infra-red, one color, into a single self-contained device.
 - b. The system has the ability to capture quality images in a variety of settings including darkness, oncoming headlights, bright sunlight, low sun, deep shadows and glare.
- II. Query those collected plates through Vigilant's Databases. Specially, the databases referred to as:
 - a. "State Hot Lists" (stolen and wanted vehicles that is updated periodically throughout each day by Vigilant).
 - b. "Local Hot Lists" (manually populated and updated by the LAPP Criminal Investigations Unit or other authorized LAPP personnel).
- III. Alert the user of any "Hit".
 - a. If the vehicle receives a match and gets a hit, the system will alert the officer with both an audible and visible alert.
 - b. Images of the license place and vehicle, as well as a brief explanation of what the vehicle is wanted for will be displayed.
- IV. Retain the gueried license plates and collected metadata including:
 - a. Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates where license plate was Captured.
 - b. Date of the capture.
 - c. Time of the capture.

OFFICER RESPONISIBILITES:

Officers **SHALL** verify any "hit" with the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) and/or the LAPP Communications Unit and/or the LAPP Criminal Investigations Unit before taking any official enforcement action.

All arrest reports that result of the ALPR system should contain the following disclaimer:

• "The vehicle was initially brought to my attention via the use of an automated license plate recognition system. I visually verified the license plate of the vehicle in question and ran it through CLETS to confirm it was a wanted vehicle".

TRAINING VIDEOS / AIDS:

- Car Detector Mobile System V.5.0 Operator Training PowerPoint.
- 1-hour free webinar for Vigilant Plate search basic operations.
 Visit https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/775820211794144523 to access the training.
- Attached training document.

VIGILANT MOBILE LPR QUICK START GUIDE

LOG IN TO VIGILANT MOBILE LPR

1. Launch the Vigilant Mobile LPR icon from the MDC desktop:



2. Log in using your department email address and Vigilant password:



OBSERVE HEALTH STATUS

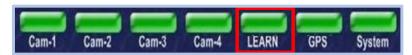
1. Verify all HEALTH INDICTORS turn green.



- Cameras take about 90 seconds to turn green every time the vehicle is turned on.
- GPS may show red while in a parking garage due to loss of signal.

VERIFY HOTLISTS ARE DOWNLOADED

1. Click on **Learn** from health bar.



2. Verify the date is current and Synchronization Status is **Complete**. While downloading new hotlists, the status is **Synchronizing**. There are usually over 300,000 hot plates in California.





ONCE ALL HEALTH INDICATORS ARE GREEN, YOU CAN MINIMIZE THE VIGILANT MOBILE LPR SOFTWARE.
THE SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE TO READ LICENSE PLATES

CONFIRMING HITS

If a hot plate is detected, an alert with display MDC screen. Confirm that the image of the plate matches the text of the plate detection, and the plate state matches the want. Click **Correct Hit** or **Incorrect Hit** to confirm the hit then click **Close** to close the Alert



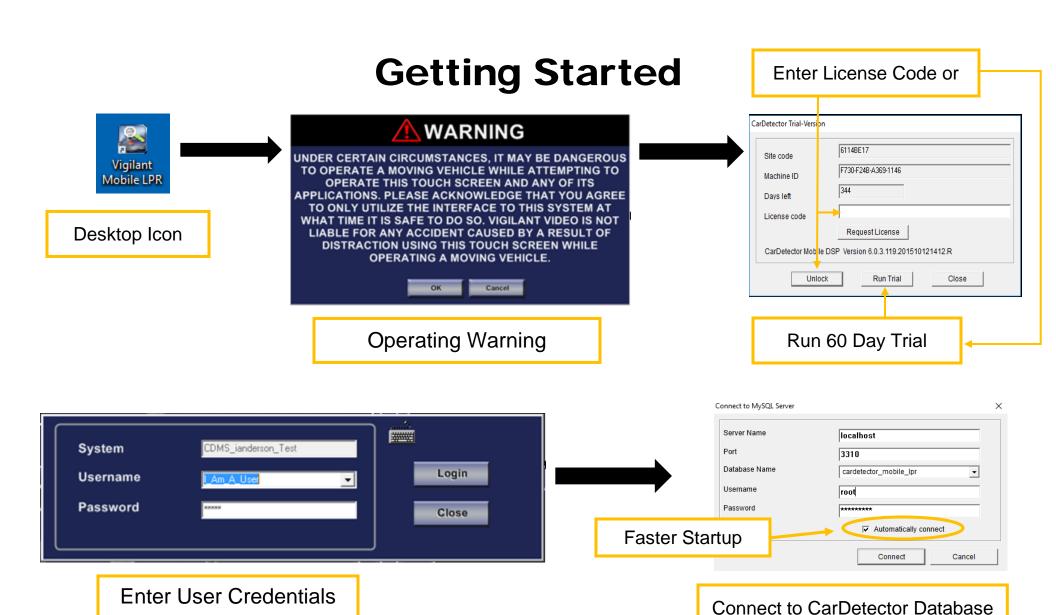
HOTLISTS UPDATE APPROXIMATELY EVERY 4 HOURS.

ALWAYS VERIFY THE PLATE AND THE STATE OF AN ALPR HIT WITH A LIVE SYSTEM (RUN IN CAD OR VERIFY WITH DISPATCH) BEFORE TAKING ENFORCEMENT ACTION

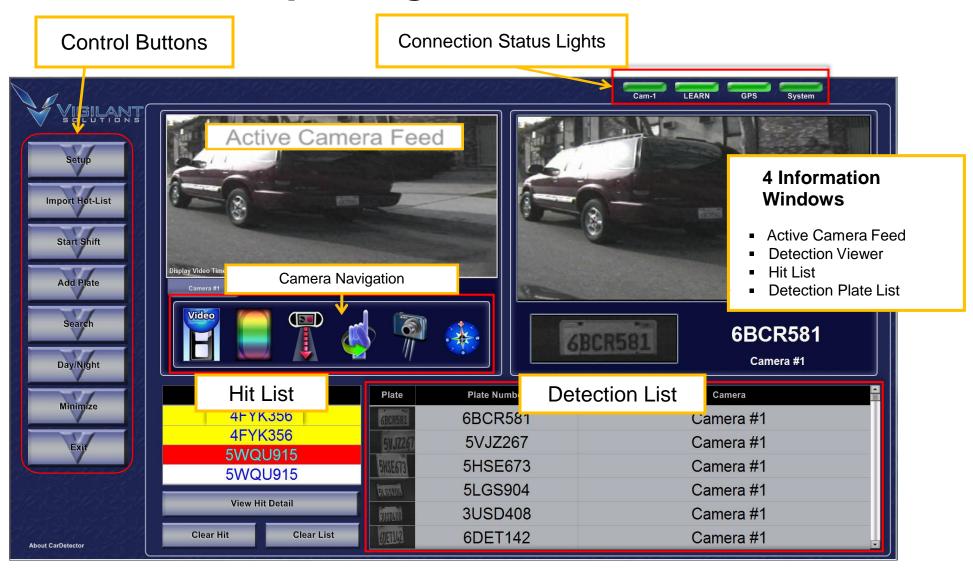


Vigilant Mobile LPR DSP Control Center

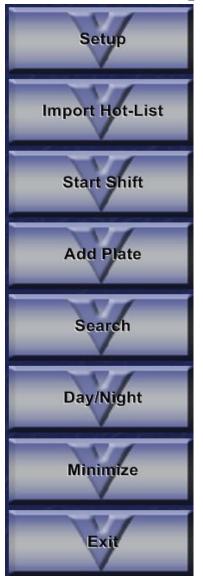
Quick Reference Guide Ver 6.x



Exploring the Main Screen



Exploring the Control Buttons



Launches the main setup parameters and options for CarDetector

Allows the operator to add Hot-List files to the hotlist database

Bookmarks a period for reporting and exporting data records

Allows the operator to add single plates to the hotlist database

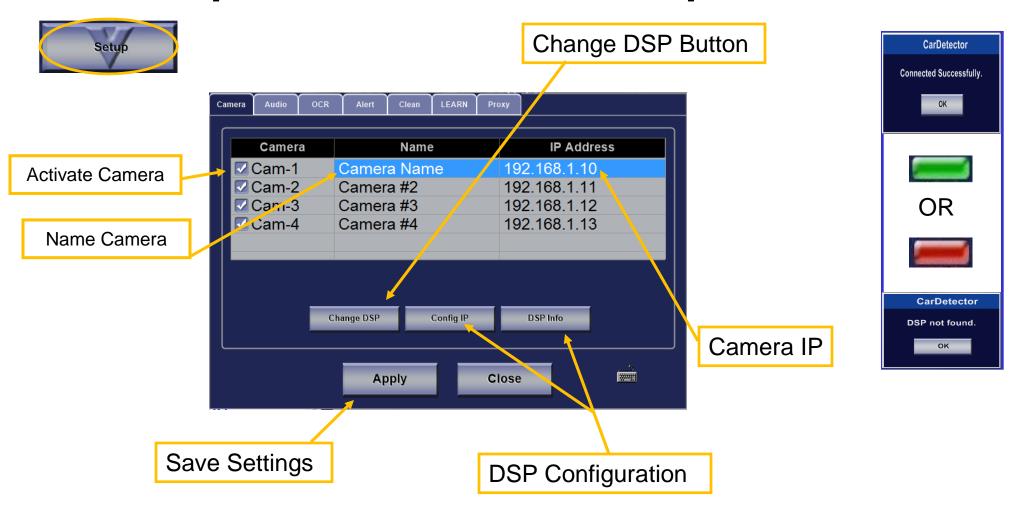
Search utility to access all LPR data in the local CDMS database

Switch between Day Mode Theme and Night Mode Theme

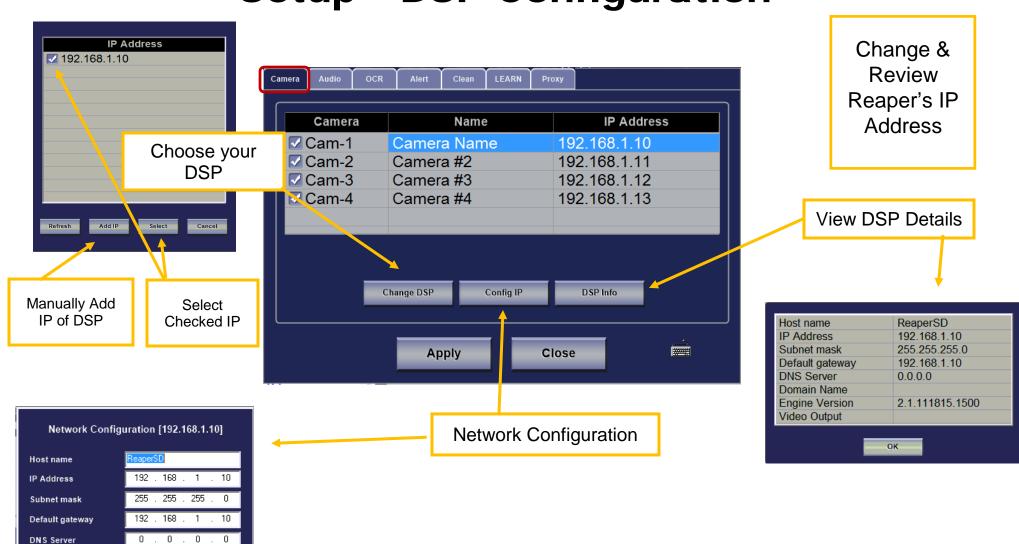
Minimizes the CarDetector app while operating in the background

Terminates the CarDetector program

Setup - Cameras/DSP's (Reaper Version)



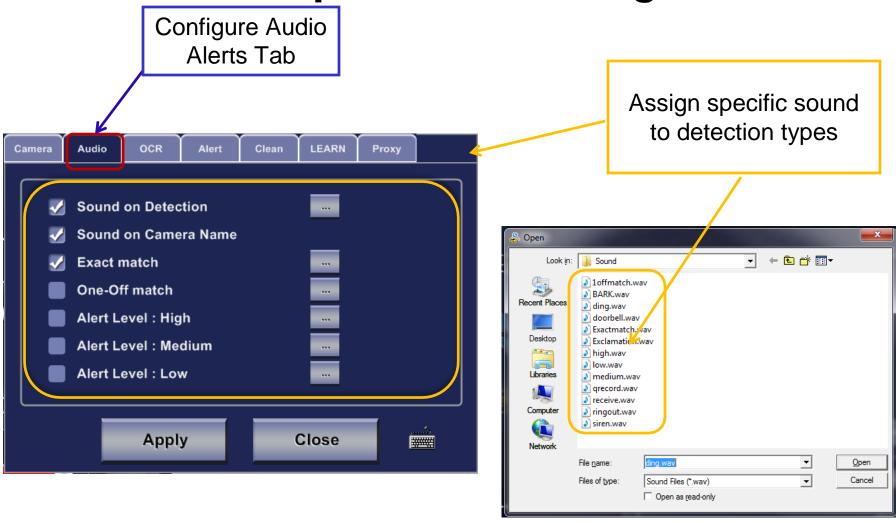
Setup - DSP Configuration



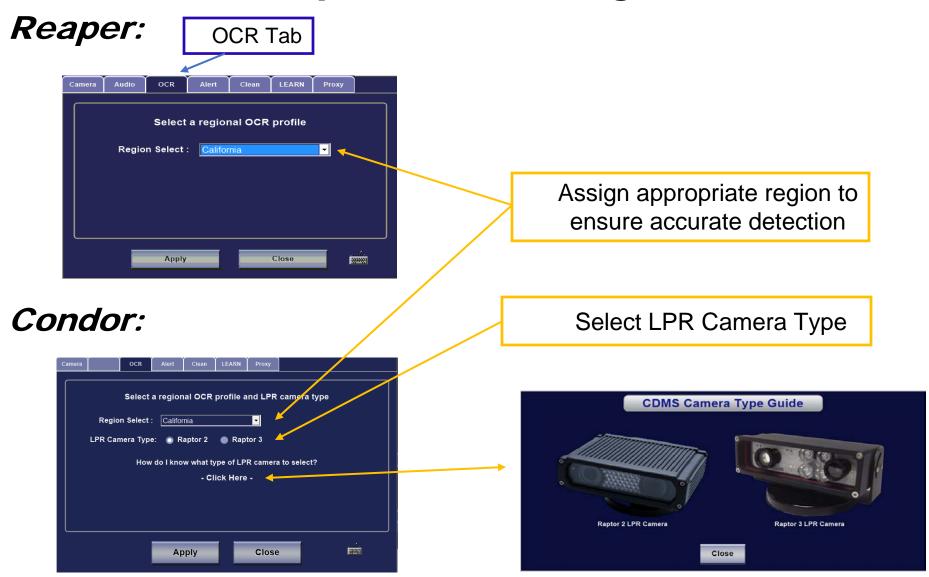
Domain Name

Cancel

Setup - Audio Settings

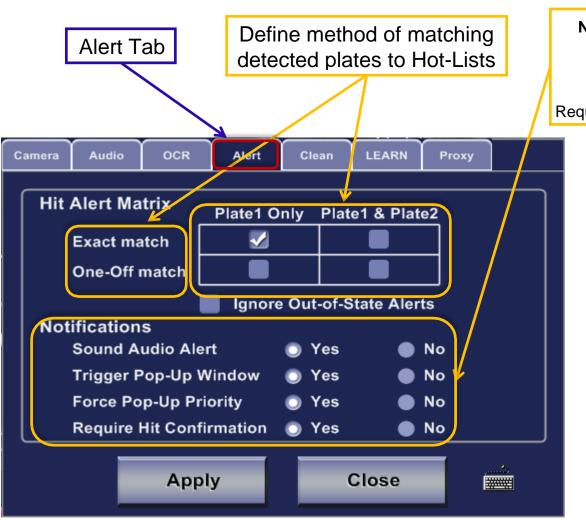


Setup - OCR Settings



Setup - Alert Settings

Set alert parameters and notification type for CarDetector Application



Notification Type

Audio.

Pop-Up's & Require Hit Confirmation

Plate 1 VS Plate 2:

Plate 1 is the first interpretation the Engine read the plate to be and Plate 2 is the second interpretation of the same plate. They are not separate Detections.

Exact match + Plate 1 Only: make an alarm sound when any detected plate number on Plate 1 column exactly matches all characters of a plate number in the hot list.

Exact match + Plate 1 & Plate 2: make an alarm sound when any detected plate number on Plate 1 column and Plate 2 column exactly matches all characters of a plate number in the hot list.

One-Off match + Plate 1 Only: make an alarm sound when any detected plate number on Plate 1 column which has only one character difference from one of those of any plate number in the hot list (including the case if a plate with less or more than one character).

One-Off match + Plate 1 & Plate 2: make an alarm sound when any detected plate number on Plate 1 column and Plate 2 column which has only one character difference from one of those of any plate number in the hot list (including the case if a plate with less or more than one character).

Setup - Clean Settings

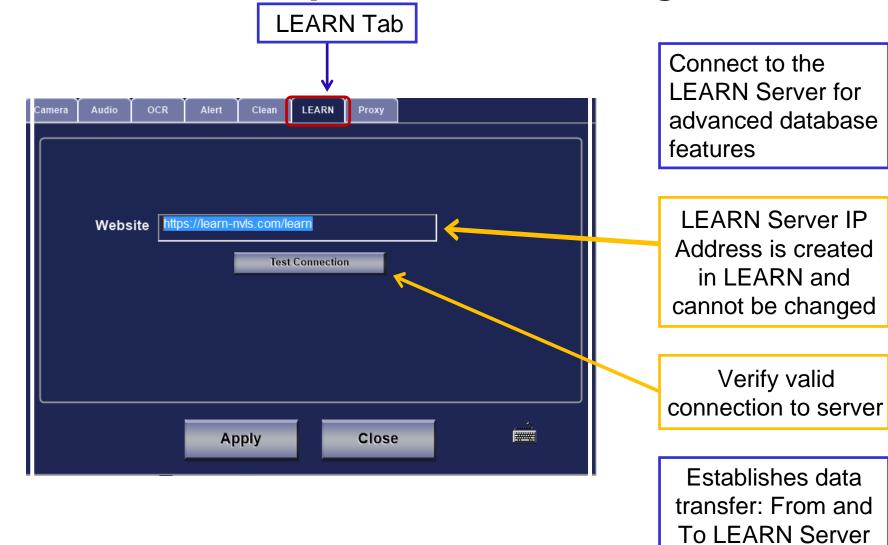


Indicate cleanup cycle

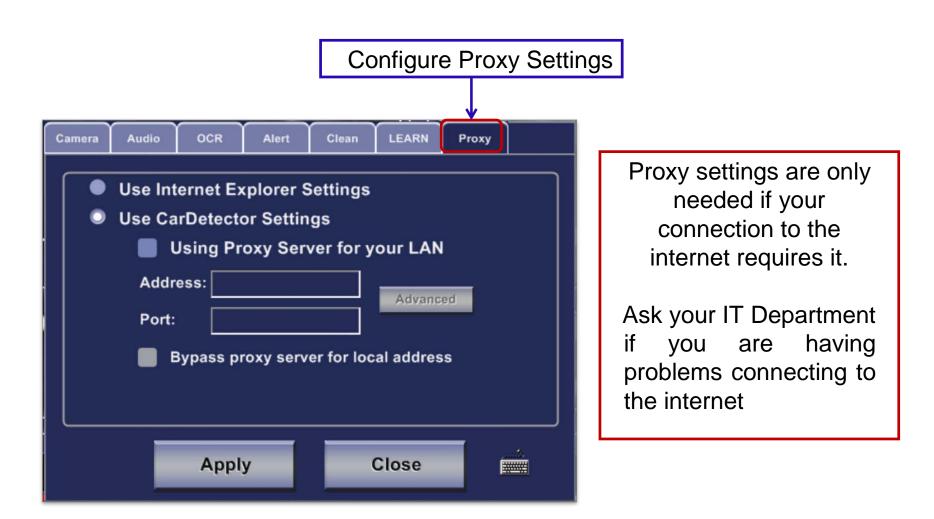
Delete local LPR data older than [X] Days: check to enable Archive Maintenance. Specify the maximum number of days for the archive to hold. All data older than 'X' days will be deleted.

Note: Detection records remain in LEARN after local data is deleted

Setup - LEARN Settings



Setup - Proxy Settings

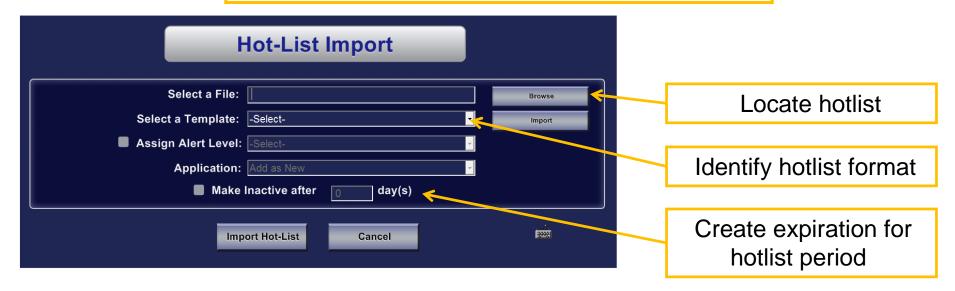


Import Hotlist



Easily import a custom hotlist for future alerting

This Allows you to import a Hotlist that is local to the system

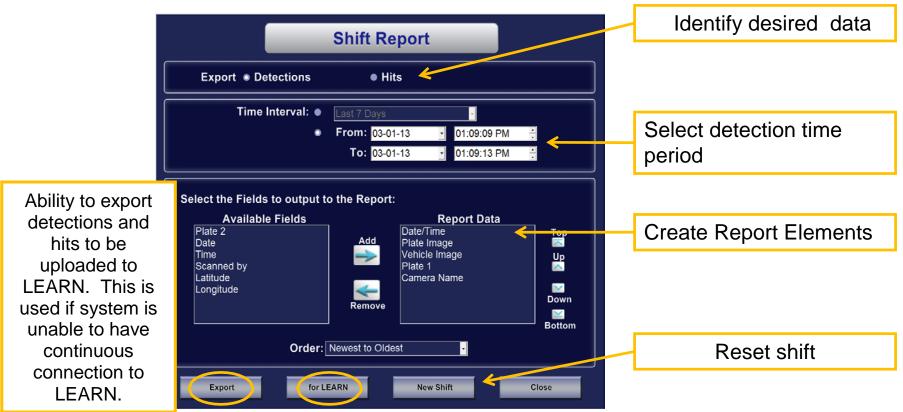


This is also where you would upload your BHL file from LEARN if you are doing a Make Base hotlist to load your Hotlist. Please contact your Agency Manager for more information.

Start Shift/End Shift



Bookmark detection period to create reports or export data for review

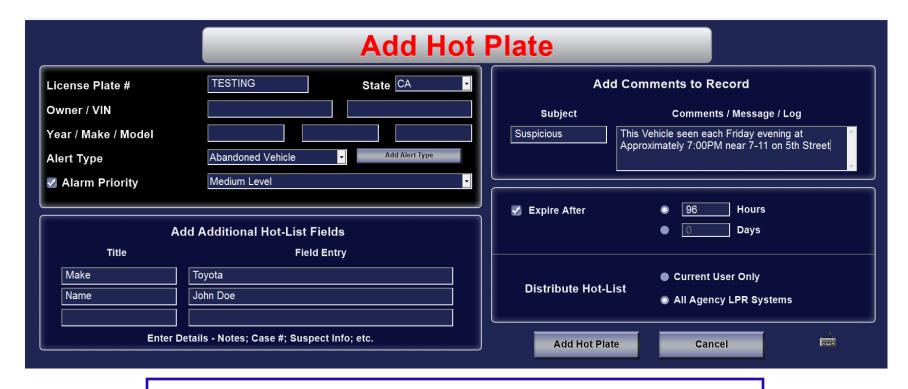


License plate data collection is independent of Start/End Shift function

Add Plate



Easily add an individual license plate to the Hot-List database



Add license plate to local vehicle only or distribute to all other LPR vehicles within agency

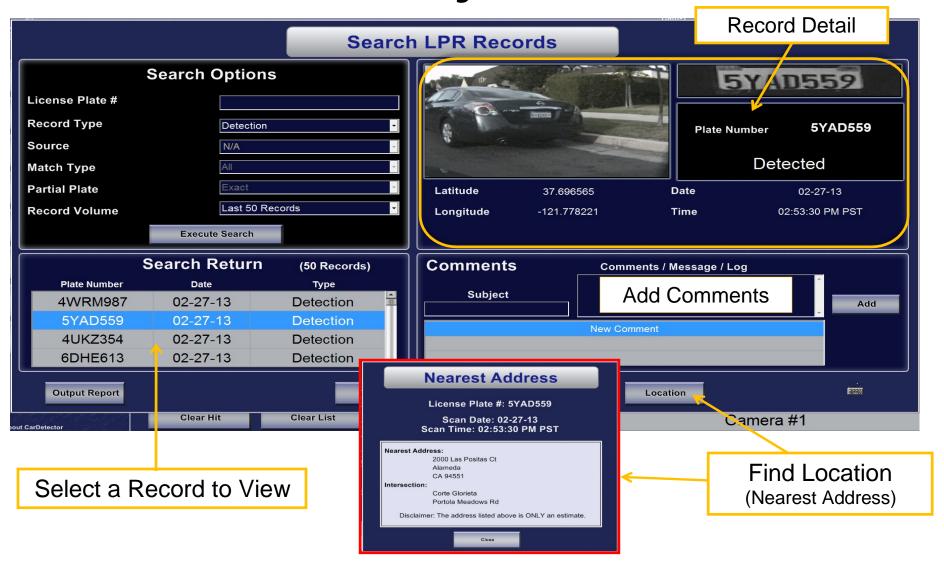
Search Utility



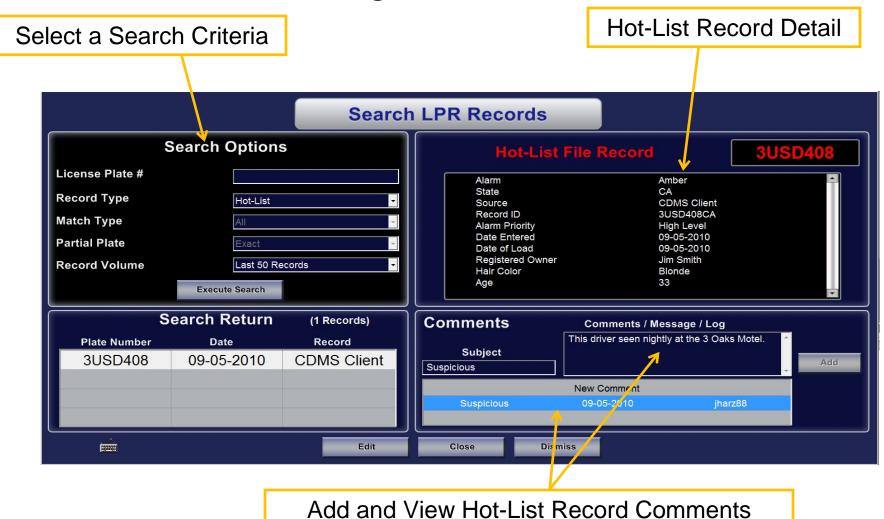
Search among Detections, Hot-Lists, and Hits for CDMS LPR data



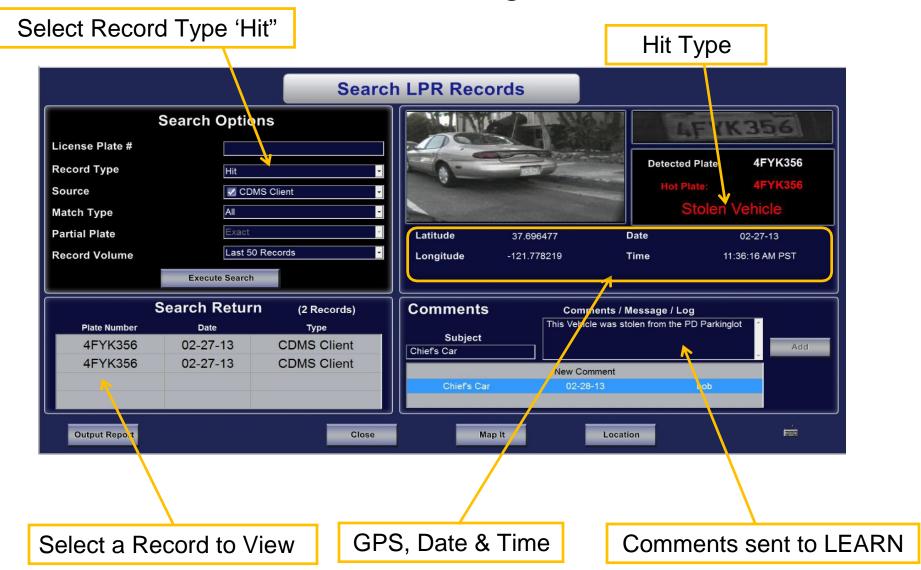
Search Utility - Detections



Search Utility - Hot-list Record



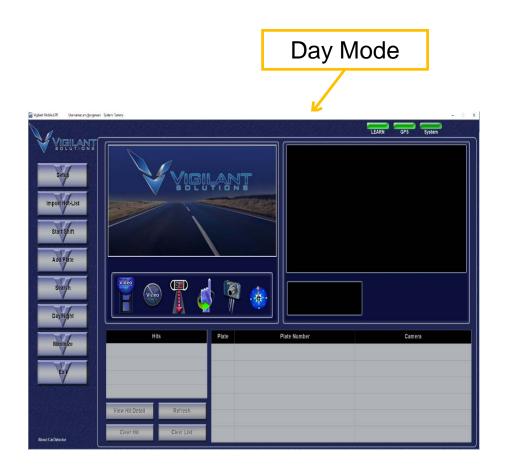
Search Utility - Hits



Day/Night Modes



Toggle between Day Mode and Night Mode





Camera Navigation Bar

Each camera tab allows the operator to view the active video of corresponding

Show/Hide

Display Video Time Left: 9:46

Camera #1

Toggle between Color & IR Video

Camera Aiming

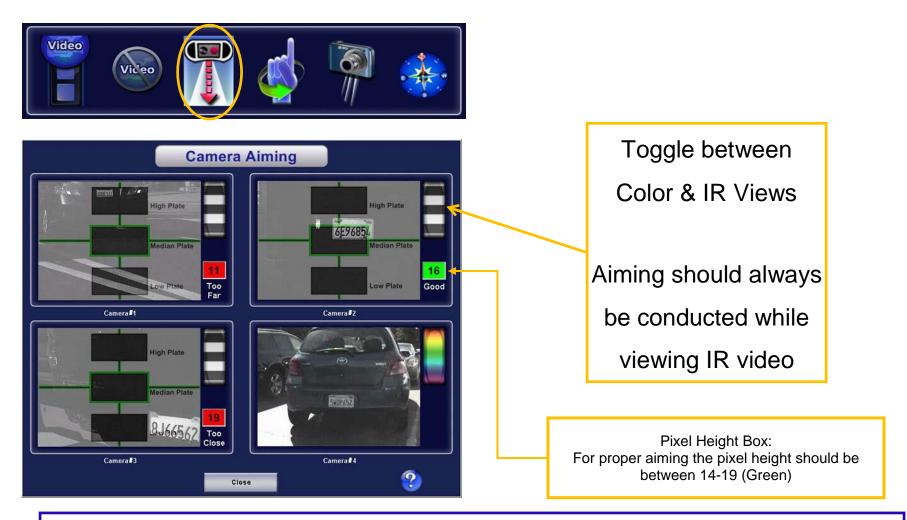
Manual LPR Capture Tool

Take a "Snapshot" of the active

Mobile Hit Hunter Tool

Warning: Live video rendering should only be used while aiming cameras This helps to preserve computer

Camera Navigation Bar - Camera Aiming



All cameras will render simultaneously and allow user to correctly aim each camera

Camera Navigation Bar - Manual Capture



Manual LPR Capture

Select Camera:

Camera 1

Camera 2

Vehicle Image
Will Display
Here

Capture

Capture

Capture

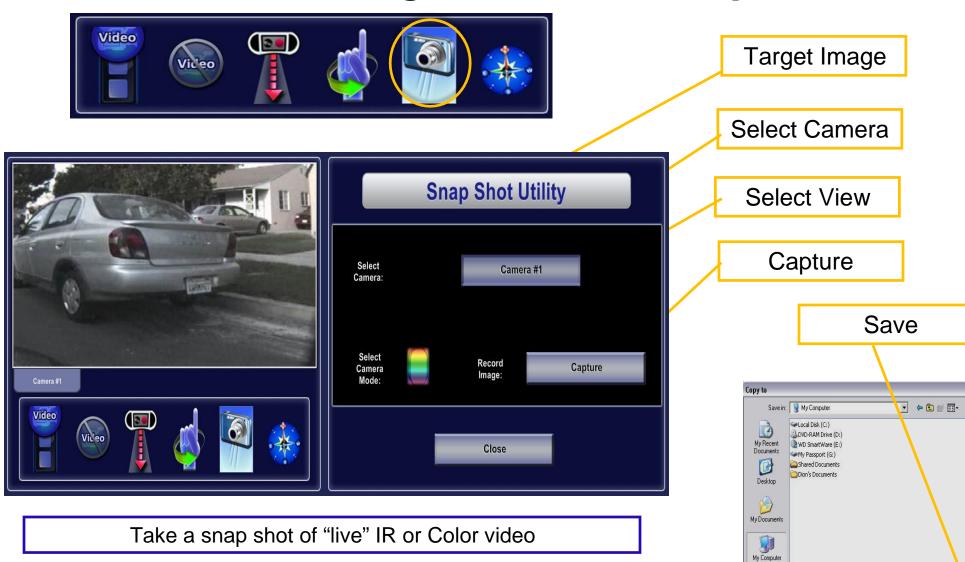
Enter Plate number and Save

Select Camera

Aim the camera at the desired License Plate and Capture the Image



Camera Navigation Bar - Snap Shot

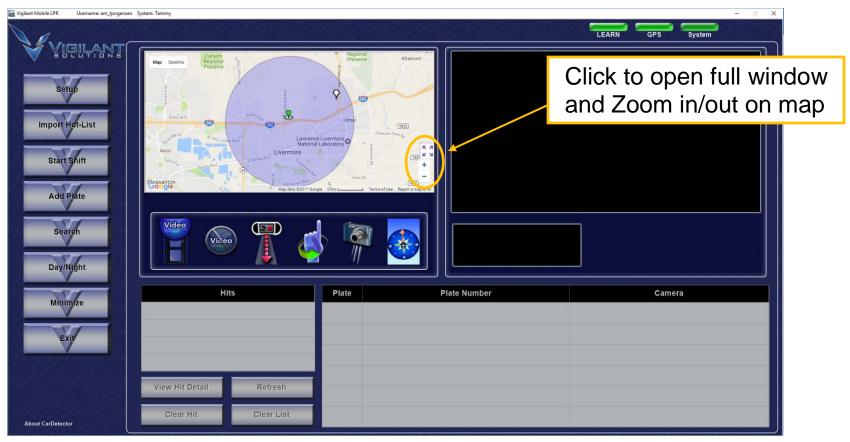


dion_09112010_064046

JPEG (*.ipg)(*.ipg

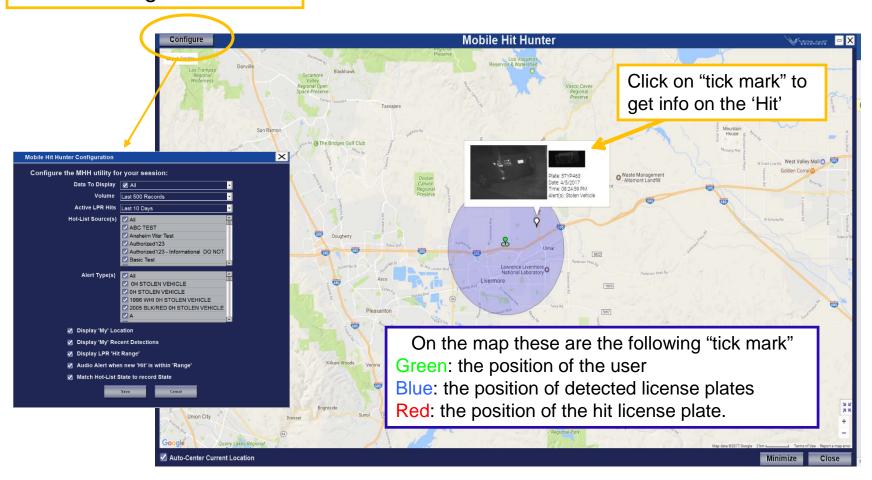
Mobile Hit Hunter





Mobile Hit Hunter - Configuration

To configure MHH



Detection View - Live

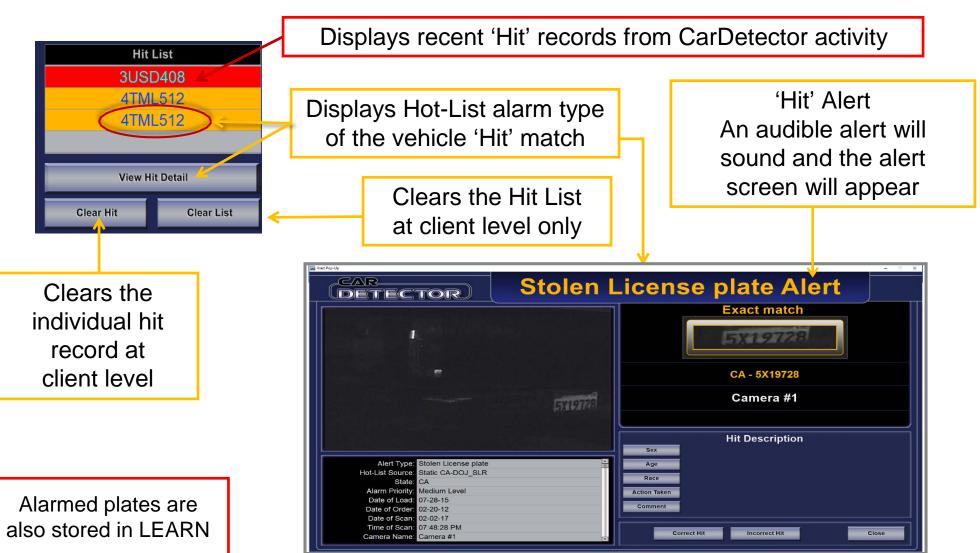
- Provides an IR image of license plate
- Verification can be made plate number matches the OCR results
- Provides a color overview of the vehicle



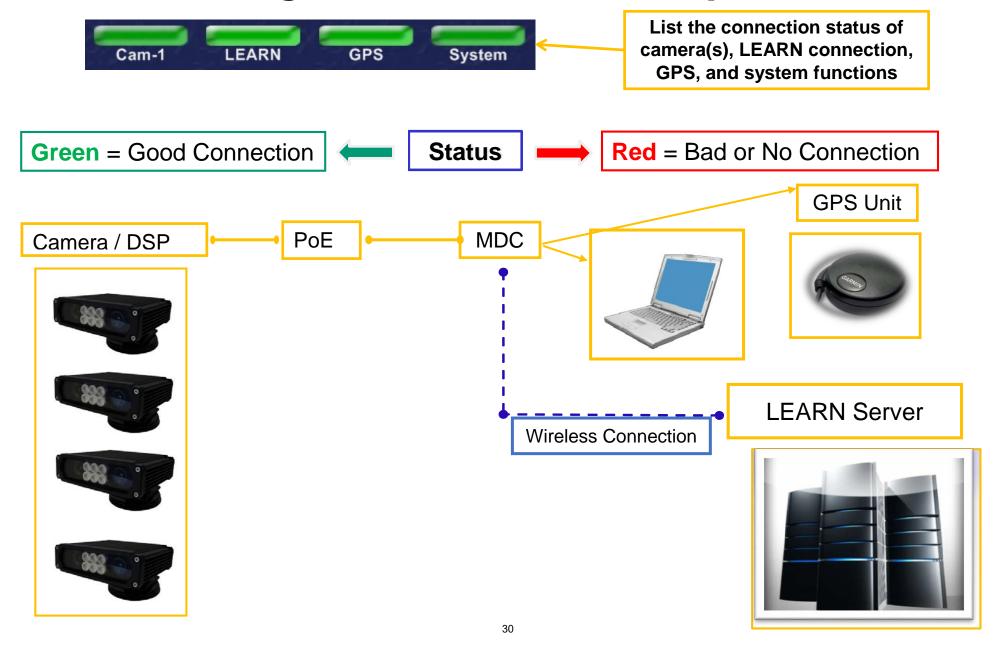
Detection View - From Detection List

LPR Record Data includes: vehicle images, OCR results, GPS data, Date/Time stamp, and camera data Capture Camera Plate Image **OCR Results** Scroll to view Plate **Plate Number** Camera more records 4WRM987 Camera #1 5YAD559 5YAD559 LPR Data Record 4UKZ354 4WRM987 6DHE613 6DHE613 5WQU915 Edit plate Plate Number 5BYP824 data Camera #1 02-27-13 37.69656491 Double-click on any record to see all relevant information

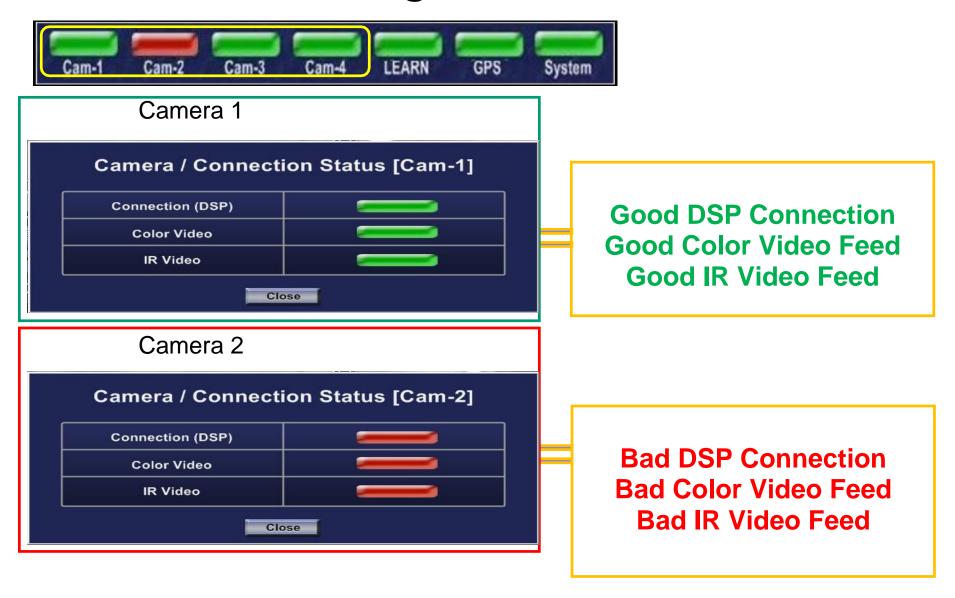
Hit View - From Hit List



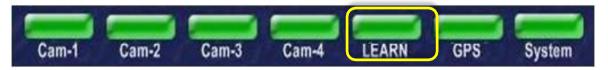
Status Lights - Overview (Reaper Model)



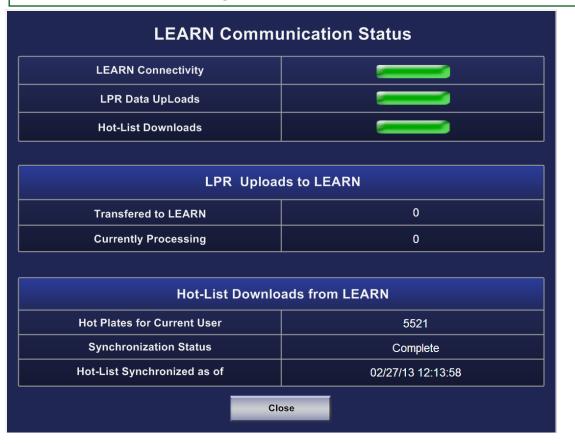
Status Lights - Cameras

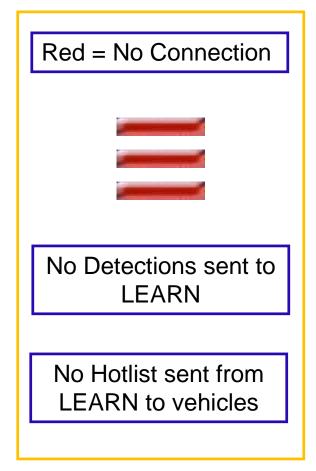


Status Lights - LEARN



Green Indicator Lights = Good LEARN Connection





Status Lights - GPS

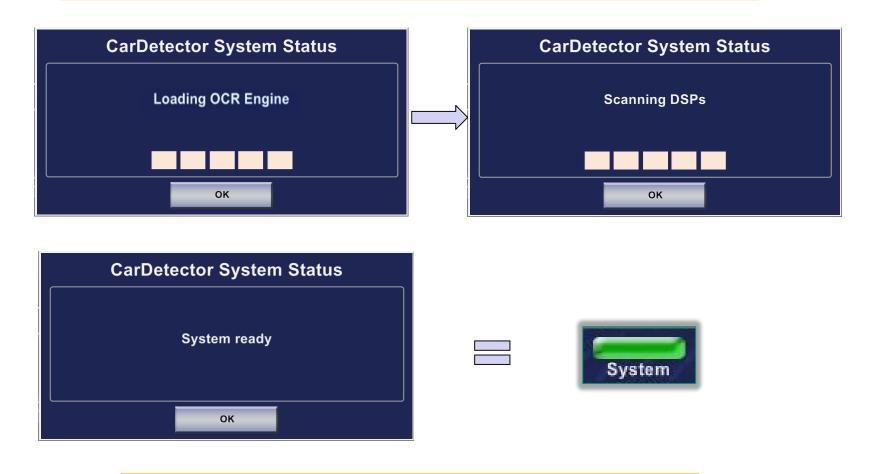




GPS Location – Location button (Search) Yields Nearest Address)

Status Lights - System

System Startup Process – Check System Components



If System Light is RED, LPR System cannot function

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Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

462.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the capture, storage, and use of digital data obtained through the use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology.

462.2 ADMINISTRATION

The ALPR technology, also known as License Plate Recognition (LPR), allows for the automated detection of license plates. It is used by the Los Angeles Port Police to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates, and missing persons. It may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction, and stolen property recovery.

All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention and access, shall be managed by the Support Services Division Commander. The Support Services Division Commander will assign members under his/her command to administer the day-to-day operation of the ALPR equipment and data.

462.2.1 ALPR ADMINISTRATOR

The Support Services Division Commander shall be responsible for developing guidelines and procedures to comply with the requirements of Civil Code § 1798.90.5 et seq. This includes, but is not limited to (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53):

- (a) A description of the job title or other designation of the members and independent contractors who are authorized to use or access the ALPR system or to collect ALPR information.
- (b) Training requirements for authorized users.
- (c) A description of how the ALPR system will be monitored to ensure the security of the information and compliance with applicable privacy laws.
- (d) Procedures for system operators to maintain records of access in compliance with Civil Code § 1798.90.52.
- (e) The title and name of the current designee in overseeing the ALPR operation.
- (f) Working with the Custodian of Records on the retention and destruction of ALPR data.
- (g) Ensuring this policy and related procedures are conspicuously posted on the Department's website.

462.3 OPERATIONS

Use of an ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department members shall not use, or allow others to use the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53).

(a) An ALPR shall only be used for official law enforcement business.

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- (b) An ALPR may be used in conjunction with any routine patrol operation or criminal investigation. Reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not required before using an ALPR.
- (c) While an ALPR may be used to canvass license plates around any crime scene, particular consideration should be given to using ALPR-equipped cars to canvass areas around homicides, shootings, and other major incidents. Partial license plates reported during major crimes should be entered into the ALPR system in an attempt to identify suspect vehicles.
- (d) No member of this Department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training.
- (e) No ALPR operator may access department, state, or federal data unless otherwise authorized to do so.
- (f) Officers shall verify an ALPR response through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) before initiating a directed traffic enforcement stop or lawful detention that is based solely on an ALPR alert.

462.4 DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

The Support Services Division Commander is responsible for ensuring systems and processes are in place for the proper collection and retention of ALPR data. Data will be transferred from vehicles to the designated storage in accordance with Department procedures.

All ALPR data downloaded to the server should be stored for a minimum of five years pursuant to the Los Angeles Harbor Department (LAHD) retention schedule. Thereafter, ALPR data should be purged in conformance with the LAHD document retention procedures unless it has become, or it is reasonable to believe it will become, evidence in a criminal or civil action, or is subject to a discovery request or other lawful action to produce records. In those circumstances, the applicable data should be downloaded from the server onto portable media and booked into evidence.

462.5 ACCOUNTABILITY

All data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Los Angeles Port Police will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of stored data (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53):

- (a) All ALPR data downloaded to the mobile workstation and in storage shall be accessible only through a login/password-protected system capable of documenting all access of information by name, date, and time (Civil Code § 1798.90.52).
- (b) Members approved to access ALPR data under these guidelines are permitted to access the data for legitimate law enforcement purposes only, such as when the data relate to a specific criminal investigation or department-related civil or administrative action.
- (c) ALPR system audits should be conducted on a regular basis.

For security or data breaches, see policy manual § 810.

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462.6 POLICY

The policy of the Los Angeles Port Police is to utilize ALPR technology to capture and store digital license plate data and images while recognizing the established privacy rights of the public.

All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for the official use of this department. Since such data may contain confidential information, it is not open to public review.

462.7 RELEASING ALPR DATA

The ALPR data may be shared only with other law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for official law enforcement purposes or as otherwise permitted by law, using the following procedures:

- (a) The ALPR data may be shared only with other law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for official law enforcement purposes or as otherwise permitted by law, who are signatories to a mutual participating agency agreement, or
- (b) If the agency makes a written request for the ALPR data that includes:
 - 1. The name of the agency.
 - 2. The name of the person requesting.
 - 3. The intended purpose of obtaining the information.
- (c) The request or participating agency agreement is reviewed by the Support Services Division Commander or their authorized designee and approved before the request is fulfilled.
- (d) The approved request or participating agency agreement is retained on file.

Requests for ALPR data by non-law enforcement or non-prosecutorial agencies will be processed as provided in policy manual § 810 (Civil Code § 1798.90.55).

462.8 TRAINING

The Deputy Chief of Professional Development & Training Group should ensure that members receive department-approved training for those authorized to use or access the ALPR system (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53).