



Photo by Barry Shaw

*Sergeant Jim Eveker of the Coral Springs Police Department: ease of use was a key factor in the selection of March Networks DVRs*

## Coral Springs Promotes Public Safety

### City Network Links Police Station, School and Park

The City of Coral Springs, Florida, 20 miles northwest of Ft. Lauderdale, began deploying DVR technology to improve security at its police station in 2004. Impressed with the performance of its March Networks™ DVRs, the City has since expanded the system to a charter school and a municipal park.

In the aftermath of 9/11, municipal leaders moved quickly to “harden up” the Coral Springs Police Department’s headquarters.

“Prior to 9/11, our building was very customer-friendly and very open,” says Sergeant Jim Eveker. “The City decided to secure the station with a perimeter wall and gates that would prevent vehicles from driving right up in front of the building.”

The “hardening up” also called for a video recording system that would allow police to monitor the station’s perimeter and replace an aging VCR system within the building.

“We sent out a request for proposals and had 28 companies respond,” recalls Sergeant Eveker. “We shortlisted five of them and evaluated a number of systems before selecting March Networks DVRs.”

The decision boiled down to the systems’ ease of use and the positive impression made by March Networks Certified Solution Provider, Benham Security, based in nearby Sunrise.

Aside from monitoring the perimeter of the station, the DVR systems record video from cameras in the station’s booking areas, evidence lockers and lobby.

“We want to make sure that everything is secure and safe,” says Sergeant Eveker. “It’s important to us to ensure that officers and

**“Anytime people are in the police station after being placed under arrest and brought into the booking facility, they are on video the whole time.”**

**Sgt. Jim Eveker**  
Coral Springs Police Department

suspects aren’t getting injured and that any incidents are recorded.

“Anytime people are in the police station after being placed under arrest and brought into the booking facility, they are on video the whole time.”

Several months after the installation of the DVR systems at the police station, the municipally owned charter school decided to upgrade to a digital system. School security staff made some inquiries about the police department’s system, and a decision was made to standardize on March Networks technology.

The Coral Springs Charter School has 1,600 students in Grades 6 to 12, and is linked by fiber to the police station via the City Hall, a few blocks away.

Day-to-day management and monitoring of the systems are looked after by school security staff, but police are able to access live or archived video from the school’s DVRs to assist them in responding to an emergency.

## Coral Springs

**Coral Springs, Florida, ([www.coralsprings.org](http://www.coralsprings.org)) is a city of 125,000 people located 20 miles northwest of Fort Lauderdale. The Coral Springs Police Department employs 200 sworn officers and has a total of 300 employees.**

“The systems have reduced vandalism, theft and horseplay in the hallways,” says Peter Liberatos, the school’s director of security. “It took things that were grey and made them black and white.

“If an administrator asks me to investigate a particular incident, I can usually provide an answer in five or 10 minutes.”

### Burglaries

A wave of auto burglaries at city parks in

deploy video surveillance at other city parks.

Digital technology has dramatically streamlined the search for archived video clips, says Sergeant Eveker.

To find evidence of overnight activity in the police station’s booking room, for example, he uses the March Networks masking tool to define a search area within the camera view, then quickly scans video segments tagged to reflect motion.

“I may be looking for activity within a six-hour period and the DVR will give me a list of, say, six occasions where there was motion detected. It saves a lot of time. With an analog system, I’d have to sit and watch the video tape for hours.”

Sergeant Eveker also likes the ability to copy and send video clips by email.

In one instance, a suspect being interviewed in the station’s booking room admitted to a crime elsewhere. Coral Springs police simply copied an image of the person and emailed it to a detective in the jurisdiction in question.

“We didn’t have that capability with analog. We had to make a copy of the tape and hand deliver it.

“We’re very happy with the March Networks systems,” says Sergeant Eveker. “They’re very user friendly. They’re very easy to operate - even for someone who isn’t very computer literate - and it’s very easy for me to teach other people to operate.” ✨

The DVR system is housed in a park building and records video from 12 infrared cameras installed in the parking lot. The system is set up to record the license plates of vehicles exiting the park’s main entrance and is linked to the police station two miles away via a cable modem.

The police plan to assess the impact of the system on crime and decide whether to

## Benham Security

**Benham Security ([www.benhamsecurity.com](http://www.benhamsecurity.com)) supplies CCTV and access control systems and provides remote monitoring and reporting services to the residential, business and public sector markets. Founded in 1968, the company serves a nationwide customer base from its corporate headquarters in Florida. To contact a sales representative, please call 1.800.940.4112, or email [information@benhamsecurity.com](mailto:information@benhamsecurity.com)**