

Bradford County Sheriff's Office



CUSTOMER

Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Bradford County, Fla.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Achieved CJIS compliance

Boosted employee and public safety, and ensured asset protection

Ease-of-use saves valuable time

Scalable to meet growing needs of the department

Flexible and modular to add new features as needed

Excellent support services through manufacturer and integrator

Cost-effective solution

Customer

Home to 30,000 residents, Bradford County is a rural community located 45 miles Southwest of Jacksonville, Fla. Committed to keeping the county a safe place to live, work and play, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office is mandated to protect its citizens and at the same time, safeguard sensitive criminal justice information, such as fingerprints and backgrounds from unauthorized exposure. Leveraging innovative solutions to accomplish these goals, the Sheriff's Office replaced its key-based system with a more advanced access control solution more than 20 years ago. Over time, the County has expanded the Vanderbilt Security Management System (SMS) throughout its main buildings to ensure employee and public safety and privacy of information.

The Challenge

Twenty years ago, the County replaced keys with the Vanderbilt SMS (Security Management System), known at the time as the Geoffrey Access Control system. "With the key holder system, we had no real way of tracking who was accessing what and when," explained Christopher Hamer, Network Administrator

at the Bradford County Sheriff's Office. "The access control system provided a better way to control traffic on a need-to-know basis."

But when their existing access control system's SQL server crashed after many years, the Sheriff's Office decided it was time to explore other options. Ultimately, they decided to stick with the SMS system and contacted Vanderbilt, who connected them with an SMS Certified Dealer, Cam Connections, a division of Protection 1. A nationwide provider of custom-tailored security and loss prevention solutions, Cam Connections' mission is to provide unmatched service while delivering electronic security solutions that are expertly tailored to the specific needs of each individual client. "Cam Connections fixed the problem in less than 24 hours," he said. Hamer was so impressed he decided to reinvest in the Vanderbilt SMS solution. "Vanderbilt and Cam Connections gave us excellent support and made us realize just how fortunate we are to have this system."

According to Garret King, sales representative at Cam Connections, Bradford County is committed to

VANDERBILT SMS

Powerful open platform design easily integrates with other security and business systems.

Intuitive interface minimizes system administration, management and maintenance.

Unlimited reporting structure and detailed reporting options.

Unlimited number of cardholders and readers allows for complete flexibility.

Scalable to meet today's and tomorrow's needs.

For more information on Vanderbilt SMS, please visit us on the Web at www.vanderbiltindustries.com.



the Vanderbilt platform in part because of the team's effort to continually reinvent it. "Bradford County started out with the technology 20 years ago and keeps it cutting edge to meet current and future needs," said King. "It's amazing to look at where it started and where we are now."

The Solution

To manage more than 250 active cardholders, 200 sporadic users and 900 daily transactions, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office has five Vanderbilt SMS clients running on a Windows 2008 virtual machine and installed 80 card readers to control access on both internal and external doors at the Sheriff's Office and Jail, Narcotics Task Force Office and courthouse. Cam Connections installed Allegion AD400 Series wireless lock sets to work in conjunction with the Vanderbilt reader controllers. The County also added a reader to the vehicle gate at the Narcotics Task Force Building for tighter access control. As the system administrator, Hamer can add new users and update data in real-time and troubleshoot when necessary. "I can also access the system remotely from home if there's a failure, a last-minute change request or to initiate a selective lockdown," stated Hamer. Dispatch personnel at the Sheriff's Office and courthouse administration use the alarm-monitoring feature from the SMS platform.

According to Hamer, the Vanderbilt SMS solution is very easy to use. "I can handle dynamic personnel requirements and accommodate very liquid situations in real-time," noted Hamer, who added that managing users and maintaining the cardholder database is also straightforward. "The possibilities of what we can do are endless. In fact, I bet we can add functionality that goes beyond what the system designer ever intended." Hamer describes the Vanderbilt SMS as very scalable and modular, offering the flexibility to add new features easily and quickly. For example, he is currently developing panic cards that will give specific users the ability initiate a lockdown in an emergency with a swipe of the card.

While Hamer has the knowledge and expertise to develop many of these new features in-house, Vanderbilt and Cam Connections have provided excellent support along the way. "Vanderbilt and Cam Connections have been true life savers, especially when we were at risk of going in too many directions," claimed Hamer. "Together, they keep us on track."

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2 Cranberry Drive
Parisippany, NJ 07054
Phone 973-316-3900

The Results

The Vanderbilt SMS has helped the Bradford County Sheriff's Office meet Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy requirements, which specify what security precautions must be taken to protect sensitive information. "By controlling access to certain areas, the Vanderbilt SMS helps us make sure that all personal information is 100 percent protected at all times," said Hamer. Privacy of information is critical across the organization, but particularly at the Narcotics Task Force Office where a great deal of information about active investigations is stored. "This type of information should not be accessible to any unauthorized individuals."

In addition, the elimination of key holders has dramatically improved overall security. "All access requests are documented and monitored and all areas that need to be protected have card readers," explained Hamer. Use of the Vanderbilt SMS has resulted in fewer breaches and better asset protection. For example, at the Narcotics Task Force Office, a lot of valuable equipment used in covert operations is stored and now protected. "Being able to document access to all areas is an amazing advancement over a key-based system."



The Vanderbilt SMS also makes it easy for Hamer to add new users, change access rights and amend functions in less time – particularly important because there is a 10 percent user turnover each quarter. "Vanderbilt SMS makes it incredibly easy to reassign people based on roles," stated Hamer. "In fact, I can redefine someone's entire access profile in a matter of minutes." This streamlined process has eliminated the time previously spent dealing with lost keys, re-cutting them and changing locks.

Above all, Hamer values the level of functionality he gets from the Vanderbilt SMS, especially compared to other industry solutions that would've been exponentially more expensive to install. "Replacing our Vanderbilt SMS with a comparable solution would've required rewiring and rekeying all our doors at an exorbitant cost," claimed Hamer. "Reinvesting and growing our Vanderbilt SMS was the smart choice."

The fact that Bradford County Sheriff's Office has been using Vanderbilt SMS technology for more than 20 years is a true testament to the solution's performance and scalability, as well as the company's superior support services. "We will extend the Vanderbilt SMS to our EMS building and may add granular access control at the courthouse to segment areas even further," concluded Hamer. "We have every intention of expanding and growing the Vanderbilt SMS solution as time, need and budget allows."

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