

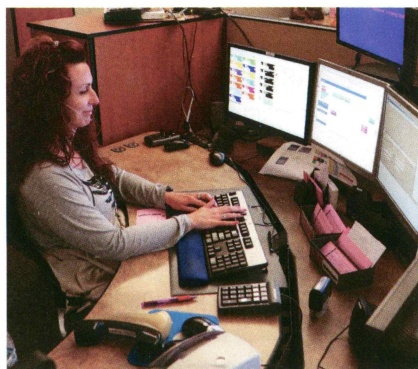
COURTESY OF CITY OF WESTMINSTER (COLORADO) POLICE DEPARTMENT

# SAVING TIME & SAVING LIVES

How a high-tech evidence management solution is helping Las Vegas Metro and Westminster police fulfill incident recording requests in a fraction of the time.

By Linda Haelsen

**O**n June 8, 2014, three people were killed in a shooting spree in Las Vegas, Nevada. The rampage started at a pizza restaurant where two officers were ambushed and murdered while on their lunch break. After brutally shooting the officers, the assailants fled to a nearby Walmart where they shot a civilian and engaged responding officers with gunfire. As the incident unfolded, 9-1-1 calls came streaming in from the different locations.



COURTESY OF LVMPD COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

The shooting spree may have only lasted minutes, but the ensuing investigation was very complex.

The 9-1-1 audio and radio transmissions were a key part of the investigation and needed to be retrieved, assembled and reviewed for a clear picture of what happened. Staci Fason, a Research Assistant for the Las Vegas Metro Police Department (LVMPD) Communications Bureau, headed up the effort.

“With an event of this magnitude, there was a large initial response, from our own

department and neighboring agencies,” says Fason. “And when the shooting was over, large numbers of detectives were dispatched to the scene. The incident was open for almost two days straight. As you can imagine, it took a long time to retrieve and piece together all the audio recordings.”

While incidents like this do not happen every day, they do highlight a critical but often overlooked function of emergency communications centers: fulfilling audio reproduction requests. Audio recordings