

# LAW ENFORCEMENT EVIDENCE STORAGE

- Police Department
- Sheriff's Office
- Detention Facility
- Security Company
- Federal Law Enforcement Agency

## PROBLEM

This police department's evidence room was in chaos. Running out of space was creating havoc. Many pieces of evidence were missing I.D. tags, some were randomly stuffed into cubbyholes or thrown onto a shelf, and many pieces were next to impossible to find when cases were going to trial. Some evidence was just plain lost.

Because of the lack of proper storage and no logical and efficient evidence storage system, criminal cases were getting dismissed by judges who cited that the department's "chain of custody"—the ability to guarantee the identity and integrity of the any piece of evidence from collection at the crime scene through to reporting of the forensic test results—and "best rules of evidence" were being violated.

Legal experts say that in any given year across the U.S., local police department violations of these two key legal rules enable thousands of offenders to walk free or plead to lesser crimes.

## OBJECTIVE

To ensure that effective management of evidence, records, and property—critical to good law enforcement and successful prosecution of criminal cases—is accomplished. A criminal case should not be compromised with sloppy, inefficient, make-do storage of evidence. Using a state-of-the-art, high-density mobile storage system can optimize any department's storage capacity and will ensure true item accountability, protection, and retrieval—thus eliminating existing storage problems. The "chain of custody" and "best rules of evidence" provisions of the law need never be violated again. The ultimate goal is to have every piece of evidence correctly identified and stored so that it is retrievable at a moment's notice.

## SOLUTION

We worked with the police department to develop a foolproof, second-to-none storage system using a high density mobile storage system. The results were eye-opening, according to the department. The new electrical high density mobile storage system:

- Delivers up to five times the capacity of the old storage system in the same space.
- Eliminates misplacing of evidence and lost items with proven security features like lockable units.



- Offers the ability to run a random access storage solution managed from the personal computer interface utilizing RFID and Barcode tracking on the shelves and evidence tags.
- Enables more than one officer at a time to use the system.
- Efficiently stores everything from files to bagged physical evidence to weapons to personal effects.
- Keeps all files and evidence close at hand, thus reducing the need to use any off-site storage.
- Can be easily upgraded and reconfigured when the department's needs change.
- Meets professional accreditation and Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies requirements.
- When managed from the personal computer interface, can close itself and protect the evidence from direct flame and collateral water damage if a fire alarm is raised.

As a result of our state of the art electrical high density mobile storage system, criminal cases will no longer be compromised or thrown out of court because of the police department's improper evidence storage.

