



## A SoCal University Commencement: Protecting a World Leader and Thousands of Students

HOW A UNIVERSITY ENHANCED A YEAR-LONG SECURITY PLAN FOR AN OUTDOOR COMMENCEMENT, ULTIMATELY SECURING UNMONITORED ENTRANCES IN JUST 4 HOURS

SoCal University\* is one of the state's leading educational institutions, with thousands of full-time students. It is situated on thousands of open acres, the equivalent in acreage of over 18,000 football fields.

The speaker\* was scheduled to give the commencement speech in Spring 2017, speaking about community and diversity.

Security for students and faculty is always a priority and top-of-mind when high-profile events take place around campus. For Jerry\*, Campus Physical Security Program Manager, the highest priority is fostering a sense of security among students and parents; their feedback in terms of security expectations is at the forefront of his agenda.

*\*Names masked for privacy*

**Industry:**  
Education

**Location:**  
California

**Application:**  
Rapid and portable  
License Plate Reader

**Products:**  
V5 Portable License  
Plate Reader (V5 LPR)

The university has a state-of-the-art security program, but due to the public profile of the speaker and the possibility of protests, it wanted an especially comprehensive security program and was working with aid agencies and the state department for a full year prior to the event.

Upon review, a critical security challenge remained unsolved. Multiple public thoroughfares leading into campus were still unmonitored. Two facts made securing these access points particularly critical:

- While the speaker is admired worldwide, he is also a controversial figure, whose appearances have incited protests from some students, due to complex international relationships.
- The potentially huge number of attendees who would be on campus in a single day – numbering in the tens of thousands – with many arriving through these unmonitored thoroughfares.

Jerry knew that adding traditional monitoring solutions for these access areas would be difficult to do in a short timeframe because access to fixed infrastructure (power or communications) at these entries and exits points was not readily available. His research revealed that the cost of implementing traditional solutions, with integration into the overall security system, along with grounds-keeping, was estimated at \$80,000 per location. So, the total expenditure for the nearly ten entrances would be about a half-million dollars.

Yet, even if the university decided to cover the cost, the lengthy time required to implement the project excluded it as an option for the upcoming commencement, which was now just six weeks away.

### **Access Points Secured...in 4 Hours**

The university needed an innovative security solution and Jerry realized V5 Systems provided a unique solution to this particular challenge.

V5 Systems technology allows rapid deployment of video surveillance monitoring as a result of its independence from the grid. This core technology also frees license plate readers (LPR) from fixed power and connectivity as well. The 'aha' moment came for Jerry when he realized he had the ability to deploy the LPRs rapidly and economically,

The unique, V5 Portable License Plate Reader (V5 LPR) also provided Jerry with the ability to:

- Easily integrate with the rest of their security system
- Import license plate lists
- Create hotlists for ad hoc queries
- Receive real-time alerts

Jerry commented, "No other technology we considered offered the capabilities of V5 Systems' technology. It fit our needs. We were especially interested in the wireless feature, the rapid deployment time and not having to incur the costs to trench for power. But we had to consider many other things as well. For example, the use of license plate recognition technology is a sensitive topic, so we had to factor in such things as the retention period. We also liked the nighttime accuracy of the technology. We prefer to see everything on 1 VMS, so the easy integration the technology offers is important, too."

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## Up and Running in an Afternoon

Jerry and his team began working with V5 Systems in mid-May, just two weeks before the event. It took a total of just 4 hours to do the installation. After just hours of configuration, the system was up and running. Testing began, and the system worked as expected. Soon it was ready to perform license plate reading at the 8 remote entrances and communicate real-time information and alerts.

## Surveillance Footprint Expanded in Record Time

The speech by the speaker and the entire commencement occurred without incident. Now that the commencement is over the university uses the V5 LPR technology to monitor traffic, Amber Alerts and metered parking, as well as to identify stolen vehicles. The security team has also had inquiries and requests for searches related to ongoing cases from local law enforcement that have resulted in confirmed hits.

Jerry states, "The technology worked really well. We used it to evaluate vehicles of interest. It allows us to expand past our traditional infrastructure and expand our footprint for surveillance and situational awareness. As a result, it expands our capabilities as an agency and university to be more responsive to our community."

## Summary

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### Challenge

SoCal University was hosting a beloved, but controversial, speaker at its commencement, an event attended by tens of thousands of people. Because of the sensitive nature of the speaker's presence, our security team wanted to secure all vulnerable areas on campus. Nearly 10 public thoroughfares that provide access into the university were not yet secured, with only 6 weeks to go before the event.

### Solution

Jerry, the Campus Physical Security Program Manager, found V5 Systems' suite of self-powered, portable security solutions. An innovator, Jerry decided to use the V5 License Plate Reader (V5 LPR) to secure the eight thoroughfares into campus, areas where traditional power infrastructure did not exist. The installation of the V5 LPRs took only 4 hours to complete.

### Results

In addition to its pre-existing security plan that had been in the works for over a year, SoCal University was able to deploy the V5 Systems solution in 4 hours, saving SCU nearly half a million dollars in trenching fees.