FWC Division of Law Enforcement
Interim Policy Memorandum
IPM 12-01

DATE: February 8, 2012

TO: All Division members

FROM: Colonel Jim Brown
Director, Division of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Use of GPS Tracking Devices

This Interim Policy Memorandum provides guidance to Division members by establishing policies and procedures on the use of GPS Tracking Devices. This IPM shall remain in effect until these policies and procedures are incorporated in an existing General Order.

(1) Authorization from a Major or higher-ranking sworn member shall be required prior to the installation or use of any GPS tracking device.

(2) Prior to installation, the lead investigating member shall document the following information using the Incident Summary Report Narrative (FWC/DLE-045A):
   a. A synopsis of the suspected criminal activity articulating probable cause,
   b. Suspect information,
   c. Vehicle information, and
   d. An event log documenting activities related to the investigation, including documentation of supervisory approval.

(3) A court order supported by probable cause issued by a court having jurisdiction will be obtained prior to installation of the device.

(4) Only personnel familiar with the equipment will be authorized to install or use a GPS tracking device. This would include training provided by the manufacturer or familiarization training provided by another member, or representative of another local, state, or federal agency. Prior to installation, members should practice a mock install on similar equipment to improve efficiency.

(5) A cover team will be in place and available during the installation, maintenance, and removal of a GPS tracking device.

(6) GPS tracking devices will not be loaned out to other agencies without approval from the Regional Commander or the Investigations Section Leader.

(7) Regardless of the outcome of the criminal investigation, members will complete an investigative report documenting:
   a. The date and time of installation, the date and time of removal of the device, and any maintenance access to the tracking device while in use (e.g. battery replacement, etc.),
   b. Any detection or confrontations by suspects or other persons during the installation, removal, or maintenance, and
   c. A summary and analysis of the data, including documentation of the evidentiary value of the GPS tracking data.