



The Importance of Efficient Cash Documentation for Law Enforcement

Seized cash often represents successful law enforcement. But after seizing all the money comes the important step of documenting it, which can have wide-ranging implications: from the efficiency of police agencies to the funding available to them.

Cash Seizures

In June 2016, Miami-Dade Police, acting on information received from the Drug Enforcement Administration, executed a search warrant of an area store and discovered a major marijuana grow house. In searching the owner's residence, police uncovered several vacuum-sealed packages of cash stored in buckets hidden in the walls, and a safe filled with money. How much? \$24 million in \$100 bill bundles, the largest cash seizure in Miami-Dade Police history¹. At 528 pounds, the pile of cash was heavier than an adult female grizzly bear. The bills would be tagged as evidence in criminal proceedings against the suspect charged with drug trafficking and money laundering.

Equitable sharing

After officials make a bust, where does that seized money go? Through a program known as Equitable Sharing, much of the money usually goes to the same law enforcement agency that confiscated it. Local agencies can receive up to 80% of seized cash and assets, with the other 20% remaining with the federal government.² If a federal agency performs a seizure, the funds are turned over to the Department of Justice. So in the Miami-Dade historic bust, the local agency could have received up to \$19.2 million.

The cash seized by local police departments is routinely used to purchase government vehicles, computers or equipment, police training, and K9 dogs, supplementing reduced federal and state funding. But before any of this can take place the cash must be properly counted and documented so that it can be used for evidence. This can be more challenging than one would assume.

Cataloging challenges

Cataloging large sums of money by hand can be a painstaking and time-consuming ordeal. It's also not an efficient use of an officer's time who can return the greatest value to his or her agency by getting criminals off the streets. DEA agents earn between \$50,000 to \$95,000 each year³, ostensibly, to make busts and not to manually count bills. Still, the DEA handbook specifies that: *agents are supposed to count all seized cash, if practical, and then seal the evidence in a bag or container.* It's an onerous responsibility, and a recent audit by the Inspector General revealed that it's rarely performed because of the cost and risks associated with inaccurate reporting of seized currency.⁴

Law enforcement agencies must not only count and sort currency, but record the serial numbers in text, bill by bill. With large amounts of cash like in the Miami bust or even those that are considerably smaller, this meticulous record keeping can prove to be tedious, labor-intensive, and highly prone to human error.



Cash counting solutions

Automated cash counting solutions free up valuable human resources, allowing officers to focus on their core responsibility of protecting and serving the public. Cummins Allison's JetScan iFX currency counter counts and denominates up to 1,600 mixed bills per minute, 33% faster than comparable currency counting models. It provides accurate serial number capture of every bill at up to 1,200 bills per minute in a single pass, greatly reducing mistakes and the time officers spend on cataloging. With fewer jams and advanced counterfeit detection, it's the fastest, most precise cash counter available. As a portable solution, the JetScan iFX can be taken into the field to catalog or document cash wherever it is seized.

The JetScan iFX provides incredible reliability, and saves officials up to 80% time on counting money. The federal government spends an estimated \$15,000 training each Border

Patrol agent and state police officer. This expensive training provides the highest return on investment when these skilled officials are actively keeping communities safe rather than tallying bills. Manually counting and documenting seized money can be a time-consuming hassle that is inefficient and prone to errors. The JetScan iFX provides fast and accurate tallies, saving time and protecting the investment taxpayers make every year in law enforcement officials.

As a global leader in currency management solutions, with over 125 years of experience, Cummins Allison remains a trusted partner for customers in the financial, retail, gaming, vending, law enforcement and government markets. To find out more about our services, contact one of our local representatives at www.cumminsallison.com/law.

Cummins Allison's JetScan iFX cash counter retains a digital record of all currency that can be digitally stored or shared with other law enforcement agencies.

¹ <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/06/16/dirty-money-where-does-it-all-go.html>

² <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/06/16/dirty-money-where-does-it-all-go.html>

³ <http://www.drugenforcementedu.org/salaries/>

⁴ <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/DEA/a0706/final.pdf>



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Cummins Allison is a global leader in developing solutions that quickly and efficiently count, sort and authenticate currency, checks and coin. With a 100-year heritage of leadership in technology and product innovation, Cummins Allison serves the majority of financial institutions worldwide, as well as leading organizations in retail, gaming, law enforcement and government. Ninety-seven percent of our customers recommend our products and services.

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