

Brother PocketJet® Mobile Thermal Printers Public Safety Case Study

PocketJet mobile thermal printers provide a better alternative to inkjets for the Winter Garden Police Department.



"For the past several weeks, I have been using/testing the thermal printer. After I was issued the printer, I am happy to report the printer is a more practical printer for our patrol vehicles."

**Officer Hoi Khuu
Winter Garden Police Department**

The Winter Garden Police Department wanted to find a better and more reliable alternative to the mobile inkjet printers they had been deploying in their vehicles. A demo unit of the Brother™ PocketJet® 6 mobile thermal printer was provided to the department for evaluation that included the full-page thermal printer, a Brother mount that enclosed both the printer and paper, a vehicle power adapter, and Brother continuous-roll thermal paper.

Business Problem

The Winter Garden Police Department had been using inkjet printers in their vehicles for some time. The inkjet printers had presented a number of issues over time, some of which made them much more unreliable than originally expected.

With the current inkjet model the department had deployed, accidental breakage was a major issue. The inkjet had many small and apparently brittle plastic parts that tended to fail under routine use in the police vehicles; and in many cases when these parts failed the entire inkjet became inoperable. Exposed openings and exposed gears meant that small objects could fall into these, jamming the printer at best and at worst causing total inkjet failure and required replacement.

Reliance on inkjet technology brought its own problems. Officers had to stock up on cartridges before their shifts. If unused for a while cartridges would dry out. When cartridges ran low print quality would suffer. Even under good conditions, output easily smeared if handled. And because the inkjet required paper to be gravity fed, in the heat and humidity of Florida, it wasn't possible to keep the paper upright; so paper had to be manually fed for each printing.

Finally, the current inkjet was bulky and often in the way in a crowded vehicle.

Business Solution

When evaluating alternatives, the Brother PocketJet mobile thermal printers became a clear favorite for the evaluator/tester – Officer Hoi Khuu of the Winter Garden Police Department.

Compared to the inkjet printers in use, the PocketJet printers were much more compact and appeared better designed for vehicle operation by officers on a daily basis. There were fewer moving parts, fewer openings for foreign objects to fall into, and less exposed gears and components. As Officer Khuu reported: "The printer is smaller, so there is less chance of bumping it or accidentally striking it with random objects. The size also is complimented with fewer parts, which can be broken such as the lid to the (inkjet) printers. The thermal printer is incased in a steel box* that helps prevent damage to it."

With the inkjets they had been using, miscellaneous things often fell into the exposed gears accidentally in day-to-day use. "Due the sensitivity of the printer parts, the printer would fail to function and a new printer would have to be purchased," Officer Khuu said. With the PocketJet, "If anything was dropped, there is less to no chance the object would get trapped into the printer."

Officer Khuu saw clear advantages for thermal printing technology. "The thermal printer does not rely on ink, which is financially sound for the department," he noted. "Ink cartridges tend to dry with weather changes or inactivity. The strip on the cartridge becomes dry and if after moisture is applied to the strip, it may or may not function properly. The cartridges also have a downfall as documents are being printed and the ink begins running out, the print tends to be faded."

Supply issues were a problem with the inkjets as well, according to Officer Khuu: "There are times where it is not possible to get an ink cartridge such as being at the jail ... the thermal printers just require paper and as long officers keep a back up roll of paper at all times, they need not worry about printing."

A common complaint from officers in the field about the inkjets – paper feeding – was also addressed with the PocketJet. "The paper quality provided with the thermal printer is much more convenient. It's in a roll, which is also protected by a steel box*. I need not worry about the paper being exposed to gravity as it sits," said Officer Khuu, who added that the current inkjet printer "requires you to place paper in to print, because if the paper is left on the printer (standing position) it'll begin sagging" because of heat, temperature, moisture, and also from "hitting the paper as someone reaches over to pick something up from the passenger seat."

The Brother paper itself won acclaim from Officer Khuu: "The paper is also fantastic because there is no ink. I have poured water on printed thermal paper right after they are printed and tried to rub the wording off. The print did not smear or become unreadable. I am not able to say that with (inkjet) printed documents."

Officer Khuu found the PocketJet easy to install. "The thermal printer is also easily installed. As long as the officer has the laptop connected to the wireless internet, the printer, once plugged in, it'll automatically search for the program online and download the program. After being installed, there is no need for any further action."

Overall, Officer Khuu was well pleased with the Brother PocketJet system he evaluated.

"I have enjoyed this printer much more and am ecstatic about it. I believe the department will benefit more to switch over to the Brother thermal printers."

Challenge

To find a mobile printing solution that was more reliable and cost effective than a current inkjet solution, without sacrificing performance and output quality.

Solution

Brother PocketJet full-page mobile thermal printers with Brother thermal roll paper, and Brother vehicle mounts.

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Benefits of Brother PocketJet Mobile Thermal Printers

• Fast, full-page printing from laptops and handhelds

With print speeds up to 6ppm, PocketJet printers can quickly print accident reports, depositions, maps and other full-page documents in the field, right from PCs or handhelds.

• Print documents with high-resolution text, graphics and pictures

Print high-resolution text and pictures – in up to 300 x 300 dpi – from vehicles, critical for speeding apprehension of suspects from Amber Alerts and other investigations, and for documenting accident and crime scenes.

• Easier to operate and maintain in the field

PocketJet mobile thermal printers have been proven to perform reliably in public safety every day from Arizona to Anchorage. There are no inks or toners to maintain and replace – there's only one consumable: high-quality Brother thermal cut-sheet, fanfold or continuous-roll paper.

• Easily adaptable to a variety of vehicles

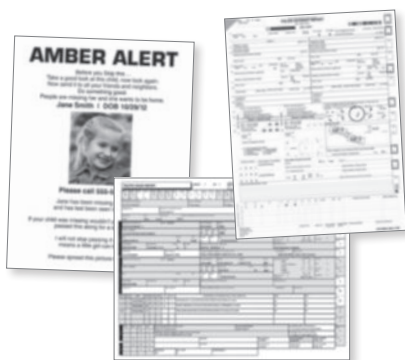
At only about 10" in length, about 2" wide and 1.25" high, and weighing about 1.3 lbs., PocketJet printers are among the smallest full-page mobile printers. Multiple vehicle mounting and power options* are available to adapt PocketJet printers to almost any vehicle, even motorcycles.

About Brother PocketJet full-page mobile thermal printers and Public Safety

PocketJet full-page thermal printing solutions provide an enhanced tool that can quickly print high-resolution text, graphics and photos, with potentially fewer issues in the field than mobile inkjet printers. With reliable PocketJet printers, officers can now print out warrants with high-quality pictures, Amber Alerts, accident photos, and more right from their vehicles, all on cut-sheet, fanfold or continuous-roll thermal paper up to 8.5" wide. They can also be used to produce e-citations.

This added graphics capability and full-page size can help speed apprehension, reduce identification problems, provide clearer documentation of accident and crime scenes, help enhance driver-information exchanges, and print detailed maps, directions and more. Since PocketJet models easily connect via USB or an optional Bluetooth® technology interface* to an officer's laptop or handheld, and use thermal printing technology that requires only one consumable – high-quality Brother thermal paper – there are added operating efficiencies.

PocketJet printers are also among the smallest and lightest full-page mobile printing solutions available today at only about 10" in length, about 2" wide and 1.25" high, and weighing about 1.3 lbs.



Multiple mounting and power options* are available to accommodate the PocketJet printers easily in virtually all public safety vehicles – even motorcycles.

Ideal for:

- E-citations
- Depositions
- Warrants & subpoenas
- Amber Alerts
- Accident/crime scene documentation
- Driver-information exchanges
- Maps and directions
- Tow tickets

A Range of Mobile Printing Options for Public Safety

Public safety professionals require fast, reliable mobile printing solutions that keep them focused on the job, not the technology. At Brother, we engineer tough, portable, and extremely reliable mobile printing solutions that handle the wide variety of citations, tickets, reports, and even paper labels you need – quickly and easily.

PocketJet® Series

Full-page Printing Mobility for the Modern World



Out-of-the-box ready to print full-page citations and documents with high-resolution pictures, text, and graphics. Choose from a range of power and mounting options to fit a variety of vehicles. Our award-winning PocketJet is the leading full-page mobile printer in police vehicles nationwide.

RuggedJet® Series

With fast printing speeds, compact designs, rugged durability, and wireless options, RuggedJet mobile printers are the ideal solutions for printing citations, warrants, parking violations and more – in vehicle or in the field. With models that print from 2" to 4" there's a RuggedJet to meet your needs.



Solutions to Meet Your Needs

- Accident reports
- Amber Alerts
- Summons
- Warrants
- E-citations
- Warnings
- Parking violations
- Driver information exchanges
- Receipts
- Evidence labels
- Office tags

*Requires additional purchase. All specifications subject to change without notice.

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