

Benefits of Deploying Autonomous, Wireless Surveillance Systems

How SentryPODS unique surveillance camera kits are changing the standard of security and protection in the surveillance industry.

■ Introduction

In 2013, The Boston Marathon not only created a paradigm in security and public safety, but it also infused the drive for Brent Canfield, the CEO of Smart Digital to design an autonomous surveillance platform. The surveillance platform quickly adopted the name SentryPODS (Protective Overt Deployable Surveillance). The primary objective for the unit's design concept would harness edge intelligence for remote accessibility and management, mobility, rapid installation and redundancy for reliability. Every aspect of the SentryPODS design has been inspired by the same core principles Canfield learned while serving as a Marine, where speed and mobility are an ethos. Up until 2013, the standard practice in deploying surveillance cameras involved the use of cables, transmission of data over proprietary networks, and dependence on an external power source.

The limitation with this design is that it is vulnerable to unprecedented power outages, hackers, and has little room for flexibility when it comes to installation. One of the best approaches to addressing large-scale outdoor surveillance developed to date is the SentryPODS solution. The most distinct advantage of the SentryPODS surveillance system is that it is completely autonomous and features built-in redundancy in the event of network/power failover.

Before SentryPODS, people can't really establish remote surveillance over areas (mostly dangerous or remote locations) where they can't typically reach, mostly because of lack of time or resources. SentryPODS comes in to stretch the limits beyond the norm or ordinary by essentially taking out these limitations, allowing people to deploy surveillance in austere environments.

SentryPODS is, by every standard, the world's most advanced remote surveillance solution, backed by military-grade engineering and cutting-edge technology. The uniquely designed RAS (Rapid Attachment System) allows installation time to be condensed down to 3-5 minutes. Once mounted, the system provides access to video/resources within 3-5 minutes. While still maintaining 100% autonomy, the platform provides comprehensive surveillance and proactive protection of locations like construction sites, military/DOD facilities and infrastructure, public places, and other critical infrastructure.

The introduction of this product into the market has not only gained wide acceptance and applause, but it has also raised the standard in outdoor and remote surveillance globally - and for good reasons. Perhaps, the military background of the designer lends SentryPODS its biggest credibility. But its state-of-the-art technology is one reason why it satisfies the conditions for effective deployment, even in the most unfriendly terrains.

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■ Stretching the Limits of Security Surveillance

Deploying surveillance cameras to remote areas can be done with high-tech gadgets like drones or other powerful spy and surveillance devices, but such systems mostly require human interference and manual control to produce the results required. Besides, drones have limited flight time and are designed to operate with wind speed and may not be efficient in areas with wind speed less than 20mph. Again, as effective as they can be, bad weather conditions also determine the possibility of using drones for surveillance.

Wired cameras, on the other hand, typically require wired power, as well as cables running from the camera to a recorder, and then the router. These surveillance cameras can be installed in businesses facilities, homes, and outdoor posts to provide aerial surveillance. But one striking disadvantage of wired cameras is that they are not very reliable during investigations. You literally would have to sort and sift through volumes of video recordings to find valuable information, which can lead to loss of time.

In general, both systems have similar limitations, in that they are vulnerable to hackers and may not be reliable for extended periods of surveillance, especially in remote areas and inclement weather situations. To solve these challenges, we need to deploy low-maintenance, autonomous wireless surveillance systems, which is where the SentryPODS comes in.

Overview of the SentryPODS Surveillance Solution

The advantages of the SentryPODS solution mostly lie in its ability to provide remote access to surveillance videos within 5 minutes of installation, the ease of installation, and most importantly, the massive leverage of autonomous surveillance that it provides. With a solution that spans virtually all industries and areas where remote surveillance is needed, SentryPODS surveillance camera kits are designed to enable easy setup and are sturdy enough to hold up in high winds or artificially created physical force.

Compared to high-tech surveillance drones and wired cameras, a surveillance solution like SentryPODS essentially eliminates the need to physically operate the system, since the design majored on autonomy. Being the first of its kind in the industry, SentryPODS expands on the limitations of existing technology, making surveillance and investigations much easier.

Looking at the events of the Boston Marathon bombing, the authorities had to compile terabytes of data from cameras in surrounding shops, cafeterias, streets, and properties. With an autonomous surveillance system like SentryPODS in place, there would not be a need to scan through so much data to find the culprits as well as events in the area leading to the bombing. But beyond that, this is a solution that enables foresight, allowing security authorities to take proactive steps to avert attacks on people and critical infrastructure.

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■ Key Differentiators of the SentryPODS Surveillance System

Here are distinct differentiators that set SentryPODS apart from other surveillance solutions on the market:

- ✓ **Eliminates Dependency of Cables:** Unlike wired surveillance cameras that require lots of cables for power and internet, SentryPODS saves users time spent running cables and eliminates the lack of flexibility that comes with cables.
- ✓ **Act as a Virtual Security Guard with Video Verification:** SentryPODS cameras are accessible 24/7 and act as a virtual security guard with video verification. You can access a Sentry PODS from any connected device, no matter the unit's location.
- ✓ **Autonomous & Rapidly Deployable:** Once you deploy SentryPODS camera kits, you may never need to physically touch them again. Additionally, you can rapidly install this system within 3-5 minutes and gain access to the videos and resources. The RAS (Rapid Attachment System) designed RAS specifically accounts for this, allowing flexible deployment for increased mobility.
- ✓ **Remotely Accessed for Video & Power Management:** The product is designed to minimize physical maintenance and allow remote control. From accessing the video recording to navigating the internal interfaces of the platform and connecting to the WiFi installation, users can manage everything virtually. Connectivity can be private/public LTE, Ethernet, SATCOM, SIPRNet, or WiFi.
- ✓ **Send Remote Notifications for Events or Status Change:** The system is designed to send notifications whenever changes in events or status quo are detected. This makes for effective and proactive human interventions, especially if a serious security threat is involved.
- ✓ **NEMA 4x Rated Enclosure:** NEMA 4X enclosures are one of the most versatile NEMA enclosure types. As established by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the enclosure includes all the protective qualities of all NEMA 4X rated enclosures.
- ✓ **Fail Over to Battery Upon Power Loss and Send Notifications:** The batteries in the kit help the installation to hold up for up to 12 hours after power loss. This is a feature that lends to the overall autonomy of the SentryPODS surveillance solution.
- ✓ **Acts as an ISP:** Each SentryPODS system acts as an ISP, providing its own WiFi for internet accessibility. In other words, hackers cannot access the network, as it is not public.
- ✓ **Offers Power and Network Redundancy:** The built-in redundancy for network/power failover allows the system to stay online in the event of tumultuous occurrences or local service outages. SentryPODS seamlessly failover to an alternative network (in most cases, LTE) and internal batteries for independent functionality.
- ✓ **Archive Video Directly to the Edge for Remote Retrieval:** Sentry PODS units contain intelligence at the edge. As mentioned before, there's no need to visit the installation to access the videos; no need for physical memory drives. Everything gets sent to a remote archive that allows managers to access it easily.
- ✓ **Hot-Swappable Batteries:** Without plugging into any power source or powering down the device, the hot-swappable batteries can be taken out and replaced. The MIL-SPEC connectors allow battery replacement in 30 seconds or less, without tools.
- ✓ **Rated IP68:** The IP68 of SentryPODS explains why they are able to withstand harsh weather situations, while still maintaining premium functionality.
- ✓ **Security As A Service (SAAS)** is a new offering in the security industry. The SentryPODS' Remote Service Program is a turn-key service that offers remote management and connects the SentryPODS to human intelligence for live 24/7 management, without the increased cost of traditional guard services.

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Unique Features/Capabilities

- The Sentry PODS Remote Services Program focuses on providing a monthly service to monitor remote sites, facilities or austere locations.
- Rapid attachment/detachment (modular) using the uniquely designed RAS (Rapid Attachment System).
- Can go anywhere/without limitation/where cables cannot reach.
- Installation and accessibility in 3-5 minutes.
- Offers full autonomy. SentryPODS can be positioned anywhere, WiFi, LTE, cellular, or ether net with a high speed connection to the web.
- Live monitoring (by human element) /digital Sentry Guard (offers video verification of incidents.)
- “Edge Recording” that allows remote retrieval of playback video remotely and live streaming in 3-5 minutes.
- Eliminates single point of failure (No DVR).
- Proven solutions including dignitary protection (protected Dr. Ben Carson) during the 2020 Presidential Debate) and commercial application.
- Saves cost via modular design.
- Remote management capabilities (PTZ cameras with zoom functionality for 360 degrees coverage).
- Cameras are available in different models and capacities depending on the application.



Speed & Mobility

Speed and mobility are two factors that define the entirety of the SentryPODS solution. As on the battlefield, intelligence is strategic just as speed and mobility are critical. Every nuance and component in the system adds up to account for the speed and mobility of SentryPODS. While a SentryPODS unit can serve as a video capturing endpoint over an existing traditional LTE or ethernet network, each unit is still able to rapidly deploy and function autonomously.

This is where the greater value of the solution resides. A wide variety of power and connectivity options are available and can be tailored to the specific mission requirements for different deployment options and applications. The development of SentryPODS (Protective Overt Deployable Surveillance) was born out of a need to respond to the market's demand for an autonomous surveillance platform and was partly inspired by the carnage at the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013.

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■ SentryPODS Military-Grade Surveillance Camera Models

Depending on the specific surveillance needs in a particular citation, **SentryPODS cameras** are built to provide a wide variety of top-notch coverage.

General Camera Features

- ✓ SentryPODS cameras are designed with long-range IR (infrared) night vision and high-tech capabilities to produce high-definition videos.
- ✓ The state-of-the-art technology of the SentryPODS cameras accounts for its ability to detect motion at any time of day with very high accuracy and range.
- ✓ The cameras typically expand the visual reach of mobile units utilizing real-time surveillance and notifications.
- ✓ They have a highly-functional 360-degree capturing capacity and can detect approaching dangers or threats from any direction.
- ✓ The coverage can be rapidly relocated or left on site unattended when there's a threat to the safety of the agents. In this case, the presence of the cameras exponentially increases foot power.
- ✓ They are well-suited for open terrain deployments (fixed or re-deployable).
- ✓ Coverage over very large open terrain areas is possible with motion detection to alert monitoring systems of potential activity, utilizing the virtual fence as perimeter detection. This notifies agents of a breach of a particular area or zone.

SentryPODS Scout

The features of the Scout are anything but entry-level. Out-of-the-box features including 10x Zoom, Axis Zipstream, and more including hot-swappable batteries and components, rapid power-up and accessibility, RAS (Rapid Attachment System) for fast mounting.



[Explore All Features >](#)

SentryPODS Eagle

SentryPODS Eagle model is a multi-head surveillance camera, suitable for protecting a wide range of industries. The out-of-the-box features of the Eagle include motorized focus, continuous 360° view, hot-swappable batteries and components, rapid power-up and accessibility, and an automatically removable infrared-cut filter.



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SentryPODS Ranger

The SentryPODS Ranger model is the next step in the evolution of modern surveillance. It features a 30X Zoom, forensic capture, laser focus, rapid power-up, and accessibility, Rapid Attachment System (RAS) for fast mounting.

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SentryPODS Recon

The SentryPODS Recon model is the pinnacle of both the innovation and evolution of modern digital surveillance. The Recon features the Axis Guard Suite Analytics that provides motion and intrusion detection. This model detects threats and alerts security staff to take action; it has a hot-swappable battery and components, and long-distance 30X zoom, forensic capture.

[Explore All Features >](#)



SentryPODS Hunter

The SentryPODS Hunter model offers everything the Ranger model features with one shining exception; the Hunter boasts Mid-range Optimized IR. That means you get superior image quality and added lifespan to the LED while enabling discreet surveillance. Other features include hot-swappable batteries and components, rapid power-up and accessibility, RAS (Rapid Attachment System) for fast mounting, and long-distance 30X zoom.

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SentryPODS BlackOps

The SentryPODS BlackOps model brings new meaning to the term 'covert surveillance'. The BlackOps streams 1080p/HDTV 720p video from four sensor units simultaneously and even has GPS for location tracking. The BlackOps comes installed in a concealable container and also features hot-swappable batteries and components, quad view stream, and rapid power-up and accessibility. It is installed in a concealable container and can stream 1080p/HDTV 720p videos from four sensor units simultaneously.

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■ SentryPODS Accessories

The accompanying **accessories** empower the surveillance capabilities of SentryPODS cameras with speed and mobility when you need them the most. These accessories/kits help limit downtime and speed up the time between no visibility and remote visibility, especially for installations in remote or austere environments.

From providing reliable backup power supplies to securely setting up a camera on a telephone pole or relocating a setup, SentryPODS surveillance accessories are designed to provide visibility within very little time. Essentially, these accessories augment the speed and mobility of the system.



Ruggedized Transport Cases

The Ruggedized PODS Cases offer a turnkey solution, ensuring the safe and secure transportation or storage of SentryPODS surveillance equipment.



Extendable Masts

This is a safe and secure way to mount SentryPODS digital surveillance in areas with no vantage point and mounting capabilities.



RAS (Rapid Attachment System)

With the SentryPODS RAS Kit accessory, users can attach the camera to a large post with a zip cable, or suspend it with a mast collar. The rapid Installation kits fasten securely to any SentryPODS surveillance camera. Mounting and camera installation typically take 3-5 minutes.



Solar Connectivity

"The Chariot" Solar Trailer is a remote, mobile array of solar panels that has the ability to hoist 2 SentryPODS surveillance cameras up to 20 feet. It is recommended for critical infrastructure surveillance, construction surveillance and worksite security, public safety, and military field surveillance.



Mast Collars

The Mast Collar drastically reduces installation time and speeds up the whole process. This makes SentryPODS a true digital surveillance system, as installation can occur in just 2-3 minutes.



SentryPODS Mobility Kits

The SentryPODS Mobility Kit offers the ability to connect a series of SentryPODS over long distances where a network presence is not possible, offering long-range connectivity and portability. The SentryPODS Mobility Kits are installed with the same RAS (Rapid Attachment System) as the SentryPODS.

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■ Connectivity for the SentryPODS Surveillance Solution

SentryPODS is not just a camera surveillance system, it is a turn-key solution that offers independence, remote management and mobility. It is a complete package of a rapidly deployable autonomous surveillance system for austere locations. One key differentiating feature is the wide variety of power and connectivity options, which can be tailored to specific mission essential requirements.

The network connectivity options include:

- ✓ Cell tower coverage, LTE (default)
- ✓ Local Wi-Fi; SentryPODS can serve as a Wi-Fi hotspot, providing internet connectivity to local devices like tablets and laptops. It utilizes digital security certificates to ensure secure transmission of data
- ✓ Hard-wire connection (traditional ethernet LAN/WAN network environment)
- ✓ SATCOM service provider
- ✓ Point-to-point wireless connection

The power supply for the system can be any of the following:

- ✓ Existing AC 110V power (grid or generator)
- ✓ Hot-swappable Internal batteries (24-48-hours on short term deployments)
- ✓ Solar power

This means that SentryPODS can be deployed in areas with cell connectivity but no conventional network. Each SentryPODS unit has DHS-encrypted secure connectivity using digital security certificates for end-to-end secure connections through the web and via multiple cell carrier options with redundant LTE failover between carriers.

Application

SentryPODS surveillance cameras provide a pan-industry surveillance solution, which is ideal for a wide range of applications including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✓ Dignitary Defense/Force Protection | ✓ Prison Compounds |
| ✓ Border/Perimeter Surveillance | ✓ Freight Yards |
| ✓ Critical Infrastructure | ✓ Natural Disasters Relief |
| ✓ Military/DoD | ✓ Harbor Surveillance |
| ✓ Construction Sites | ✓ Agricultural Structures |
| ✓ Public Safety | ✓ Jobsite surveillance |
| ✓ Data Centers | |

Key Features

- **Speed** 3-5 minute installation.
- **Mobility** - Install Sentry PODS units in nearly any climate or geography.
- **Remote Management** - Connect to your SentryPODS anywhere, anytime.
- **Live Security** - SentryPODS work 24/7, while connected to human intelligence.
- **Manpower Efficiency** - Accelerates foot power and reduces casualties.

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■ Conclusion

SentryPODS (Rapidly Deployable Portable Surveillance) system is the first of its kind in the security industry. The units are designed with an internal LTE/CDMA modem and battery backup for power redundancy and internal memory for edge recording.

Inspired by the mayhem of the Boston Marathon bombing, Brent Canfield designed SentryPODS in 2013 after a 9-year active-duty career in the United States Marine Corps. Made up of former military operators and engineers, the staff members of SentryPODS use their tactical background and experience to protect people and properties. **Learn more** about SentryPODS or **request a consultation** with an expert to discuss the best way SentryPODS surveillance solution can help you improve your security system.

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