DLA Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO)

Good News Reports
LESO Good New’s Report

1) Section I
   ➢ MRAPs

2) Section II
   ➢ HMMWVs

3) Section III
   ➢ Aircrafts

4) Section IV
   ➢ Misc. Items
Section I – MRAPs
The State of Texas

Article: Murder suspect 'presumed dead' after 2 Edinburg officers wounded in La Joya shootout, standoff, sheriff says

Section I – Continued
The State of Washington

Article: Military equipment making its way to western Washington streets

Email Received from Payne County Sheriff’s Office

To: Oklahoma, SPOC (Date Received – August 28, 2014)

I wanted to let you know that we already had to use our Sheriff’s Office MRAP with a high risk suspect.

On April 24, 2014 my office received a call from a victim that her husband had violated her court ordered protection order by coming to her house.

The suspect was reported to be armed with an AR-15 rifle and a 9mm pistol. Suspect had spent the night inside the home barricading all the doors and windows with plywood and 2X6 boards.

Officers arrived and found shell casings from .223 and 9mm ammo outside the residence. We activated our multi-agency SWAT team due to the fact the suspect was suspected of being armed. The suspect told the victim that he would shoot any law enforcement that arrived and would not come out alive. SWAT arrived in our MRAP and was positioned in the yard close the front door. My deputy began giving orders to come out over our P.A. system mounted on the MRAP.

Deputies were able to see the suspect showing his hands between some boards covering a window and yelled that he was coming out but it would take him sometime to un-barricade the door to give up. Suspect did surrender without incident. An interview of the suspect was completed with a deputy which suspect stated that once he saw that (MRAP) he knew he had to give up.

My MRAP provided the protection needed for this type of high risk call for the SWAT team and the situation ended with no harm to the suspect. My office had nothing that provided this level of protection to my deputies/SWAT that my MRAP now offers us. My MRAP will also be used for the floods we sometimes get for search and rescue, and a rehab vehicle for our fireman from the heat or the cold.

I only wished we had this vehicle in my county in May of 1985 when we had a 8 day man hunt for a murder suspect that ended up shooting a deputy and our Undersherriff. If you would like to watch the 30 minute video of this you can see it at www.youtube.com and search Union Road or Robert Raymond.

I will continue to update you on the success stories of our MRAP.

Many thanks,

Sheriff, Payne County Sheriff’s Office
Stillwater, Ok 74074
Section I – Continued
The State of New Jersey

Article: NJ Police Departments Get Military Vehicles

Section I – Continued
The State of Michigan

Article: Shelbyville standoff ends peacefully, new military SWAT vehicle put in action

Link: http://fox17online.com/2014/12/29/suspect-surrounded-in-shelbyville-field/
Section I – Continued
The State of Florida

Article: Polk gunman dead after SWAT standoff

Article: Nev. SWAT rescues kids during manhunt
Officers transported children via their armored vehicles out of one school directly across from the threat zone

Email Received:

By PoliceOne Staff

RENO, Nev. — A Nevada SWAT team came to the aid of children after a manhunt resulted in the lockdown of several schools Wednesday.

KOLO-TV reports officers transported children via their armored vehicles out of one school directly across from the threat zone – a building across the street.

"The armored vehicles are just that. They are armored. Were there to be some type of a threat situation, they would be protected that way," said Lt. Nate Parker of the Reno Police Department.

The manhunt began after officers tailing a wanted fugitive were forced to open fire as the man brandished a gun.

The suspect was killed. A second suspect on the loose prompted the school lockdowns.

No officers were hurt in the incident. The second suspect was later captured.
Section I – Continued
The State of California

Article: Vacaville police defend purchase of armored rescue vehicle


Lt. Mark Donaldson, the Vacaville Police Department’s SWAT commander, exits the back door of the department’s old armored vehicle. It is being replaced with a new armored vehicle that, says Chief John Carli, will actually “stop a rifle round.” Greg Trott – The Reporter
Section I – Continued
The State of Iowa

Article: Officers use Tactical Rescue Unit during domestic incident

Email Received:

Lieutenant,

On 10-25-13 at approx. 1500 hours, Roseville Police Department was involved in a shooting and man hunt for a wanted parolee. At least 10 other outside agencies assisted in this prolonged man hunt culminating in 4 Police Officers hurt or shot and a stand-off with an armed barricaded subject. After numerous hours, multiple exchanges of gun fire, and negotiations, the suspect finally gave up. Citrus Heights Police Department was extremely fortunate to have acquired an MRAP very recently. We believe the MRAP was an essential and necessary piece of equipment that provided safety, support, and overall confidence for our operators and all of the law enforcement agencies on scene. Below are some of the positive attributes of the MRAP:

- Heavily armored and safe for operators inside
- Intimidating and awe inspiring
- 14 foot turret height provides great view and over watch capability
- Great maneuverability for a large vehicle
- Reliability has been great
- Vehicle starts up every time
- Fairly easy to operate
- All internal systems function perfectly ie: lights, air condition, hydraulics, etc…
- High explosive resistant (Suspect had flooded the house and surrounding area with natural gas)
- Good fuel economy (8 hours of continuous use and only ¼ tank used)
- Confidence to enter any type of hostile situation
- This MRAP has the capability to serve the entire Sacramento Region and beyond.

The MRAP is an absolute blessing to the Citrus Heights Police Department and its community. It will continue to play an important supporting role to our agency as well as surrounding agencies for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Sergeant, Patrol Services
Citrus Heights Police Department
6315 Fountain Square Drive
Citrus Heights, California 95621
Email Received:

On Sunday January 19, 2014 at 2200 hours, our tactical team activated for a 261.5 rape suspect who was refusing to answer his home phone or comply with PA announcements to exit his residence. The suspect had arrests dating back to 2001 and included assault, domestic violence, kidnapping and drug related offenses. Several handguns were inside the home and the subject had recent history with our agency and a regional task force of either fleeing or hiding inside his home.

The MRAP was deployed to the front of the location. It provided an excellent elevated platform to see the front of the location. The team used it as cover on their approach and as a rally point. The suspect was eventually located hiding in the attic. The vehicles presence illustrated our resolve at safely taking him into custody and in my opinion drove him into the attic to hide.

I've attached two photos. One shows the placement of the MRAP and how it provided cover / concealment for the team. The second shows the team staged behind the vehicle as they prepared to serve the arrest warrant.

Thanks to everyone in Sacramento and within DLA for allocating this valuable resource to our department. As you are aware, without this allocation my department would be not be able to obtain an armored vehicle of its own.

Lieutenant,
Covina Police Department
Email Received:

Subject: RE: Examples of when an MRAP was used

Here are two:

1. Houston TX man slaughters 6, including 4 children see DOC 1 MRAP and bearcat block him in
2. Sheriff Hauf (THIS is the guy that wrote the letter to macaskill) is a staunch supporter and user of the LESO/1033 program and wanted me to pass along one of the success stories involving the MRAP that he received through the program. I wanted to let you know that we already had to use our Sheriff’s Office MRAP with a high risk suspect. See Photo

On April 24, 2014 my office received a call from a victim that her husband had violated her court ordered protection order by coming to her house.
The suspect was reported to be armed with an AR-15 rifle and a 9mm pistol. Suspect had spent the night inside the home barricading all the doors and windows with plywood and 2X6 boards.
Officers arrived and found shell casings from .223 and 9mm ammo outside the residence.
We activated our multi-agency SWAT team due to the fact the suspect was suspected of being armed.
The suspect told the victim that he would shoot any law enforcement that arrived and would not come out alive.
Section I – Continued
The State of Utah

Article: Standoff on I-15 involving young hostage ends peacefully

Section I – Continued
The State of Colorado

Email Received:

News Release: Armored Vehicle Helps Save Life
Date/Time: Thursday 9-12-14 / Noon MST
Source: Dan Bender, PIO, La Plata County Sheriff's Office, Durango, Colorado
Office Phone: 970-382-7026, benderd@laplata.co.us, Cell Phone: 970-759-5549

Narrative:
A military surplus armored vehicle recently acquired by La Plata County Sheriff's Office was instrumental in saving a woman's life on Thursday.

At about Noon on Thursday, La Plata County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to a report of shots fired at a residence on La Plata County Road 249 about 4 miles east of Durango.

A verbal argument between a female and her ex-husband over use of a vehicle resulted in the female allegedly firing a handgun multiple times at the male as he was leaving the property. No one was injured.

When Deputies arrived, the female was in the house and refused to come out. During attempts by La Plata Sheriff's Office negotiators to talk the female into surrendering she threatened to harm Deputies on scene. The female was still in possession of the handgun. The steep terrain and height of the house, made it too dangerous for Deputies to safely approach in patrol vehicles or on foot. Using their newly acquired Maximum Protection Vehicle (MaxProV) the SWAT team was able to drive next to the house. One SWAT member in the elevated turret was able to look directly into the home and direct other SWAT members as they cleared the garage. They then used the MaxProV as a shield to protect team members as they entered the house and were able to deploy it to find the female in a bathroom, unconscious from an apparent overdose of pills. SWAT members performed a medical assessment and carried the female outside and down a hill to waiting paramedics. The female was transported to Mercy Hospital and later transferred to a hospital in Denver. Sheriff's Office spokesperson Dan Bender said the armored vehicle allowed Deputies to safely search, find and reach the female in time to save her life.

The incident is still under investigation.

End Release. DLB
Section I – Continued
The State of Ohio

Email Received:

Craig,

I would like to thank you and everyone involved in the LESO Program! Our agency has truly benefited from the property we have received.

On July 2nd this year, our office was called upon to execute a search warrant of a known, dangerous drug dealer. He was known to have a loaded pistol at the ready by his bed. Because of this, we called in our SRT (Swat) team to affect this warrant. As a result of this investigation, we were able to take pounds of Crack Cocaine, Heroin, and Pills off the street, not to mention, we put a dangerous criminal in jail.

It was a true blessing to be able to transport our tactical team in the newly acquired MRAP, knowing that they were safe on the approach and having a ballistic proof vehicle at the ready, provided an incredible sense of security.

The benefits of this program are invaluable! The cost of outfitting our officers with Police Rifles and other necessary weaponry would put a financial strain on our already strained budget. The cost to our agency for a Ballistic Proof Vehicle (MRAP) would not be feasible and only very large agencies would be able to properly protect their officers.

Thanks again for all you do,

Lt. Dean Hettinger
Coshotoon County Sheriff’s Office
Section I – Continued

The State of Texas

Article: The Sumter County Sheriff's Office used their MRAP to train other departments throughout the state on Thursday

Link: http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2015/02/26/sumter-mrap-training/24085903/
Email Received:

Received May 28, 2013

I just wanted to extend a note of thanks to you and your team for all of their support for the FBI. Last year I was able to acquire two M1025A2 HMMWVs for the Oklahoma City FBI SWAT Team from the Tucson DLA through the LESO program. We have used these vehicles on multiple SWAT missions with great success.

On the tragic day of May 20th, 2013 the OKC FBI SWAT team deployed to support rescue and recovery operations in Moore, Oklahoma after the impact of a F5 tornado. The SWAT team was used to secure the perimeter around the devastated Plaza Towers Elementary School. Along with destroying buildings and homes, the storm actually stripped the grass from the ground in the area, which after heavy rains left nothing but mud. The only access to some of the impacted areas was over open muddy fields.

It became clear very quickly the HMMWVs were the only vehicles on the scene that could reach all of the impacted areas. Many police and fire four wheel drive SUVs and pick-ups were stuck in areas which the HMMVWs could maneuver through with no issues. The HMMWVs saw a lot of use pushing and pulling the stuck response vehicles out. Additionally the thicker tread run flat tires on the HMMVWs were a significant advantage over standard response vehicle tires, of which at least 1/4 to 1/3 experienced flat tires in the first 24 hours from all the debris in the area.

Thanks for helping us be able to accomplish our mission effectively and for keeping my team safe. I have just promoted out of OKC, reporting to the New Orleans FBI and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

NSB ASAC - FBI New Orleans
Police in Rye, NY, Rescued Hurricane Sandy victims using the LESO-acquired HMMWV shown here. Photo courtesy of Rye Police Dept.

First Responders
Email Received: (Received April 4, 2014)

During the past year, Livingston Parish, La., suffered from both floods and ice storms, but equipment acquired from DLA Disposition Services helped keep the town safe.

When Hurricane Isaac hit the parish in 2012, the director of the Livingston Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness office said they had a hard time dealing with the storm.

“We got a few high water vehicles from the National Guard, but they were stretched very thin so we were having problems rescuing people,” the director said. After Isaac was over, the director started looking for equipment to improve their ability to respond. That is when he found six Humvees through the 1033 program. The local sheriff’s department got three of the vehicles while Harrell’s department took the other three, giving Livingston Parish six Humvees to respond with.

The Humvees arrived at Livingston Parish at the start of 2013. The director said council members thought it was a waste of money; within two weeks a flood hit the town and the Humvees rescued 137 people.

“We ended up buying some small boats, we could slide the boats into the back of the Humvees and go as far as they could go, throw the little boats out and go rescue people, come back put the boats and the people in the back of the Humvee and bring them out,” said the director.

“Unless you are in a situation where you need them, there is no way to understand what they do for us,” the director said. “It’s unreal, we were able to do so much with them. I can’t say it enough, they were a blessing for us.”

After the flood, the director said the people who had questioned the need for the Humvees told him that it had been some good forward thinking on his part.

This year, when an ice storm hit the southern states, the director said they deployed the Humvees to fire stations across the parish. Shortly after one had been deployed to the Watson area, the director said a man had a heart attack. The ambulance and fire truck that had been dispatched to him slid off the road, but the Humvee went in and they were able to get the man out.

“The program is awesome,” said the director. “You just don’t know how many lives you have saved.”
Section II – Continued
The State of Kentucky

Article: Police putting Humvees to good use in bad weather conditions

Link: http://www.kentucky.com/2015/02/21/3706755_police-putting-humvees-to-good.html?rh=1
Email Received:

The LESO program has been very important to DeWitt County Sheriff’s Office over the last 3 years. Property we have obtained through LESO has been directly responsible for increasing public safety, without additional cost to the taxpayer. The most obvious benefit has come from the 2 Hummvees that our office received. As the attached pictures show, they have been put in the field several times during inclement weather. I’ve lost track of how many stranded motorist that have been saved during blizzards due to the Hummvees. In fact, one of the photographs depicts a one of our hummvees pulling a wrecker from a ditch that is pulling a full size van from the ditch. Without the Hummvees, that family (and the tow truck that tried to rescue them), would have stranded. Another attached photograph shows a hummvee being used to protect police and fire personnel at accident scene during a blizzard.

The LESO program is very popular with the taxpayers of DeWitt County. I have been overwhelmed by the positive comments from taxpayers when they find out that we are putting surplus military equipment to use, instead of letting it be destroyed. Our taxpayers recognize that the LESO program represents good, efficient government.

DeWitt County Sheriff
www.dewittsheriff.com
WARRENSBURG - Sheriff's deputies assisted other emergency responders in the rescue of three young men who were stranded in a snow drift on Park Road, near Kenney Road for more than five hours Sunday.

Those three men, estimated to be in their 20s, were en route to help a friend, who was stuck in the snow about five miles away on Wyckles Road near Illiniwick Road, Warrensburg Fire Chief Keith Hackl said.

About 3:30 p.m. Warrensburg firefighters helped the stranded motorist on Wyckles Road.

"We pulled him out and he went on his way," Hackl said.

The three young men, in a Ford pickup truck on Park Road, called the fire department, to report they were stuck in a snow drift in the roadway. They had been trying to make it to safety on their own.

"They were there about five hours before they called anybody," Hackl said. "When they called me they were getting a little panicky."

There was so much deep snow nearby, it was difficult for rescuers to get to their location. In some places, the drifts were four or five feet high. A county truck trying to break through got stuck.

"As they sat there it just got worse and worse and worse," Hackl said.

The Warrensburg Police Department reached the young men with its Humvee. The doors to the stranded men's truck were sealed by snow. They had to crawl through the windows to gain their freedom.

"They couldn't wait to get out of that truck," Hackl said, adding they were brought to the firehouse to warm up, then went on their way.

Macon County Highway Department and Illini Township also took part in the rescue.

"When a road is closed people need to stay off of it," Hackl said. "All county highways were closed at that point. You couldn't even see the front of your car. It put us in harm's way to try to get to them."
Attached are two recent pictures of our Humvee used during rescue/flooding in our area. The vehicle has been transformed into a mobile communications platform for emergencies/disasters and active shooter incidents on our campus and also serves as a field incident command post, to coordinate outside jurisdiction first responders.

Chief of Police
Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL 60532
I have attached 3 pics from the Nov. 17, 2013 tornado in Massac County. The generator pic was at the command center in Brookport. This was the generator that we acquired through LESO this year for my jail but had it moved in the middle of the night to Brookport and for the first 36 hours was the only electricity in Brookport. You can see the devastation around the command center, this was the path that the tornado took through Brookport. The hummvee was one of three that we have and were used by the local ESDA workers all week to haul food and water to residents in Brookport and rural Massac County displaced by the tornado. During the clean-up period after the tornado we allowed Brookport to use our rubber tired end loader I will try and find a pic of that and send it to you.

Sincerely,

Sheriff, Massac County
The Town of Palisade is a small agricultural community on the western slope of Colorado. We are on the Colorado River and we are known for our Peaches and Wine. In 2013 my agency did not have a 4 X 4 for inclement weather and we needed to be able to check our watershed on the Grand Mesa. We knew about the 1033 Program. We have a limited budget and we could not inherit vehicles requiring maintenance. We needed operational ready 4 x 4's that could be put into service. We found two Humvees at Fort Carson. The initial thought was to have a second vehicle for parts, but both units were in excellent condition and they should last another 10-20 years. We went to our Regional Asset Forfeiture Board to ask for funds to paint and outfit the vehicles. We wanted to tone down the militaristic view while honoring our veterans, the 1033 program and the American Flag. Attached are some photographs. Attached you will also find our standard operating procedure for utilizing military vehicles. We use our Humvees a lot for our festivals, parades, car shows, public safety events/community engagement, disaster preparedness and other activities outlined in the SOP. As you can see, the 1033 Program is an invaluable resource to our policing and community outreach. I hope you can share our positive experience. We have had much community interaction with our new Humvees and they help break down communication barriers by being a conversation piece. Please confirm receipt as there are four pictures for you to use.

Respectfully,

Palisade Chief of Police, Colorado
Section II – Continued
The State of Oklahoma
“Missing Person Search”

Email Received:

Pontotoc Co. Sheriff’s Office.

1033 HMMWV saving a life.(story below picture)

Law Enforcement Support/Compliance Officer
Oklahoma State Agency for Surplus Property
Division of Capital Assets Management
Office of Management and Enterprise Services

Pontotoc County sheriff’s deputies use an all-terrain vehicle to search for a missing woman Monday on the South Canadian River. Dawnita Cloud of Okamah, 53, was missing for more than 24 hours. She was found lying face down on a sandbar three to four miles downriver from where she was last seen with her friends. Sheriff John Christian said Cloud was found dehydrated and exhausted, but otherwise unharmed.
Email Received:

On Tues., Jan. 20, 2015, the Pinal County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue crew responded quickly to extricate a woman who became medically distressed while hiking in the Superstition Wilderness near Apache Junction. At approximately 12:24 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 20, 2015, Pinal County Sheriff’s Dispatch received a report of a 66 year old female, who became dehydrated, overheated and dizzy while hiking Lost Goldmine Trail with a large group of individuals.

Assistance from PCSO SAR was requested to remove the individual from the trail.

The female 66 year old patient was with a group of approximately 15 people who indicated they were approximately three miles from the trail head. SAR responded and members were able to drive to approximately one half of mile from the patient and then hiked the remaining distance to evaluate her. Fortunately, the group she was with worked to get her hydrated and kept her cool, while waiting SAR’s arrival.

Upon arrival, SAR members learned that she lost consciousness for a short time but had since regained consciousness and was alert and conscious by the time they arrived.

PCSO Aviation "Raven 4" additionally responded to the call and the air unit extricated the patient and her husband from the trail.

In 2014, Pinal County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue performed 117 missions in Pinal County. Of those, SAR Posse members participated in 45 of the missions and Pinal County Sheriff’s Air Units aided in 19.

Sheriff Babeu stated, “Arizona provides many beautiful landscapes and we possess a considerable number of hiking trails to enjoy them. All too often, however, these trails can and unfortunately do prove to be sometimes perilous. The rapid response and great teamwork by those hiking with this individual as well as PCSO SAR and our Aviation Unit made this a successful rescue. Countless injured and lost hikers have been located, received immediate medical attention and been extricated thanks to our Aviation Unit.”
We at the Marion County Sheriff's Office just wanted to let all of you at LESO know how much we appreciate this program.

Our Aviation Unit was started in 1973 with a military surplus Bell 47 and piloted by a now retired Vietnam helicopter pilot. Since that time we have been involved with your program in some way shape or form. The unit has had its ups and downs as priorities shift with different administrations; however, with exception to a brief period in the early 1990’s, we have remained an active unit. Today we still operate 2 OH-58 aircraft with 8 pilots, 5 part time observers, 3 of which are civilian volunteers and a full time maintenance technician. Not only were we able to save an enormous amount of tax payer funds to acquire these aircraft, we also operate safely and effectively at a greatly reduced hourly cost: due completely to the ability to screen surplus parts and acquire parts through the government.

In the past 10 years we have flown nearly 10,000 hours in support of many different missions; these missions include lost people, lost livestock, fleeing felons, medical rescues and disaster support, just to name a few. Our county is over 1650 square miles and contains 400,000 acres of national forest and the Cross Florida Greenways Trails. The roads and trails used for horseback riding and hiking in these two areas alone are vast to say the least. The list of accomplishments and missions we have conducted over the years is quite extensive. The number of people in distress we have located by use of the aircraft, be it from an accident or simply lost is innumerable.

The following is a perfect example of a few of these missions. We have a small stream that meanders through the Juniper Wilderness that is very popular to canoe. Once you begin this trek there are no roads to access this river and only one trail that goes to the mid point of the stream. To top it off, the nearest road is nearly 2 miles through dense brush and forest. It takes about 4 hours to traverse this stream if you are a skilled paddler and requires lifting the canoe over many trees that cross the stream. A couple decided to take their elderly father and 3 year old son on the trip. Needless to say 6 hours later, with dark quickly approaching, we receive the call that they were stranded and in distress. Upon arrival we located them near the midway point, landed and determined they has capsized the canoe on several occasions, were soaking wet and the elderly male and child were suffering from hypothermia. The elderly male and child were transported via helicopter to waiting paramedics and treated. It is highly unlikely these individuals would have been able to continue after dark and make it safely to civilization. This one example could have easily had a different outcome had it not been for the aircraft. This same wilderness area is also the scene of a double murder conducted by a hiker on the Florida Trail in which the bodies were located 2 miles from any road. Our aircraft were instrumental in all aspects of the recovery and investigation including transporting detectives and forensics experts to and from the scene for over a week.

When it comes to catching bad guys one of many notable catches that comes to mind is the capture of two murder suspects. A deputy had located a car parked in the ditch in the National Forest. Upon inspecting the car he noticed blood near the latch area of the trunk. We were immediately dispatched to the area to search for a body and/or suspects. Upon arrival on the scene we immediately, with our FLIR camera, located what we believed to be 2 persons hiding in the woods near the car. Our K-9 arrived shortly thereafter and was able to apprehend both suspects. Upon further inspection of the trunk a body was located. The subjects had been digging a grave nearby when the deputy located the car.

These are only a few examples of the numerous stories that could easily fill a book. This program has enabled Marion County, along with many other agencies across the country to establish and maintain viable aviation units; units that may not exist today had it not been for the LESO. Thanks again and we look forward to doing business in the future.

Sincerely,
Marion County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) Aviation
Section III – Continued
The State of Pennsylvania
“Active Shooter”

On July 9, 2014 at 16:45hrs, Perry County 911 dispatch received a call that every police officer hopes to never have to respond to. On the other end, a terrified National Guard Armory Sergeant, Dave Pendelton. The Sgt. Advised 911 that they had an active shooter inside the armory and that Sgt. Michael Braden had been shot. The PCSO officers responded immediately and arrived within minutes. Scared officers armed themselves with LESO acquired M-16’s and entered what many officers thought might be their last day on the job. Sgt. Dave Pendleton was rescued within minutes and brought to safety. While searching the building for the unknown active shooter, officers extracted wounded Sgt. Braden and sought medical attention. Sheriff Hickerson deployed the PCSO’s LESO acquired helicopter for air support in search of the shooter. A few hours later, officers located and arrested the 15yr old shooter at his home located approx ½ mile from the armory. The LESO helicopter was very instrumental in providing support to the ground search team and found invaluable for providing eyes above as officers assaulted the home of the shooter. Sgt. Michael Braden died at the Perry community hospital within minutes after arriving. Although America lost a good soldier and Perry County lost a good man, no other officers were harmed and his killer was captured in less than four hours.
Recently, I acquired a Hughes AH-6 (originally an OH-6 configuration) helicopter for our aviation unit through the LESO 1033 Program. This was the first helicopter awarded to my department by LESO, and I quickly went to work learning about its service history (even before I had a chance to fly it). I stumbled upon a website dedicated to the 5th Calvary Regiment's 3rd Squadron D troop, also known as Light Horse. A quick search of the aircraft's serial number will reveal its assignment, but I wanted to see if more information could be obtained. I contacted the site administrator through email and was able to get a response the following day. Here is the initial email that led to my findings:

"My name is Jake Durham, and I coordinate my police department's aviation unit. We recently received an OH-6 and I've been able (through emails similar to this one) to find a little info about it. I'm almost certain it was part of D Troop / 3rd Squadron / 5th Calvary. The tail number is 68-17258. I do hope to find more historical information about the aircraft and possibly find the pilot/s that may have flown it. I know it's a long shot, but having the opportunity to fly this aircraft means a lot knowing that it was also flown during Vietnam. I'll appreciate any help!"

When I received a response, I knew I had stumbled upon something special.

In 1970, Don Callison was a recent graduate of flight school and soon on his way to Vietnam. The young aviator started his military career as an enlisted man and served as a mechanic and crew chief on airplanes. While in Vietnam, Don flew the Hughes OH-6 helicopter as part of the Aero Scouts "War Wagon" Platoon. Little did he know the ship he often flew would end up serving municipal law enforcement efforts some forty-three years later. The response came from Mr. Callison, as he maintains the Light Horse website, and he confirmed the helicopter was in fact part of his unit. More importantly, Mr. Callison was sure he had flown the aircraft many times while serving overseas. I knew a meeting between us was soon to take place.

On March 21st, 2015, I met Mr. Callison at our hangar here in Alabama so he could reunite with his helicopter. It was an emotional experience as he sat behind the controls. He began to recall the missions he had once flown as a Scout. He even bragged that, even though he had been shot down three times, he never once crashed an aircraft (very impressive to say the least). From the perspective of Mr. Callison, it was hard to fathom the helicopter he had once flown over the jungles of Vietnam was still in service and in such great condition. I think more than anything he was pleased that enough interest and enthusiasm had been given into preserving the aircraft's history.

As we begin our aviation support services in East Central Alabama, each mission will add to the extensive and successful life this helicopter has seen. From our perspective, the program used to obtain this aircraft is an invaluable resource, not only for the equipment it provides but also the history it preserves. This aircraft could have easily been sent to the bone yard, parted out, or even destroyed, taking a piece of important American history with it. I would like to openly thank the Law Enforcement Support Office in Battle Creek, Michigan, and the program coordinators with the State of Alabama for their continued support of law enforcement agencies … I feel confident the members of Light Horse are thankful, as well.

Executive Officer for the Oxford Police Department in Oxford, AL.
www.OxfordPD.org
Section IV – Misc. Items
The State of New Mexico

Article: Combat gear benefits Las Cruces-area law enforcement


Las Cruces Police Department SWAT commander Sgt. Ralph Monget holds a MARCbot, a robotic unit obtained from the Defense Logistics Agency disposition services. Through the program, law enforcement agencies can request excess U.S. military gear for the cost of shipping it, or driving to pick it up. (Carlos Javier Sanchez — Sun-News)
Warfighter to Crimefighter. This is the motto of the Law Enforcement Support Office and that is exactly its mission. It takes items that have been claimed as excess by the military and transfers them to law enforcement.

The Law Enforcement Support Office, also known as LESO, assists agencies in the US and all of its territories. Currently the program has over 7,000 active law enforcement agencies enrolled.

When an agency wants to join the LESO program they submit an application for participation. We verify that they are a governmental agency whose primary function is the enforcement of laws and whose compensated officers have the powers of arrest and apprehension. This way unauthorized agencies such as security company cannot receive DOD equipment. After their application has been approved they can create an account to search for property. Law Enforcement cannot receive everything that is deemed excess by DOD. For example, they cannot get body armor, currently used camouflage uniforms, or drones. Everything they request is run through LESO for approval. We look at their number of officers and the quantity they are requesting. We also make sure their justification proves that it will be used for law enforcement purposes.

The most recent concern people have about this program is that the news has broadcast we are militarizing the police. The media has scrutinized and some have misrepresented the program. There are several key facts that they have ignored. The first is that the majority of property received through the LESO program is non controlled items. These are items you could buy from the store. This includes exercise equipment, all-terrain vehicles, or first aid kits. When law enforcement use the LESO program instead of buying new items it saves the state tax payer dollars. When an agency is awarded an item the only thing they we require them to pay for is shipping transportation. Only a third of the states require a fee to participate.

Imagine that your local police department needs three patrol vehicles. Instead of having to pay $20,000 of taxpayer money for each vehicle they are able to receive it from our program for free. All they would have to do is go pick them up. Also, there are a lot of smaller departments whose budget does not allow for things such a fitness center. They could use the LESO Program and fully furnish a brand new gym.

While most of the items that are transferred are not controlled, we do also transfer controlled items, such as weapons, aircraft, or tactical vehicles. One of the vehicles that agencies are allowed to get is a Mine Resistant Ambush Protective Vehicle (or an MRAP). You may be wondering why a police department would every need this. One of the police departments that got one of these vehicles ended up in a fire fight with a gang member. They were able to drive up and rescue two wounded officers that were by a police car and save other officers that were pinned against their vehicle. The man responsible for this wanted to die and was willing to kill as many cops as possible. Both of these vehicles saved numerous lives. Some critics still say this is a once and a lifetime occur and won't happen again, so they really don’t need this vehicle. But are we really willing to risk the lives of officers that are trying to protect us because “it will only happen once”. That one time you could be the one that is held hostage and an MRAP could be driving in to save your life.

There will always be critics of the program part of my civic duty is to properly educate the public. I have seen so much good come from the items that are given out. Our police force is always protecting us. Shouldn’t we give them the tools necessary to stand up to heavily armed criminals? I say yes. And that is exactly what the Law Enforcement Support Office is trying to do.
Email Received:

Sargent,

Wanted to let you know and see the Generators we picked up in Norfolk. We had inmate workers recondition them, do required maintenance and then prepare them for use in the field. The generators are being used to power the 800mhz radio towers for fire, police and EOC communications. These will be used at three towers. I wanted to forward this picture to you and say thanks.

Sargent. Kalamazoo Co. Sheriff's Office
Section IV – Continued

The State of Tennessee
"Militarization" of the Police?
By Chief David Rausch

Well before the events in Ferguson, Missouri there have been comments from a number of individuals based on an article referencing the "militarization" of the police.

What I have read and heard described is the use of specialized "military" equipment by police. The acquisition of this military equipment and its use on American citizens in our Cities, Counties, and States seems to be what is being questioned. Recently, images of the deployment of equipment in Ferguson, Missouri and the description of tactics have been described as a "military" deployment and "military" tactics.

Let me begin by saying that I am not commenting on the situation in Ferguson. I am not on the ground there, whether as a community member or law enforcement. Rest assured that the law enforcement community will study this unfortunate situation and it will be used in case studies and training for years to come.

Let me also state that we value our relationship with our community and we work hard to foster that relationship. At KPD we have a community liaison officer program where an officer is assigned to all community watch organizations on their beat. These officers meet with these groups regularly and work with the groups to address crime, traffic and disorder issues in the neighborhoods.

We have an excellent relationship with the civilian review board (PARC - Police Advisory and Review Commission) that is in place to assure that our citizens have options for reporting when they have concerns about the actions of our officers. We work with PARC in community outreach. We are very proactive at developing and fostering relationships in our community with official and unofficial leaders.

All of our Command Staff and many of our officers are actively involved in service organizations in our community by serving on boards of directors and volunteering their time, treasure and talent. We have an excellent working relationship with the clergy of all faiths in our community. We conduct Citizen Police Academies to open our doors to the community to see who we are and what we do in Knoxville.

I want to try to help our residents understand from a law enforcement perspective why certain "military" equipment is obtained by local law enforcement and its value to the safety of our community.

I have been a police officer for over 21 years in Knoxville, Tennessee. I spent 10 years on the KPD Special Operation Squad (SWAT). Prior to this, I served 4 years in the U.S. Army in the Military Police Corps working as an MP for 2 years and in Military Corrections for 2 years. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master’s Degree in Justice Administration. I provide this to hopefully show that I have a base of knowledge on the subject.

Military surplus programs have provided law enforcement surplus equipment for a number of years. When I first joined the KPD SWAT team we had an armored vehicle from the US Air Force that we had obtained with assistance from the FBI and we shared it with them. This was the only armored vehicle in the region at that time. It was a vital piece of equipment that had been used prior to my arrival in the department at an active shooter situation in a nearby County. The team had to use the vehicle in a rescue and rounds were shot at the officers and hit the vehicle, but not the officers.

I have also been in this vehicle when our team responded to the incident in Loudon County where Deputy Jason Scott was shot and killed. I was in the vehicle when we attempted to make contact with the shooter and he fired rounds at us. Fortunately the rounds did not strike the vehicle as we were not completely confident of the level of ballistic support compared to the suspect's firepower. I was grateful for this surplus item from the military and I know my family appreciated that I was protected by it.

We have Kevlar vests that officers wear that are bullet resistant. This technology was created for our military and we now use it for police officers and others in emergency services. Officer Derrick White from KPD is with us today because of this technology as he was shot in the middle of his chest by a suspect recently. That round would have taken his life. His family is grateful for this "military" technology that we are using.
More recently, KPD has obtained other needed equipment from the military. We have rifles that we have deployed to specially trained officers on patrol to use in response to situations that may call for that level of need. Incidents like mass shootings, as we have experienced in Knoxville at a church, a school, and a mall are all certainly situations where these were needed. Before our obtaining these rifles we were limited in our ability to respond with an equal or greater level of force to what we were facing.

We have a HUMMV that is "up armored" for use in tactical rescue situations and serving "high risk" warrants where firearms are known or expected and the individual is known to carry and use them. This has replaced the armored vehicle that I mentioned previously. We obtained several "off road" motorcycles for our Search and Rescue Team to use in the challenging terrain we have in East Tennessee in cases involving a missing or abducted person. We have GP Medium tents that can be used for shelter in emergencies. We have storage containers that we obtained to secure items at our range facility. These are all items that we obtained without having to use local resources or funds.

We also have equipment that some are calling "military" that we have obtained through the Homeland Security program with grants. We have robots that are primarily used for recovering explosive devices, but have also been used in tactical situations to gather intelligence and information for decision making. We have a large fully armored vehicle that can be used in a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical environment that keeps those inside of it safe with fresh air to breathe. These items were purchased with specific known threats in mind for our region.

You may ask why I have divulged all the equipment that we have. Doesn't this defeat the purpose of our having it? None of this equipment is a secret and we have displayed this equipment at community fairs and events to educate our community on our capability to respond to the threats and to keep us all safe. These are items provided by our community for our community.

One note on the surplus program. All of the equipment obtained are items that every taxpayer has already purchased. If the military were not to provide them to our local communities to meet our needs, they would either be destroyed or provided to military units in other countries that may end up being taken over by a rogue faction (like ISIS) to use to protect that force or against our forces and our allies. Additionally and importantly, most of this equipment is not used daily in law enforcement operations. It is on hand for when it is needed for those special situations.

I have heard questions about the wearing of camouflage, ballistic helmets and tactical vests by officers in an urban environment. The comments being that this is another sign of "militarization". The comment has been that these uniforms are not needed in an urban setting. Again, these are not uniforms worn by the rank and file, but by specialty units. Units like SWAT, Bomb Squads, Riot Squads, and Search and Rescue wear tactical equipment and uniforms that are practical for the mission they are specially trained to address.

In Knoxville, our SWAT team wears OD Green uniforms, Bomb Squad and Riot Squad wear Black uniforms, and our Search and Rescue team wear Beige uniforms. Each of these uniforms has specific designs for the missions that they perform. We call them practical and tactical as they are made to withstand the rigors of the missions. Helmets, tactical vests, and other protective gear are worn to reduce the possibility of injury to the officer.

I wish we were in a society where none of this equipment was necessary, but unfortunately that is not the case. I believe that our community wants our police officers to be safe, to be able to serve every available day that they can during their career, to keep the peace and provide safety and security. I know that the families of our officers expect me as the Chief to provide every piece of equipment that I can obtain to keep their loved one safe.

To do this successfully, we have to have the equipment that I have described. While it is from the military, it is not being used against our residents in an aggressive or oppressive manner and most of it is only used in the most serious and volatile situations to protect our community and our officers.
The use of "tear gas" and other "less lethal" options is a police tactic, not a military tactic, to control crowds during civil unrest and disorder. When I was in the military they did not teach me to use "tear gas" or other "less lethal" methods preparing for war. They taught me to throw grenades and shoot the enemy. In basic training we were not taught to discern between "good guys" and "bad guys" as anyone that would be in front of us would be the enemy and we understood that they wanted to kill us. We were taught to kill the enemy.

That is not the way I was taught in the Police Academy. I was taught that we must never use deadly force on anyone that is not an imminent threat to our lives or the lives of others. We were taught that you must control every round that you fire and understand that every round that you fire is intended to stop the threat and you are accountable for every round.

We were taught that we work with and for our community to keep it safe from those who choose to violate the laws and who are seeking to create victims. We were taught to foster partnerships and collaborate with residents to enhance our ability to maintain the peace and create a safe community. In other words, we are one with our community and together we will prevent, solve, and control crime.

When it comes to the deployment of equipment by the police, the rule that we always apply is that you only deploy what you are authorized and willing to use for the safety of all involved. Please keep in mind the reasons for a tactical response. Protests where rocks and bottles are thrown, bombs are thrown, and bullets are fired at law enforcement and first responders require a special response. These actions are not peaceful, they are criminal and they are violent. They require a different response than an officer in their everyday uniform as they are not everyday actions. They require officers with specialized training to address these threats and specialized equipment to protect the residents, the officers, and the community.

The response is not a "military" action, but a tactical one. The officers use the lowest level of force to enforce the laws and attempt to regain control and peace for the community. They do this with much restraint and use of less lethal options which includes "tear gas". Remember that these actions are a law enforcement RESPONSE to the actions of those who are causing problems.

Another fact that is important in this debate is that the military in the last two wars has sought out training in law enforcement tactics as they have been put into situations similar to what law enforcement faces by having to police both Afghanistan and Iraq.

My intent in this narrative is to hopefully explain the "why" police departments have "military" equipment and to express how we are not using "military" tactics. We only have equipment that allows us to address the changing threats that we face in our communities to keep our residents and our officers safe. This equipment is saving additional taxpayer dollars and improving the safety of our communities. This equipment is not changing the mindset or the tactics of daily policing. It is providing law enforcement needed protection for those special situations that call for special equipment.

Law enforcement professionals understand that we must work with our communities to be effective and successful. We are not an occupying force and our neighbors are not our enemies. I am concerned that "militarization" commentary will hamper the ability of law enforcement to obtain needed equipment from the surplus program.

I hope that our members of Congress and our President will not let the "buzz word" play into their decisions on this program and that they will ask those of us in law enforcement what we have and how we use it. If they will do this, they will also learn the value of the program for the safety of all of us.
August 27, 2014

LESO
74 N. Washington Ave.
Battle Creek, MI 49037

With all of the questions revolving the repurposing of items through the LESO program, I would like to point out some of the things most people do not realize about this program.

Our agency has obtained thousands of dollars worth of equipment from LESO. We have a high tech crime lab which does computer forensic work for other agencies. The amount of the equipment to maintain a lab like this runs into the thousands of dollars because of rapidly changing technologies.

LESO has allowed our agency to update servers, switches, and computers with no extra cost to the taxpayers of Will County. I know that this same computer equipment is available to school districts based on the needs and is utilized by school districts. It saves my agency monies that we could never budget because of the cost of the equipment. This allows us to be fiscally responsible to the community we serve.

I realize right now that the focus is on the militarization of the police with vehicles and equipment. This program does provide this type of equipment and as you are aware, budgetary constraints have hit all agencies and being able to utilize equipment that would be scrapped or sold at a fraction of the cost, is fiscally responsible. Agencies that have the ability to obtain equipment through this program are at a distinct advantage. Here are some examples;

Our range staff has received equipment that allows us to maintain the range. We have a plasma cutter that allows us to cut and replace steel for target systems as needed. The steel, as well as the cutter, were obtained through this program. We have an end loader and smaller bobcat that was also obtained, which allows my staff to keep the dirt berm dressed and in the winter to move large amounts of snow from in front of buildings and parking lots, keeping it safer for everyone who uses our facilities. The Sheriff’s Office also received workout equipment for our staff gym that benefits the health and safety of the employees.

Will County is approximately 846 square miles which is split almost evenly between urban and rural. We have one area along the Kankakee River that floods regularly. We have used a six by six truck for rescue in this area during these floods. Without the LESO program that equipment would not be available to us as it is not in our budget.

I feel as though people need to realize the truth of what kind of savings the program offers to agencies involved in the process. We have obtained everything from emergency first aid dressings, to vehicles. I am hopeful that people will be able to see the cost savings it can provide to agencies who utilize the program.

On behalf of the Will County Sheriff’s Office, and I, thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,
Will County Sheriff
Attached is a nice article that was in the Harrington Journal about Harrington PD from Delaware.

Harrington PD has one of their officers stationed at the school as a School Resource Officer.

The article is about a cart they received from LESO.

Thought you may be able to use this.

My son is a teacher and wrestling coach at this school.

It's good when you see positive things like this 1st hand.

Thanks,

Supply, Storage & Distribution Coordinator LESO & WMD Delaware Emergency Management Agency
165 Brick Store Landing Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
Email Received:

The below story was written to capture the transfer of the Kawasaki's yesterday (11SEP13) at USMC’s Blount Island Command (BIC), located in Jacksonville, FL.

Photo’s include 10 bikes in which the customer received 7 of them. The mileage on 8 of the bikes were under 50 miles, and the two other bikes had between 200-300 miles. The photo’s of the bikes turned into Sheriff’s bikes was actually bikes they had received six months ago from Camp Lejeune. The ones at Camp Lejeune were beat up pretty bad. These from BIC were in mint condition. Each bike also came with 2 brand new helmets, elbow pads, knee pads and goggles (all still in the wrapper).

If you use the story, feel free to rewrite as you see fit. The civilian in the one photo is the USMC Majcom rep. If more information is needed, please advise.

“Kawasaki KLR's from Warfighter to Crime Fighter

St. Johns County Sheriff's office in North Florida recently received some Kawasaki KLR’s (KLR is the model#) from DLA Disposition Services which had been turned in by the USMC. The KLR’s had been converted to diesel to support the Warfighter’s capability. The KLR is a Dual overhead cam, single-cylinder, 4 stroke, liquid cooled engine. They are used for many functions to include, assisting in locating missing persons in wooded areas, patrolling problem areas where criminal activity can be occurring off the beaten path, and assisting in locating illegal growing areas. Recently the bikes were used in searching a wooded area in Flagler Estates in an attempt to locate a missing person. There are several hunting clubs in the county's rural areas. Trespassing is a problem at times, along with ATV issues. The KLR’s are used to address those issues and show a Sheriff's Office presence where typically one would not expect to see a Deputy Sheriff. The Motor Unit conducts monthly motor training with a few of those training days each year being dedicated to training with the KLR’s.

The transfer of these KLR’s from the Warfighter to the Crime Fighter is another great example that the employees of DLA Disposition Services are making a significant difference in both Military drawdown and Law Enforcement support.”

Respectfully,
DLA Disposition Services J-411
USMC Major Command Support