DLA Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO)

Good News Reports
FY15 3rd Quarter
LESO Good New’s Report

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Section I – MRAPs

The State of Colorado

Article: Fremont County coroner IDs people involved in shooting


“Here are some of the photos of the damage to our MRAP and an article that was in the local paper. I was on the scene the entire incident and we used the MRAP to shield 20-25 people that had to be evacuated from the park. Then when the subject came out shooting the MRAP did its job and drew the subjects attention away from swat members who were flanked left and right of the MRAP. The mere size of the MRAP did protect the officers on the left side as a round went into the front tire but never came out of the tire.

On behalf of the Florence police department, Fremont County Sheriff’s Office, and the Canon City police department we would like to thank everyone involved in the 10-33 program for giving us this vital piece of equipment. IT TRULY SAVED LIVES.”

Thank You again.

Michael De Laurentis
Chief of Police
Florence Police Department
Section I – MRAPs
The State of Oklahoma
Article: “Surplus military vehicle used for rescue”

Article: http://www.muskogeephoenix.com/news/surplus-military-vehicle-used-for-rescue/article_bc2c0dda-4ec5-5ae5-bcab-d5e010726b49.html

Section I – MRAPs
The State of Kentucky

Memo

To: Corey Stratton
From: Sgt. Justin Wewholt
Date: 11/12/2014
Re: MRAP

Cory,

Per our correspondence in reference to the MRAP that Covington Police Department received through the DMRG program I wanted to take a moment to write a letter of appreciation to you and any others involved in the program that you could forward this to. Obtaining the MRAP was a long process but one that I believe would be well worth the wait should we be able to accomplish it. I was very moved emotionally during this endeavor and as you can imagine more than a few skeptics were quick to voice their opinions of why this piece of equipment was not necessary. I don’t think that any of these people, including myself, would have ever imagined that the first SWAT call out after obtaining the MRAP would have been one of the worst in our department’s history.

Without going into too much detail as the legal process has not yet completed, I will describe the background of the callout. On December 22nd, 2013 our SWAT team was activated and responded to a scene on Michigan Avenue. During the initial approach the team took fire from the residence and was pinned down for a period of time. After a second hail of gunfire in which our NATO shield was impacted by more rounds the decision was made to utilize the MRAP to assist in the resolution of the callout. Once the MRAP arrived on scene it was first utilized to protect officers from gunfire and assist the team by illuminating sections of the residence. The MRAP was also utilized to cover officers as they up-rigged and replaced batteries on the state police’s robot. It was utilized as a means to safely move equipment and supplies to and from locations on the scene which were necessary due to the length of the callout. I personally manned the MRAP for several of the more than 26 hours that this callout lasted. While inside the MRAP, the resident shot the vehicle on several occasions. All of these things were wholly important to the success of that mission but one task stood out well above all of the others.

Unquestionably, the most important task the MRAP was utilized for that night was to retrieve the resident’s children. They had been held inside the residence throughout the night and in the early morning hours we were able to coordinate a release. The children made their way to the back of the MRAP which was facing away from the residence. This allowed them to enter without putting anyone in danger of gunfire during the exchange. Once the children were safely inside we were able to move them to a position of safety away from the scene. There is no doubt this was a pivotal moment in that callout. The safe removal of these children was paramount to the team and would not have been possible without the use of the newly acquired MRAP.

There is no doubt in my mind that had we not utilized the MRAP that night, the outcome would have been much different. Undoubtedly, that piece of equipment saved lives. Most importantly, it protected the lives of those children and secondly it protected the lives of all of the officers involved. I realize there has been a sweeping trend toward critiquing law enforcement for becoming "too militarized." I can assure you that the intention of the Covington Police Department is and always has been to utilize the MRAP as a rescue and life-saving tool. It is utilized only when absolutely necessary during situations such as high risk or rescue operations. That night last December the MRAP performed its function flawlessly.

Shortly after the callout I was approached by several of the people I mentioned at the beginning of this letter who were the staunchest opponents against getting the MRAP. They told me that that night had proven them wrong and that they were glad that we were all ok. They all agreed that the use of the MRAP was critical in reaching a resolution that night. After the callout was over and I was able to get a shower and a few hours of sleep I was just glad to know that the three children were safe and that all the others involved were able to return to their families that day. I have hugged my wife and kids a little tighter after that and never forgotten just how quickly lives can change.

I want to express my deepest and most sincere thanks to you and the others involved in the program for allowing our department the opportunity to utilize the MRAP as a means of protecting our community and citizens.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Sgt. Justin Wewholt
Section II – HMMWVs
The State of Michigan
Article: “Michigan police big and small defend use of military gear”

Section II – HMMWVs
The State of New Jersey – Agency uses HMMWVs from 1033 program for multiple purposes
Section III – Aircrafts
The State of South Carolina
1033 Program Supports New Aviation Program

Article: “Florence County Sheriff's Office announces aviation program”

Section IV – Misc. Items
The State of New Jersey and their M923WA2 Truck

TOMS RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
255 Oak Ave., P.O. Box 876
Toms River, NJ 08754-0876

Chief Mitchell A. Little
732-924-0130 ext. 1201
Fax: 732-924-0009
Email: Chief@trpolice.org

May 30, 2015

SFC Robert Aprep
New Jersey Division of State Police
Office of Emergency Management
Preparedness Bureau Support Services Unit
P.O. Box 7078
River Road, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0708

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Toms River Police Department, I would like to thank you and the other members of the bureau for your assistance in getting us the M923WA2 Truck. On May 28, 2015 our township was struck by a storm that dropped five inches of rain water in a one hour span with hail and strong winds. The last lower section of the township experienced flooding and in some areas up to thirty inches, this caused roads to be impassable and motorists trapped in their vehicles.

The truck was placed into service and responded to the area. Police officers and fire department personnel waded into the area removing people from their vehicles and checked on the well being of elderly and water trapped residents. The truck provided a protected interior from the high winds and elements and the rear platform was of great assistance to fire fighters in working off of in the high water.

The truck provided a means to get officers into the area that could not be done by any other vehicle in the department’s inventory. We had drivers in private 4x4 vehicles driving in the area causing waves and sending water into resident’s homes. The officers in this truck were able to address this issue and bring order to the affected area. This area was severely affected by Super Storm Sandy and residents were very appreciative of the response this truck provided to them.

Thank you again for your assistance and that of your fellow troopers. It is very reassuring that agencies working together can obtain the resources to help the people of this state when they are in need.

Lt. Thomas Laffan
Lt. Thomas Laffan
Commander Emergency Service Unit
Toms River Police Department
Carlos,

“The Sheriff wanted me to thank you and your staff for running this remarkable 1033 program. Because of this program, we were able to acquire a very nice semi truck, a flatbed trailer and a large front bucket tractor. Our Homicide Detectives have been working a 4 year old homicide case and obtained a search warrant to search and dig for the murder weapon on a large piece of property. The detectives were able to use all the military equipment saving our county thousands of dollars from renting the much needed equipment. They were unable to locate the weapon but spent many hours looking. Please share this message with your staff and thank everyone for the great job you all do for PCSO, Arizona and all of law enforcement. This is just one of many reasons why the 1033 program works. Attached are a couple pictures of Sgt. Rash working the 1033 tractor.”

Thanks again,

Tom Gaupel
Section IV – Misc. Items
The State of Michigan – Agency Receives 30 Pelican Cases Full of New Items from the 1033 Program to prepare them for Emergency Management situations
Section IV – Misc. Items
The State of California – Incident Command Post Drill

“The City of Taft Police Department has been in the 1033 Program since 1996 and has been putting together disaster related supplies since about 2005. Our biggest fear is earthquakes. We are on the Parkfield fault line and only 7 miles north of the San Andreas Fault line. Preparing for earthquakes here is a priority. For the purposes of our first ever event we used quite a lot of material obtained through the 1033 program.

If the city had to purchase these items it would quite probably been cost prohibitive. The 1033 Program has been invaluable. For the purposes of our exercise we used tents, vehicles, trailers, generators, light units, interior lights, cots, blankets, sheets, pillows, tools, electrical cords, plug strips, tables, and chairs.

Our city is moving ahead with additional plans and additional exercises to improve and make ready for any disaster which may occur.”

Ed Whiting
Chief of Police
Taft Police Department
Section IV – Misc. Items
The State of Michigan – New patrol boat honors sheriff who drowned in ’32