

1033 Program and Eugene Police Department

Nationally, the topic of police departments and the donation of surplus military equipment (1033 program) has become a topic of interest. The following is information about the equipment Eugene Police has received through this program, including what the items are and what they are used for:

Eugene Police Department was able to obtain through grants approximately four 1033 surplus program items. Essentially, the few items Eugene Police has are pieces of equipment that it would have had to purchase at taxpayer expense, but that was acquired at very low cost through the 1033 program. Some of these items are ceremonial, as the Honor Guard rifles, and some are operational, as in the HMMWV EPD Rescue Vehicle, which is used in high-risk response to armed subjects.

Here is a break down of the equipment Eugene Police has and what it is used for.

- HMMWV (Humvee) – This was provided for \$5,000 and is on loan to Eugene Police. The original value of this vehicle was more than \$300,000. It is used as a rescue vehicle to: increase operational capacity and safety for our SWAT team during high-risk operations such as an active shooter, officer/civilian rescue or if there is an armed and barricaded subject. It is also the only vehicle we have that can assist in high-water evacuations, due to its higher wheel base. The monthly fleet fee on this vehicle is \$67, and annual maintenance service is \$300.



- Robot with camera – This equipment is not operational and would be too costly to repair so Eugene Police does not anticipate using this.



- Ceremonial Honor Guard Rifles – used for occasions such as award ceremonies, memorials, and civic events and there were no costs to the agency.



- Backpacks and night-vision mounts for ballistic helmets – There were no costs to EPD.



The term “militarization of police” has been used by media in references to the 1033 program. It does not apply to the uses Eugene Police has made of equipment received through the 1033 program, as outlined above.

Eugene Police officers are sent to respond to armed subjects and must be provided with the equipment necessary to go home safely to their families. We have a responsibility to provide the safest environment for our officers and the public. From 2012 to 2013, there has been an increase in our officers encountering weapons on the street. Our Crime Analysis Unit reports that in 2013, there was a 15 percent increase in Weapons Offenses, with a 31 percent increase in weapons possessed illegally and a 9 percent increase in weapons being carried concealed unlawfully. As crime and criminal activity have evolved, so have the practices of those engaged in this activity. Today, many criminals are armed with weaponry that surpasses that available to the police. There is ready access to firearms of all types, along with an increased readiness in many suspects to take the most extreme measures against responding officers.

The surplus equipment Eugene Police received helps meet the needs of our department to safely serve this community.

The Role of SWAT and Patrol Officers in High Risk Situations

Under specifications in Eugene Police Special General Order 1201.5, SWAT responds to the following types of situations:

- sniper incidents
- hostage situations
- “active shooter” situations
- building/area searches for armed wanted subjects when use of SWAT would significantly increase officer and/or public safety

- barricaded subjects who are armed or presumed to be armed with a firearm, explosive device, or other deadly weapon which might reasonably pose a threat to others if the suspect has committed a crime or s/he poses a significant threat to others
- dignitary protection
- high-risk search/arrest warrant service within department policies.

In addition to the Humvee, some time ago, Eugene Police already purchased at City expense a Lenco Bearcat armored vehicle. Both the Bearcat and the 1033-acquired Humvee are defensive in nature, allowing officers to enter high-risk danger zones on calls where the subject may be armed. Neither vehicle is equipped with any type of offensive weapon system. The vehicles transport officers, deliver equipment and are used in rescue situations.

The Eugene SWAT team averages about 12 activations each year, comprised mostly of high-risk search warrant service or barricaded subject situations. Other missions might include area searches or for getting armed suspects out of cars safely. One or both of these vehicles could be used in any of these incidents, depending on the mission.

The Patrol Division also has access to these vehicles when they respond to dangerous situations, which may or may not reach the level of requiring a SWAT response. When one of these vehicles is used by Patrol, there is a mandatory notification of the SWAT commander so he/she can assess the situation to ensure the use of the vehicle is appropriate and to ascertain whether SWAT should be involved in some form. Patrol uses this vehicle primarily to enter a potentially dangerous zone to hail the suspect(s) in an attempt to resolve the situation peacefully and without force. These vehicles are used rarely, on average six to eight times a year. There is a hailing device attached to the Humvee which is used to provide instructions to people such in a barricaded suspect situation or when there is a need to evacuate people from residences or to perform a search and rescue.

The most frequent time these vehicles are seen in the community is when SWAT conducts its twice monthly training. The vehicles are used to transport SWAT officers and conduct training operations.