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Over the past decade, the Northeast Pennsylvania Counter Terrorism Task Force (NEPACTTF) has provided the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department (PMRPD) with invaluable training and equipment necessary to law enforcement operations and the overall safety of the citizens of northeast Pennsylvania. Much of this equipment would not have been within the budgetary limits of our agency, and would have subjected our officers to using less effective and higher risk equipment to accomplish some of our most pressing and dangerous situations.

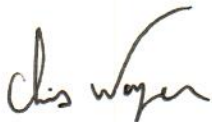
The NEPACTTF has provided our department with multiple training events, including, but not limited to, Basic SWAT, Hostage Rescue, Woodland Operations, Armored Rescue Vehicle Operations, Dignitary Protection, Counter Terrorism Surveillance, Active Shooter and a host of other training and planning events that are critical to overall preparedness. This training may not take place on the same scale if not for the assistance of the NEPACTTF. Because of this funding, our agency alone has trained dozens of officers which may not have been possible on this scale without this assistance. The NEPACTTF has also hosted and funded train the trainer courses, thereby certifying instructors that then, in turn, train most of the officers in our agency in the related topic. Again, this funding is crucial to educating and training our emergency responders at a level that would not be feasible without the assistance of the NEPACTTF.

The NEPACTTF has also provided the Pocono Mountain Regional Police with equipment that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible to obtain without assisted funding. In particular, the NEPACTTF has provided the Pocono Mountain Regional Police with a 2011 Lenco Bearcat Armored Rescue Vehicle. This vehicle was strategically placed with the PMRPD given consideration to geographic placement of this asset with regards to the two other rescue vehicles within the 8 counties of the NEPACTTF. This piece of equipment was critical to the evacuation and scene stabilization of the Blooming Grove State Police siege on September 12, 2014. This vehicle has also been critical to safely operating within several incidents where threat assessments indicated that SWAT teams would be activated.

The NEPACTTF has also provided the PMRPD with a Long Range Acoustical Device (LRAD). The LRAD is also a critical piece of equipment used in the event of manmade or natural disasters. The LRAD can put out critical messages in a time where other electronic devices may not be in service or practical. This piece of equipment would be outside of the budgetary limits of our agency. The absence of the LRAD would reduce overall emergency preparedness.

Finally, the NEPACTTF has provided the PMRPD with a Pointman robot used to safely clear and gain observation points during critical incidents where the scene is not safe for an officer to approach. This piece of equipment was critical to our agency during a hostage situation involving a juvenile. The robot was able to gain a point of observation on the front door of the residence keeping our officers in a safe location and being able to successfully de-escalate the situation. Again, this piece of equipment would not have been within the budgetary limitations of the PMRPD.

The equipment and training mentioned above is not all inclusive. There have been many other critical pieces of equipment and training provided through NEPACTTF funding that has dramatically increased overall public safety and preparedness. As time marches on, however, discussions and planning dictate that the life expectancy of this equipment will come to an end. The NEPACTTF now looks to project forward to replace this critical equipment and to continue with the mission of the task force concept to increase public safety and emergency preparedness. When taking into account current global and domestic terrorism events it is of critical importance that we maintain this funding source necessary to train for, equip and mitigate our man-made and natural disasters.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Respectfully submitted
Chief Chris Wagner