

PMRPD part of counter-terrorism efforts

by Patty Hughes

Robert Werts and Harry Robidoex of the Northeastern PA Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force and Sergeant Tim McCarty of Pocono Mountain Regional Police updated the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission on the recent activities of the Task Force at the regular meeting on July 13. The Task Force was established in 1999, and is made up of eight counties in Northeast Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the Task

Force is to coordinate the efforts of law enforcement, fire, EMS and hospitals in the area in the event of a terrorist attack. Approximately 2,200 police officers in the region meet once a month to ensure that local municipalities are ready to prevent or mitigate the effects of possible attacks.

To date, the task force has received \$94,000 for the purchase of equipment and \$300,000 for training. Sergeant McCarty showed the commission some of the recent equipment purchases, such as: Haz-Mat filtration system, chemical resistant suits, third generation night vision and protective

sued to all police officers in the region. This equipment can be used for emergencies unrelated to terror, such as a recent chemical spill that closed 23 miles of highway from New Jersey to Pennsylvania.

Area police officers have been participating in training offered by the Task Force. Active shooter, chemical and biological weapons, crisis negotiation, hostage rescue and dignitary protection are among the training classes offered. All training is available at no cost to officers. Funding is received from federal and state governments to pay for this training.

Chief John Lamberton told

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Ahart's Market-Z

Cramer's Home Centers-Z