

The Nampa Police has added a new vehicle to its fleet. A military MRAP (mine-resistant, ambush protection). Thanks to a Pentagon program, many of these trucks that once roamed the Middle East are now available to law enforcement agencies. Facing a rise in mass shootings and incidents of terrorism, improving safety has become a top concern for police departments across the nation.

With the Iraq war over and Afghanistan close behind, there aren't many uses for some 20,000 mine-resistant, ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles the Department of Defense developed and built for billions of dollars. Able to withstand ballistic arms fire, mine blasts and improvised explosive devices, the V-shaped hull deflects incoming blasts. The original plan was to leave the trucks valued at more than \$600,000 apiece in a warehouse, but in an effort to maximize the vast dollars invested, the Pentagon decided they should return stateside and provided to law enforcement agencies free of charge. Without this program Nampa Police would be unable to afford such a vehicle. The cost to Nampa citizens was less than \$1000 in travel and fuels cost.

The benefits stem beyond merely public safety, but to the safety of law enforcement officers. Over the years, police deaths by way of ambush have fluctuated widely, with 564 killed by shootings between 2003 and 2012. With officers facing well-armed suspects daily, armored rescue vehicles have become commonplace.

Nampa's MRAP has been assigned to the Nampa Police TRT (Tactical Response Team) to be used primarily as a rescue vehicle. The vehicle can be used for threats from armed gunmen, hostage rescue, bomb threats, and transporting officers in high risk situation.

With recent event across the country including a police shooting in Missoula Montana last week, where an Armored police vehicle was fired on, Nampa Chief of Police Craig Kingsbury has said he want to have every resource available to protect our citizens and officers.

