

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

Recently the Eureka Police Department took delivery on a Seven Hundred Thousand dollar armored vehicle that was given to the City "free-of-charge". Somewhere along the line, the City of Eureka had to sign for this "vehicle". It would be interesting as to what provisions the City had to agree to and for how long. Is this vehicle now an exclusive property of the City? The monstrosity is known as an MRAP which means "Mine Resistant Ambush Protected" and is built to withstand ballistic arms fire, mine blasts, IEDs and other "emergency threats". Nine thousand units have been delivered to the military and of those; two thousand seven hundred have been turned over to the Department of Homeland Security and retrofitted for service on the streets of the United States. The article in the Times/Standard only addresses the Department of Defense as "giving" the vehicle to the City leading the average citizen to believe that DOD has an excess of MRAPs. With a military drawdown, expensive units such as these could be mothballed in the deserts of the Southwest, as they do with thousands of military aircraft. I am sure that they would last a lot longer in a desert climate as opposed to a coastal climate such as ours. Nothing was said of the possible involvement of the Department of Homeland Security. Some of these MRAPs, not Eureka's but in many places across the country, are marked with the color and emblem of the D.H.S. and carry markings such as "Police Rescue" and "Special Response Team". As far as I am concerned, the Department of Homeland Security is the biggest threat to "homeland security" in these United States. Why do we need a second armed force that is responsible to the President of the United States? What kind of threat do we citizens pose to the government? This type of armored vehicle, spread throughout the United States, plus the information that D.H.S. has purchased more than two billion bullets over the past year should be scary stuff to the American citizen and their representatives in Washington, although I hear no concerns from any member of Congress, Democrat or Republican. Why not? The last purchase of three hundred and sixty thousand rounds of ammunition consisted of hollow point bullets. Hollow points for target practice? Retail outlets are having a difficult time keeping a supply of many calibers of ammunition in stock. Why? The supply has been curtailed in deference to the "needs" of the Department of Homeland Security. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which falls under DHS, was also busy during Twenty Eleven and Twenty Twelve. They purchased over One Billion Dollars of packaged meats and canned, freeze dried foods plus blankets, body bags and plastic coffins. D.H.S. has also bought body armor, personal protective equipment, bullet proof checkpoint booths and riot gear. Interesting! Something smells.

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