

MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ACQUIRES DIVE TEAM SUPPORT VEHICLE UNDER UASI FY'14

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) recently completed the acquisition of a Dive Team Response and Support Vehicle (also known as "the Dive Bus" – Fig. 1) with just over \$240,000 in Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) FY2014 grant funds through the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO).

A joint project of the RDPO Law Enforcement and Marine and Civil Aviation Work Groups, the Dive Bus will enhance the ability of the MCSO Dive Team and other specialized teams to conduct search and rescue



Figure 1: Photo credit MCSO

operations and respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) events on waterways throughout the Portland Metropolitan Region (PMR). It will also support law enforcement efforts to investigate, disrupt, deter, and dismantle international and domestic terrorism threats in the PMR.

The Dive Bus replaces a 20+ year old van that was too small to accommodate necessary personnel and equipment for the MCSO dive team. Additionally, the van did not have the capability to provide electrical service for the team's specialized equipment.

The new Dive Bus can do both of these things and more. It enables the team to respond to incidents more quickly and expands the team's ability to work in remote areas without access to electrical power.

The new customized vehicle will allow the MCSO Dive Team to serve counties and other jurisdictions without dive capabilities and increase efficiency of response time for sensitive investigations and recovery.

The new vehicle will also enhance the dive team's ability to be an even more effective partner on routine Homeland Security missions with partner agencies. Such missions include partnering with the Port of Portland on terrorist threat mitigation, including inspecting seawalls and protecting terminals, vessels, ports/waterways and other critical maritime infrastructure.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office took delivery on the Dive Bus in November 2015. Act Lt. Stephen Dangler, Commander of the Dive Team, commented: "It is an incredible asset to have for our region and we are proud to have such a beautiful piece of equipment for our agency and for our Dive Team."