

## **1033 Program – Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Testimony – Rep. Dave Reichert**

- Mr. Chairman,
- I am here to request that no funds be used in the Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Defense Appropriations legislation to fulfill Executive Order 13688 – which is in regards to the 1033 Program.
- The sale or donation of excess property from the Department of Defense to state and local law enforcement agencies, otherwise known as the 1033 program, is essential to keeping our communities safe.
- On January 16, 2015, President Obama issued Executive Order 13688 which created a prohibited list of items to be transferred under the 1033 program. This list includes armored tracked vehicles, .50-caliber firearms and ammunition, bayonets, and camouflage.
- While much of the equipment provided under the program is basic office equipment, with terrorist threats occurring

on a daily basis, law enforcement agencies are now tasked with being the front lines of domestic terror attacks where some of this equipment is needed to respond.

- For example, during the tragic terrorist attack in San Bernardino, law enforcement officers used armored vehicles as protection during their response to help prevent further loss of life
- Now is not the time to take away this needed equipment from law enforcement officers who sacrifice their lives every day to protect their communities.
- In order to receive equipment, law enforcement agencies must go through an extensive application process with all equipment received to be demilitarized before being released to the public.
- With budget cuts affecting every aspect of law enforcement, the 1033 program is a necessary tool that

law enforcement agencies use to fulfill their equipment needs.

- A well-equipped law enforcement agency is critical to our nation's national security – which is why it is very concerning that the President has attempted to stop the transfer of needed law enforcement tools
- That is why I request that no funds in the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Appropriations bill should be used to carry out Executive Order 13688