



## GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

424 Route 106, Greenfield Township, PA 18407



### **PRESS RELEASE**

**July 23, 2007**

#### **Greenfield Township – Police Place Thermal Imaging Camera in Service**

Greenfield Twp, PA 7/23/07 - The Greenfield Township Board of Supervisors announced today that the Greenfield Township Police have placed a thermal imaging camera in-service. Greenfield Township Police Chief, Paul Fortuner Sr, reported to the Township Supervisors that the camera and transmitting equipment have been received, all officers trained its use, and the equipment officially placed in service.

The equipment was part of a federal grant provided by the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP), which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security. As part of the grant package, Chief Fortuner traveled to New Orleans to be trained, along with roughly 250 other police officers from around the country. The training included methods for deployment of the thermal imaging camera and the radio transmission equipment. The camera is capable of “seeing in the dark” by detecting and decoding invisible heat signatures of equipment and people. The transmission equipment allows the image that the user sees on the camera’s screen to be transmitted back to a monitor for viewing by tactical units in the field and to be recorded as evidence.

After receiving the camera, Chief Fortuner conducted training for the officers in the Greenfield Township Police Department. In addition to the routine law enforcement applications the thermal imager will be used to identify, isolate, and validate threats to public safety from a protective distance. This remote survey will allow rapid command and control activities to be established including scene security, all without placing the officer in a dangerous environment.

The Camera was one of only two such CEDAP grants awarded in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania (i.e., Wayne, Pike, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties), as part of the 2006 CEDAP Grant Program. The other was for hazardous material detection equipment, in the form of five photo-ion detection gas meters, awarded to the Greenfield Township Fire Company.

Township Supervisors Bruce Evans , noted that the success of both the Fire Company and the Police Department in this grant program was a direct reflection of the hard work of both Chief Fortuner and Fire Chief Fred Bales, and the dedication that both have shown to the citizens of Greenfield Township. Chief Bales noted that Chief Fortuner’s pursuit of professional Fire, Hazardous Materials, and Medical Certifications had a significant impact in the success of the Police Departments Grant.

Chief Fortuner is one of the few Police Officers in Lackawanna County that holds certification not only as a police officer, but also national certification as a Fire Fighter Level 2, Hazardous Materials Responder at the Operations Level, and is a PA Department of Health Emergency Medical Technician.