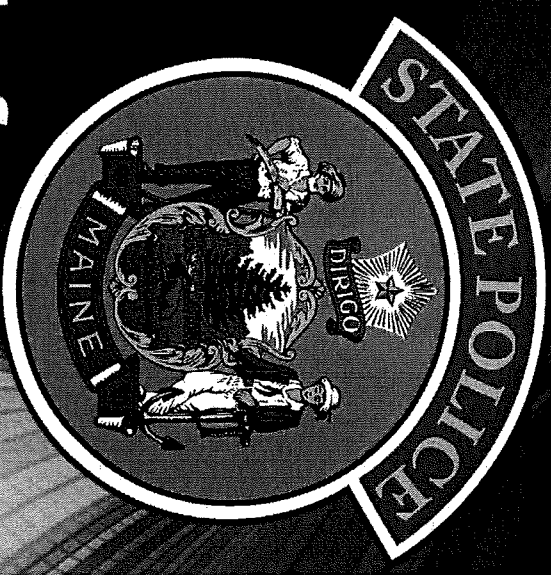


# Maine State Police Tactical Operations Brief

LEWISTON<sup>18</sup> TRAGEDY, CASE: 23SO56156



**October 25, 2023**

# Maine State Police Tactical Team

## **Tactical Team/SWAT Team:**

- A group of law enforcement officers specially trained and equipped to respond to incidents that are elevated in risk or complex in nature that are beyond the capabilities of a normal patrol officer.

## **Tactical Team Leadership:**

- Conduct risk assessments for tactical decisions considering public safety, officer safety, and mission success in making tactical decisions.

## **Maine State Police Tactical Team:**

- A group of Troopers with advanced training and equipment to respond to and resolve high-risk incidents throughout the State of Maine.

# Tactical Team Mutual Aid



- The Maine State Police Tactical Team maintains relationships with other Tactical Teams in Maine for mutual aid purposes. The teams to be mentioned in following slides referred to as Tactical Teams, Special Response Teams or SWAT Teams are all similar in nature and service their respective geographical locations.
- The Maine State Police Tactical Team maintains annual joint training and collaboration with New England State Police Tactical Teams through their NESPAC relationships.



# Tactical Team Response to Lewiston

- 7:20 PM- Sgt. Roy received first informal notification of incident.
- 7:24 PM- Sgt. Roy received first formal request for Tactical Team response.
- 7:26 PM- MSP Tactical Team activation is sent. Full team response (20), CNT element, EOD element, 2 Bear Cats with drivers.
- While responding, Sgt. Roy became aware of other State teams responding and began calling Commanders to organize the response.

# Tactical Team Mutual Aid Response

**Sgt. Roy learns the following Tactical Teams are responding:**

- York County SRT
- Portland PD SRT
- Brunswick PD SRT
- Cumberland County ESU

**Sgt. Roy makes contact with the following Tactical Teams and requests they be on standby:**

- NH State Police
- FBI- Boston
- Southern ME Regional SWAT
- Bangor PD SRT

## Tactical Team Response

- Tactical Team requests all Tactical Resources respond to the Lewiston Coliseum parking lot for staging. This location has been used by MSP TT before for larger operations in Lewiston as a staging location. Lewiston PD is not able to accommodate a staging of resources of this magnitude.
- 8:45 PM- Sgt. Roy arrives at the Command Post at Lewiston PD.
- The scene is hectic and patrol officers are responding lights and sirens in all directions.
- CCESU is requested by Lewiston PD to post security at the CP.

# False Reports

- 7:51 PM- Report of Active Shooter at Davinci's Restaurant in Lewiston. False report.
- 8:11 PM- SWAT members respond to a report of sighting then report of Active Shooter at the Walmart Distribution Center in Lewiston. False report.
- Numerous other reported sightings around the general Lewiston area. These reports create confusion and self-deployment of resources.

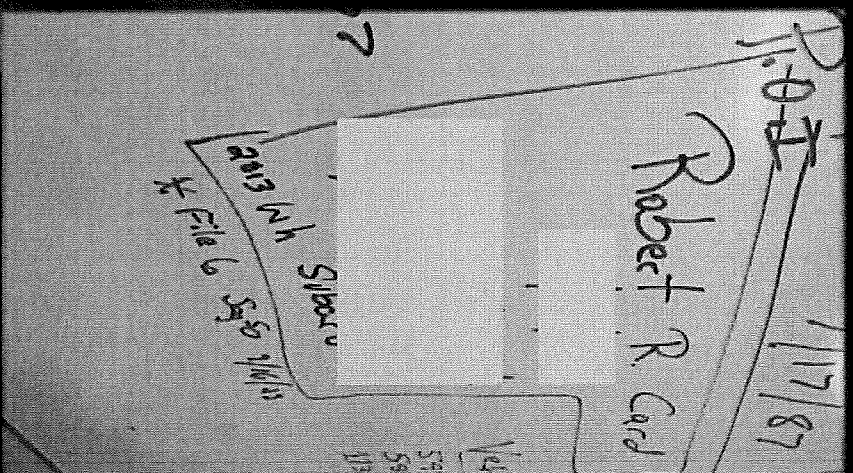
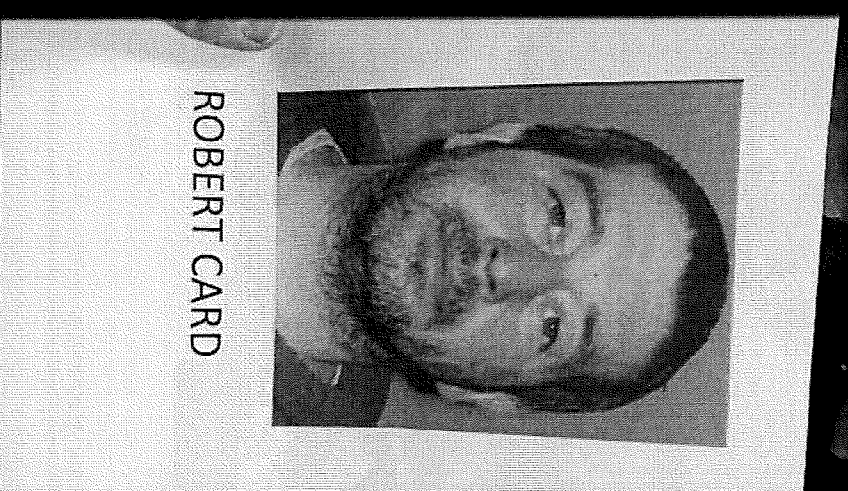
# Suspect Photo



- 8:07 PM
- Suspect photo informally released from surveillance video

# Robert Card

- Resident of Bowdoin, Maine
- 40 years old
- Initial info is he is a highly trained Army Reserve Soldier, certified "sharpshooter" and weapons expert.
- Early intel that he is in possession of thermal scopes for rifles.



## Tactical Response

- Tactical Team requests the City of Lewiston be split into zones to facilitate tactical response to unconfirmed sightings. This was done to prevent all resources responding to unconfirmed sightings and create the ability to react to information faster.

## Timeline Recap

- 6:56 PM- 911 Call Just-In-Time Recreation
- 7:08 PM- 911 Call Schemengee's Bar and Grill
- 7:24PM- MSP TT Requested
- 8:45 PM- Sgt. Roy at CP/Tactical Staging Area Developed
- 9:15 PM- Card identified

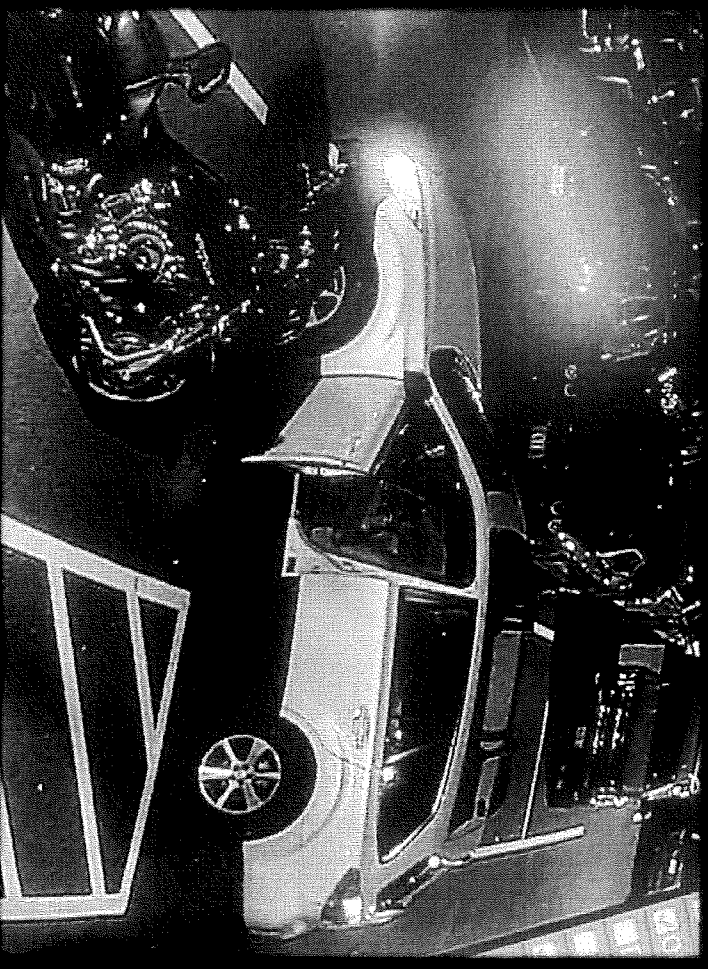




# Scenes

# Suspect Vehicle

- The suspect's vehicle is identified via surveillance video at Schemengee's Bar.



## First Tactical Mission

- Once the vehicle description is released, a 4-person vehicle Quick Reaction Force (QRF) of MSP TT is launched from staging to the Bowdoin area to attempt drive-bys of residences.
- 9:20 PM- Exigency location info places the suspect's cellular phone at his residence in Bowdoin.
- Incident Command asks for tactical units to prepare for a search warrant at 1017 West Road in Bowdoin.
- MSP TT and Portland PD SRT begin planning the search warrant and prepare to launch.

## Vehicle Found

- 9:56 PM- Lisbon PD locates the suspect's vehicle in a boat landing parking lot at the intersection of Frost Hill Ave and Rt. 196 in Lisbon.
- 10:05 PM- Sgt. Roy notified the vehicle was found. MSP TT and PPD SRT respond.
- 10:23 PM- MSP TT and Portland SRT arrive on scene
- Vehicle is pulled in a parking space near the north trail location. Windows are dark.



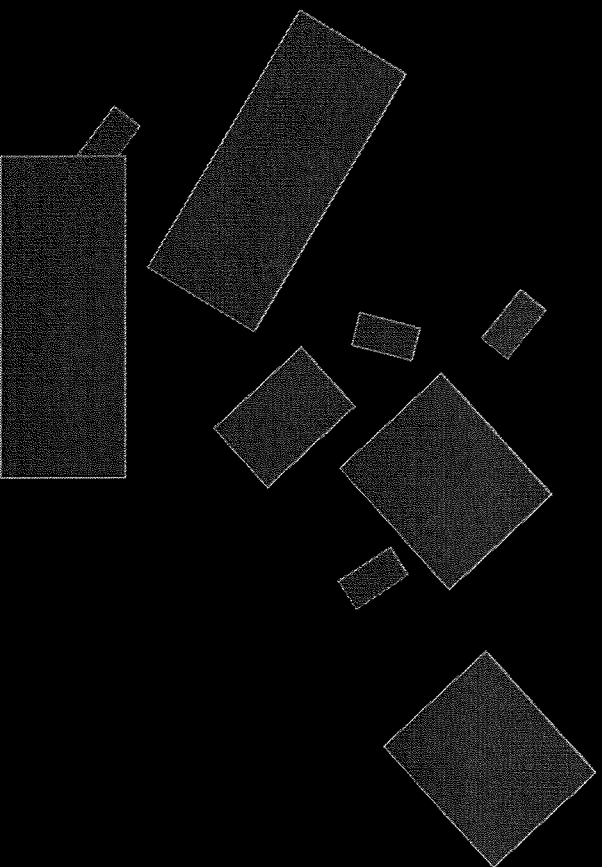
# Boat Landing

- Walking trail to the north
- Walking trail to the south
- Both paved



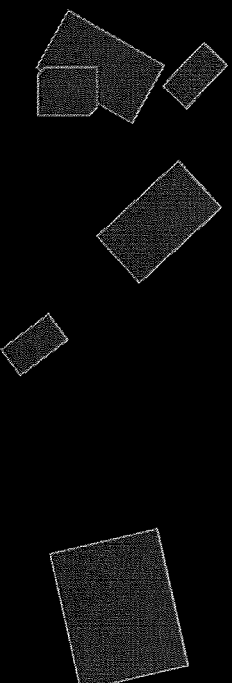
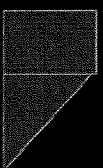
# Boat Landing Upon Arrival

- Dozens of first responders are on scene. They maintained separation from the car and enveloped the surrounding area.
- Multiple reports that first responders are in the woods and on the walking paths.
- TT starts pulling first responders back and relieving them for area patrols.



# Tactical Team Boat Landing

- MSP TT Bear Cats (armored vehicles) move into the parking lot and begin trying to see inside the car.
- PPD SRT takes an overwatch position on the elevated bridge.





## Boat Landing

- NH SP Helicopter comes overhead and begins scanning for heat signatures.
- 10:32 PM- MSP TT use Bear Cat ram to breach vehicle windows. Card is not inside. Appears to be a rifle inside.
- 10:45 PM- Operators report seeing officers on the walking trail.
- NH SP Helicopter identifies a possible heat signature north on the trail.
- 10:46 PM- MSP TT drives Bear Cat to that location. It is unfounded.
- 10:55 PM- The car is determined to be clear and immediate area around the vehicle secure.

## Other Information

- 10:52 Hours- Lisbon PD notified MSP TT that a business owner at Springworks Farm in Lisbon heard about what was happening and went to check his business. He found an unsecured door, went inside, heard what he thought was someone inside and then a door slam. The owner checked a bathroom door and found it to be locked from the inside. This location is .8 miles northwest of the boat landing.
- MCU notifies Tactical Team that they believe Card's ex-girlfriend may be a target and she lives in Lisbon. They were working on confirming an address.
- Card's cell phone continues to locate in the area of his residence.

## Other Tactical Teams Deployed

Sgt. Roy works with Lt. Ernewein and moved teams to the following locations to better contain and respond to areas around Lisbon and the walking trail:

- YC SRT - Lisbon Community School. .6 miles along the northbound walking trail
- Brunswick PD SRT - Int. Rt. 9 and Rt. 196. South of boat landing
- HSI Boston (just arrived)- Lisbon Community FCU, vicinity of Spring Works Farms



## K9 Track Decision

At this time a K9 track from the vehicle was considered, but ultimately it was decided to not attempt a K9 track for the following reasons:

- Lengthy delay- likely 3 Hrs and 40 Min at this point
- Heavily contaminated surrounding of scene
- First responders in potential surrounding area
- Experience with long delay K9 Tracks in similar circumstances
- Suspect's cellular phone locating in Bowdoin, ME
- Fresh break-in reported .8 miles from Boat Landing
- Report the suspect's ex-girlfriend lives in Lisbon, MCU working on an address

# Springworks Farm & Follow On

- 11:17 PM- Tactical Team arrives at Springworks Farm. Perimeter is established. Portland PD remains at the boat landing.
- 11:37 PM- Once perimeter is established, MSP TT makes entry and begins to clear the large building.
- 11:58 PM- The bathroom is located.
- 12:06 AM- The bathroom is breached and cleared. Suspect is not located.
- MCU provides address for ex-girlfriend at 10 Center St in Lisbon.
- 12:49 AM- MSP TT responds and conducts surround and callout. Residents are reached on the phone, and it is determined to be unfounded. Clear at 01:02 AM.
- 1:10 AM- Lisbon PD provides intel on rental property. MSP TT makes contact with tenant. No issues.

# Staged Tactical Operations

- 1:30 AM- MSP TT and PPD SRT move to the Lisbon High School for staging.
- Sgt. Roy moves to the new Command Post at Lewiston High School.
- Sgt. Roy had requested Bangor PD SWAT and Southern Maine SWAT respond for staging.
- Formal overall Tactical Command at the Command Post is established by Sgt. Roy at 2:00 AM Hours.
- MSP TT is split into two teams.

# Tactical Planning

## Overnight planning includes the following goals:

- Gain accountability of Tactical Resources present and available.
- Learn capabilities of present and available Tactical Resources.
- Identify any immediate taskings necessary.
- Establish lines of communication with Incident Command and develop procedures for dispatching Tactical Resources to planned operations and emergency responses.
- Develop and plan morning operational taskings.
- Triage overnight taskings as mission requests come in.
- Conduct briefings with morning Tactical Assets.
- Intel based actions vs. Reactive Capabilities



# Tactical Planning - Operational Periods

Tactical Command begins placing deployed teams into rest cycles and notifies the following teams for 0800 hours operational period:

- New Hampshire State Police SWAT
- Maine State Police Tactical Team
- FBI Boston SWAT
- ATF SWAT (Arrived on scene)
- Portland PD SRT

## Overnight coverage:

- Maine State Police Tactical Team
- HSI SWAT
- Southern Maine Regional SWAT (SM SWAT)
- Bangor PD SRT (BaPD SRT)
- ICE SRT (Arrived on scene)

# Overnight Tactical Operations

- 3:33 AM- Command requests First Fleet in Auburn to be cleared. Reported to be Card's former employer. HSI SWAT and BAPD SWAT dispatched. This was completed at 4:39 AM.
- 3:50 AM- Command requests security details at Card's residence and a residence containing family members in Bowdoin. ICE SRT and SM SWAT dispatched.
- The detail at Card's residence was put in place until the search warrant was executed.
- The detail at the residence containing family was in place for the rest of this operation.

# October 26 Morning Operational Period 8:00 AM Briefing

## Card's Residence- Search Warrant

- Objective- Soften and search residence and secure for evidence search by investigators.
- Assigned- MSP TT2 Split & NHSP SWAT
- Completed 1:58 PM- TT Element remained for security.

## Walking Trail/Adjacent Woods Search North of Boat Landing

- Objective- Search for Card or evidence along the trail north of the landing (Card's vehicle was much closer to the north trail than the south trail).
- Assigned- MSP TT2 Split & FBI SWAT
- Completed 12:09 PM

## Area in Monmouth- Arial Thermal Flight for Heat Signatures/ORF

- Objective- Area of interest based on interviews. Helicopter to search for heat signature, ORF ready to respond if needed.
- Assigned- PPD SRT

# October 26 Afternoon Operational Period

## MSP confirmed sighting in Rumford, ME:

- TT deployed via Helicopter. FBI SWAT via ground. Unfounded.

## Maine Recycling Center:

- It was reported Card was former employer.
- PPD SRT and BRPD SRT responded and cleared the building and surrounding outbuildings and trailers. Completed at 3:17 PM.

## Family property in Bowdoin:

- Consent Search - FBI SWAT assigned and completed.

## Family property on Meadow Road:

- Consent Search - MSP TT and NHSP assigned. Completed at 8:07 PM.

## Boat landing walking trail:

- South of parking lot. MSP TT completed utilizing UTVs. No evidence located.

# Overnight Coverage

- Massachusetts State Police STOP Team (MaSP STOP) requested and responded with an element to supplement MSP TT.
- FBI SWAT
- ICE SRT
- HSI SWAT

# Overnight Operation

## **2:00 AM - Command/MCU report a possible accomplice was in custody.**

- This accomplice lived in a camper in a gravel pit in Lisbon.
- MSP TT and MasP STOP requested to insert and conduct surveillance.
- Surveillance was conducted. No sighting. Pulled out for a planned follow-on SW the following day.
- This lead determined to be unfounded.

## **2:15 AM - Call into Veteran's Suicide Hotline**

- Male claiming to be Card.
- Phone pingging in Lewiston apartment building.
- Determined to be hoax.

# October 27 Morning Operational Period Goals

## Proactive Search Efforts:

- High probability intel-based mission had been mostly completed.
- Turning point to working on systematic line searches in areas of potential relevance for signs of Card or evidence.
- Reactive Capability of Tactical Teams to be immediately available to respond to intel-based missions or sightings.

# October 27 Morning Operational Period Operations

## **Associated Cabin Bowdoin- Search & Wooded Curtilage Search**

- Objective- Information provided that Card frequented this cabin as a child and there are known weapons present. Conduct search of cabin for Card and search curtilage for evidence of Card. Completed 1:57 PM.
- MESP TT<sub>2</sub>, NHSP SWAT (Residence), ATF SWAT (Curtilage)

## **Property Monmouth –Search & Wooded Curtilage Search**

- Objective- Rumors of bunker on property. Search and attempt to locate.
- PPD SRT & BrPD SRT

## **Family Property Monmouth –Search & Wooded Curtilage Search**

- Objective- Family property of Card's. Search for evidence check.
- HSI SWAT

## **Lisbon Boat Landing – Warden Service Systematic Search/Cadaver & River Diver Operations – SWAT**

### **Security Team Needed – See Next Slide for Map**

- Objective- Provide security operations for Dive Teams and Warden Service Search Teams.
- SM SWAT & BORTAC Team for Helo Communications

## **Command Post/Stand By For Tasking**

- BORTAC, FBI SWAT & ICE SRT



- Areas systematically searched with teams led by Warden Service



# October 27 Morning Operational Period Phone Tips and 911 Calls

## **9:30 AM- Intel Golden Rd Ln in Lisbon**

- Caller on Golden Rd (off Frost Hill Ave) reported hearing a single gunshot in the woods the night the vehicle was found. ICE SRT dispatched for wooded search.

## **10:30 AM- 911 Call Left-Hand Club**

- Caller reported hearing a single gunshot near the Left-Hand Club in Lisbon. BORTACTeam sent for wooded search.

## **12:19 PM- 911 Hang-Up Calls- Durham, ME**

- Reported to be mother's house. BORTAC ORF sent, MESP TT Bear Cat redirected. BORTAC established containment, and a US Marshal Service group arrived and decided to make entry and search. Card not located.

- **Screening other low probability sightings to patrol**

# October 27 Afternoon Operational Period

## 6:00 PM- MSP TT and MaSP STOP briefing

- Eight-person team dispatched to the Maine Recycling Overflow lot to confirm clearance. Site was believed to be searched multiple times; however, this was conducted for confirmation.

## 6:33 PM- High-probable sightings Bowdoin/Richmond

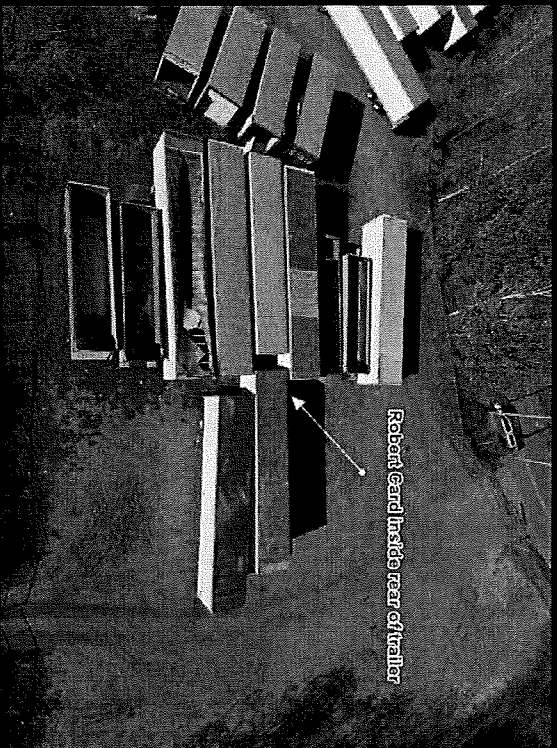
- HSI and BORTAC Team in the area sent for Kg Track. Two separate reports of person running through backyards. MSP TT, MaSP STOP and CC ESU respond with armored vehicles.

**Card is Located**



# Maine Recycling

# Maine Recycling Overflow





# Body Discovered

## 7:08 PM- Systematic search of overflow lot begins

- Team of MSP TT and MaSP STOP begin searching and marking clear all the overflow lot trailers.

## 7:47 PM- Card is located

- Card is located in the rear of one of the trailers near the door on the inside.
- Card is deceased from an apparent self-inflicted GSW to the head.
- Card is armed with a handgun and AR-15 style rifle.
- Sgt. Roy informs Command and Command requests confirmation photo, which was provided. Tactical Team remains for scene security until relieved.

## In Review

- From the time of the first 911 call to the time the body was discovered is 48 hours and 51 minutes.
- Total Tactical Operations Conducted: 29 Operations
- Over 350 Tactical Operators from 16 Local, Regional, State and Federal SWAT Teams responded and operated within the Tactical Command Structure.



# Tactical Teams Deployed

- Maine State Police Tactical Team
- New Hampshire State Police SWAT
- Massachusetts State Police STOP
- Portland Police Department SRT
- York County Regional SRT
- Cumberland County ESU
- Brunswick Police Department SRT
- Southern Maine Regional SWAT
- Bangor Police Department SWAT
- FBI- Boston Regional SWAT
- FBI- HRT Contingent
- HIS- Boston Regional SWAT
- ATF- Washington DC & LA Teams
- ICE- Boston and New York Teams
- Border Patrol- BORTAC