

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

25 September 2017 / 25 septembre 2017

Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

Contact Person / Personne ressource:

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**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO OUTSTANDING INQUIRY #I-17-02: NIGHT VISION
GOGGLES**

**OBJET: RÉPONSE À LA DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS NO I-17-02 :
LUNETTES DE VISION NOCTURNE**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du
présent rapport à titre d'information.**

BACKGROUND

At the Ottawa Police Services Board meeting on 27 March 2017 Member Smallwood submitted the following Inquiry and asked that the response be reported back to the Board:

Member Smallwood referred to a report requesting the Board to approve the purchase of \$400,000 worth of Night Vision Goggles (NVG) (28 September 2015). He asked the Chief to report back to the Board about the number of times the goggles have been used and in what scenarios.

RESPONSE

The acquisition of Night Vision Goggles was an important step for the Tactical Unit as it improved the capabilities of the Unit to operate at night and in low light circumstances and replaced outdated equipment. The upgraded capabilities were purchased as a direct result of an operational deficiency identified after an extremely high risk tactical operation during which the previous equipment placed our officers in unnecessary risk. The ability to deploy these units enhances public and officer safety.

The NVGs are built into daily operations as part of the kit of on duty tactical officers. Every squad has over 20 hours of yearly training of NVGs. This is a significant amount of training when put into context with all the disciplines tactical members must train on.

While OPS does not track every usage of the devices, NVGs have been used by tactical officers in a number of operational events such as during a K9 track of a murder suspect that went from an urban to rural environment. They have also been deployed during several containment calls for barricaded people. Recently, the NVGs were deployed to assist Patrol in locating a armed man with military training suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

The Tactical Unit continues to work to develop its NVG program and has dedicated one day of team training in the coming months for all members on the devices.