



November 11, 2011 —

The Sheriff's Office recently added an all terrain multipurpose vehicle to its public safety arsenal. It is a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, better known as Humvee, which once belonged to the U.S. Army at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs.



The vehicle, now the possession of the Elbert County Sheriff's Office has already been used in combating illegal marijuana grows in Elbert County. The HUMVEE can maneuver where a lesser vehicle can't travel and can carry 12 SWAT team members in the process. The Sheriff applied for, and was granted the vehicle at no charge through the Federal Surplus Property Program. The vehicle, with only 8,800 miles, was checked out by mechanics who reported it to be in great condition.

Sheriff Heap said the vehicle will be used for any natural disaster where you might have to rescue people, or get food and water to people in situations where four-wheel-drive vehicles are insufficient. The Sheriff's Office is also working with Chief TJ Steck (Elizabeth Fire Department) who is outfitting an all terrain trailer that will be towed by the HUMVEE when fighting wild land fires in the County.



Sheriff Heap said days after the vehicle was put into service, it was put to use. He said, "Deputies used the vehicle to conduct a warrant search of a property where illegal marijuana was being cultivated and sold as far away as Chicago. It was perfect; it was something that our regular patrol cars and four-wheel-drive vehicles could not have done. The vehicle will be put to use during major snow storms and blizzards where Deputies often are not able to reach stranded motorists and provide medical aid or transport those individuals out of the harsh winter elements".

The citizens and business in the County continue to be strong supporters of the Sheriff's Office and the overall public safety mission of first responders, fire and law alike. Morrie Christner, owner of Bender Menders in Elizabeth, donated a significant amount of his time and expertise in completing body work and painting the vehicle. Bender Menders is located at 763 Crossroads Circle in Elizabeth – 303-646-3378. The Sheriff's Office extends its sincere appreciation to Bender Menders and those others in the community who made this project a reality.

See photo album on Facebook at "Elbert County Sheriff"

