

CPD demonstrates new communications equipment

All photos by Susalyn Bennett

By Susalyn Bennett



The Clinton Police Department (CPD) recently demonstrated their new custom Peltor over-the-helmet earmuffs, obtained thanks to a grant from Central Mississippi Friends of NRA.

Clinton's Community Relations Officer Lt. Mike Kelly demonstrated the new equipment, with Bill Molitor of Clinton and Dick Withers present representing the Central Mississippi Friends of NRA. Withers serves as the organization's chairman.

Kelly explained that officers operating on CPD's Swat Team must have equipment that provides reliable radio communications, but that also protects their hearing. Kelly said the equipment CPD has been using is cumbersome, uncomfortable and can be easily unintentionally disabled, making it not conducive to functioning well in a high-stress environment.

"Each new Peltor earmuff set attaches to the outside of an operator's helmet, plugs directly to a 'push-to-talk' on their vest, and includes amplified mics," said Kelly. "Ambient noise can be adjusted and tuned out, as needed. These new sets are much more comfortable and functional for the officers."

"Five of the fifteen operators on CPD's Swat Team are now wearing the new sets. Ten additional sets are needed, so that all the officers will have one," said Kelly. "The sets cost just under \$900 each."



Clinton Police Chief Ford Hayman, Bill Molitor, Dick Withers and CPD Lt. Mike Kelly

Kelly said that Friends of the NRA grants are used to provide equipment and funds to educational groups, nonprofit organizations and law enforcement, to assist them with their firearm safety and training needs.

"I met Mr. Molitor when he attended our Citizens' Police Academy a few years back, and he told us about the FONRA grants," said Kelly. "We submitted a grant application. Central MS FONRA began providing supplemental funding, through their generous grants, that CPD used to purchase ammunition used in officer training. In 2020, rather than requesting their help purchasing training ammunition, we instead requested funding for these new over-the-helmet headsets. We have applied again, this year, in hopes of receiving another grant, which will be used to obtain additional sets."

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