



Examining Police Militarization

Overblown or cause for concern?



Police Have Adjusted to Changing Threat

Police departments are not overly militarized. Police use of some military equipment, organization, and tactics over the past fifty years have been justified due to the changing threats the police face in modern America

1968

Democratic National Convention Riot

Chicago Police Department (expedited). Also present: National Guard and United States Army.



Helmet

Gas Mask



Tear Gas Canisters:

Emulsified chemical agent, reacts with moisture on the skin and in the eyes.

Billy Club

Characteristics of "Escalated Force":

Inflexibility: intolerance of disorder and poor communication.

Retributive Force:

Violence frequently used against socially and legally marginal groups.

1995

Millen Man March

Washington D.C. police (expedited). Also present: U.S. Park Police.



Standard "Soft Hat" Uniform

Characteristics of "Negotiated Management":



Communication: Coordinated efforts with several agencies to maximize use of resources on both sides.



Flexibility: Superior officers in the field ready to adapt to changing conditions.

2011

Occupy Oakland Eviction

Oakland Police Department (expedited). Also present: other agencies.



Full helmet with Face Shield

Gas Mask

Police Tactical Body Armor

12-Gauge Shotgun (with "Less Lethal" Rounds)

"Less Lethal" Projectiles:



Bean Bag Round



Tear Gas Canister (loaded with 40-Milimeter Launcher)

Characteristics of "Militarized":

Pre-emption: Projects managed through permit process and prescriptive arrests.

Communication:

Regular use of intimidation, less lethal weapons and physical force.

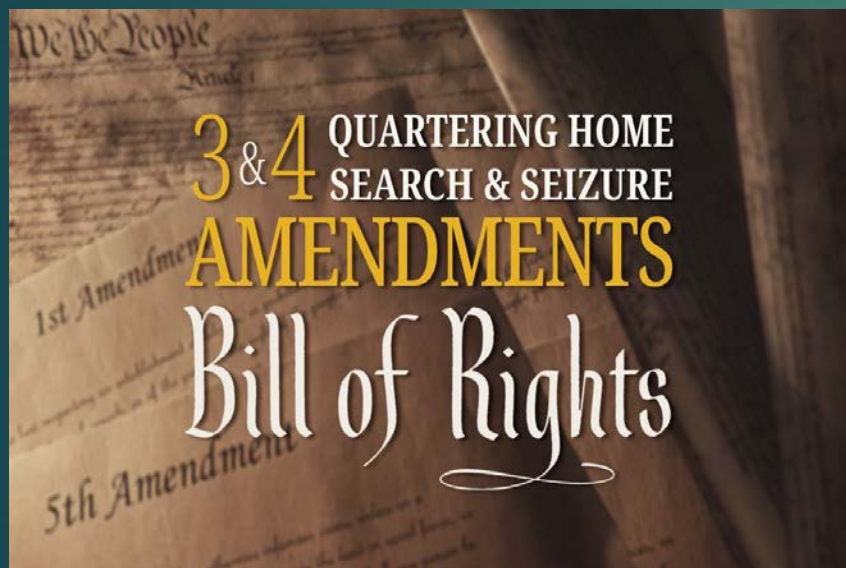


Flash Bangs (use if needed):

Flash-bang produces bright light and sound designed to stun and temporarily disorient.

Background

Constitutional Structure





WE TOOK AN OATH,

"I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC; THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME; AND THAT I WILL OBEY THE ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE ORDERS OF THE OFFICERS APPOINTED OVER ME, ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS AND THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE. SO HELP ME GOD."

**AND LIVE
BY IT.**

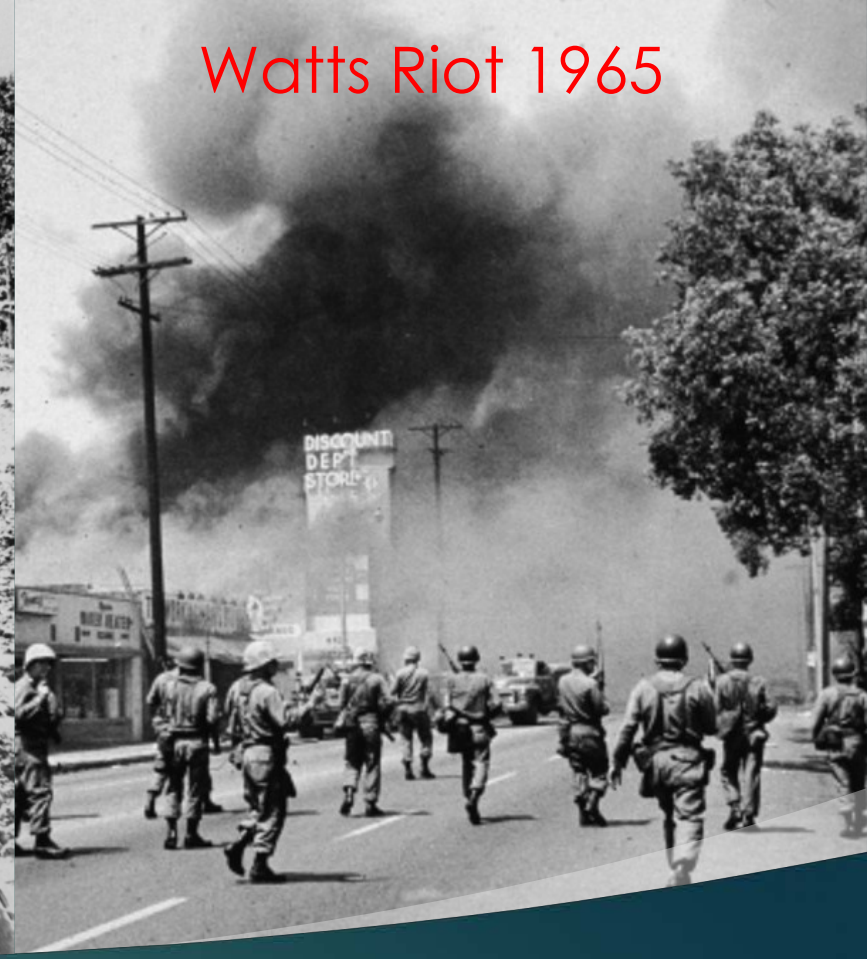


Law Enforcement and Military Functions

Criteria for Assessing Militarization of Police

- ▶ Operational
- ▶ Organizational
- ▶ Cultural
- ▶ Material





Watts Riot 1965

Evolution of Policing in Response to Changing Threats: **War on Crime**

IMPACT OF THE DRUG WAR

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan's administration prompted Congress to pass the Military Cooperation with Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies Act. The legislation permitted U.S. military collaboration with civilian law enforcement in the growing war on drugs, including the sharing of information and facilities and training on and use of military equipment.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 1990 authorized the Department of Defense to transfer military equipment to law enforcement agencies "for use in counterdrug activities."



Evolution of Policing in Response to Changing Threats: War on Drugs



Evolution of Policing in Response to Changing Threats: 9/11



BOSTON MARATHON
4 killed
Tsarnaev brothers
4/15/2013

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.
14 killed
Syed Farook
12/2/2015

ATTEMPTED "UNDERWEAR" BOMBING
Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab
12/25/2009

MUHAMMAD CARTOON CONTEST, GARLAND, TEXAS
Both attackers killed by police
Elton Simpson & Nadir Hamid Soofi 5/3/2015

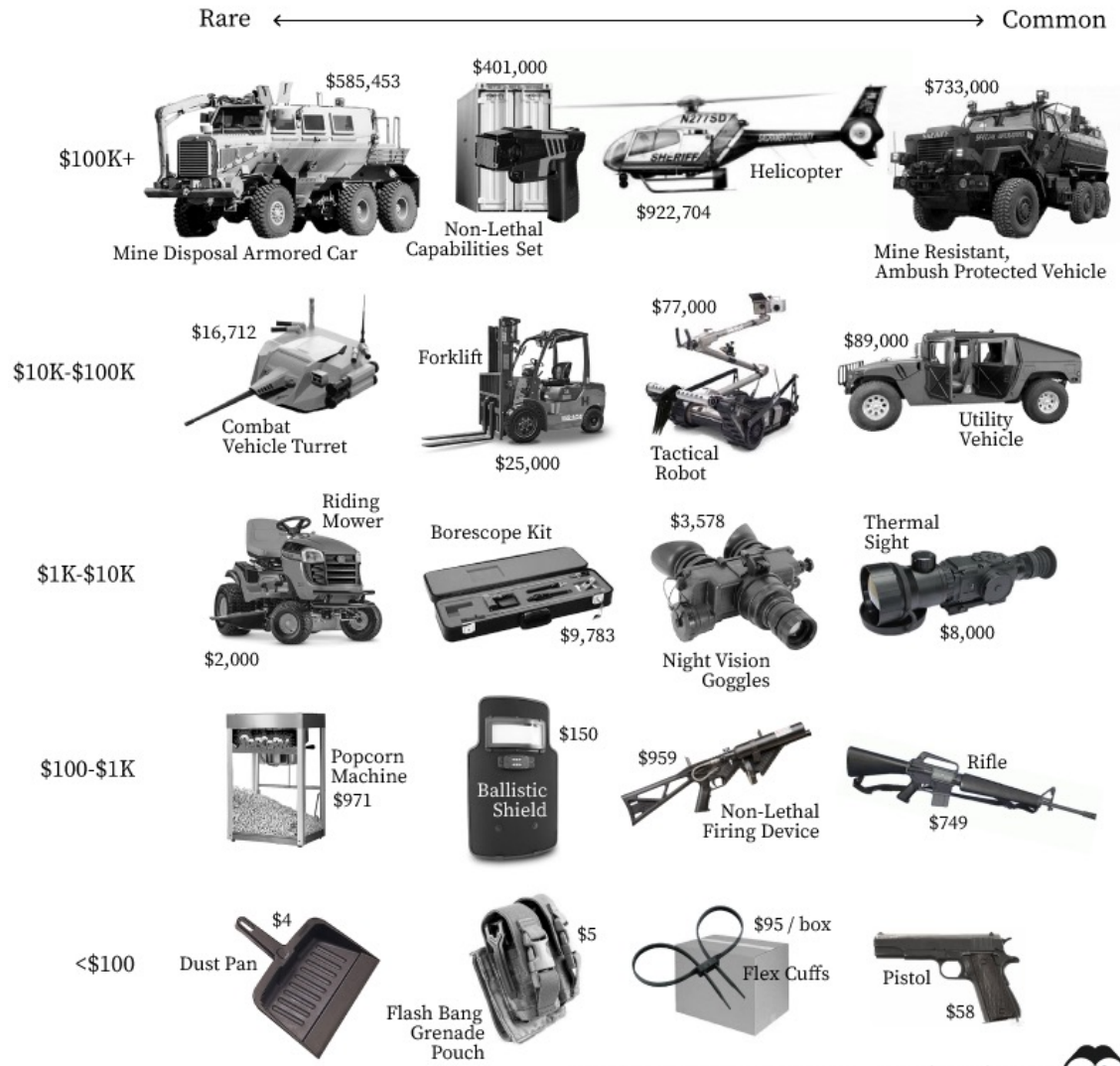
CHATTANOOGA MILITARY RECRUITING CENTER
5 killed
Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez
7/16/2015

Evolution of Policing in Response to Changing Threats: **Active Shooter**

- ▶ Hollywood shootout LAPD
- ▶ Columbine High School
- ▶ Parkland High School



Example Items from the 1033 Program:



Source: 1033 Program Reporting visualcapitalist.com

DoD 1033 Program

SWAT



LAPD first team created in 1967

- ▶ Mission
- ▶ Operations
- ▶ Equipment
- ▶ Training

Ferguson 2014



Flashpoints

Minneapolis
10:42 PM CT



BREAKING NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE PRECINCT ON FIRE AS PROTESTS GROW

LIVE

CNN

8:42 PM PT

▶ PANDEMIC ▶ COMPANY SAYS ABOUT 70% OF THE TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE CNN TONIGHT



Analysis

The U.S. Legal Framework Has Successfully Prevented the Excessive Use of the Military for Law Enforcement Functions



The military has only rarely been used domestically

The military has a strong ethos against intervention in domestic policing

Federal and constitutional law regarding the military's use domestically has not been violated

Limited indirect collaboration over the past 50 years to improve internal security

Key Findings 1033 Program

THE 1033 PROGRAM

MILITARY-WEAPONRY AND EQUIPMENT
DISTRIBUTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 625 Mine Resistant Vehicles \$421.1 M
- 7,091 Trucks \$400.9 M (cargo, panel, van, dump, utility, lift, & military)
- 56 Airplanes \$271.5 M
- 471 Helicopters \$158.3 M
- 18,299 Night-Vision Sights, Sniper Scopes, Binoculars, Goggles, Infrared/Image Magnifiers \$98.5 M
- 83,122 M16/M14 Rifles (5.56mm & 7.62mm) \$31.2 M
- 329 Armored Trucks/Cars \$21.3 M
- 5,518 Infrared, Articulated, Panoramic, Laser Telescopes \$5.5 M
- 866 Mine Detecting Sets, Marking Kits, Probes \$3.3 M
- 8,198 Pistols (.38 & .45 caliber) \$491,769
- 5,638 Bayonets \$307,769
- 1,385 Riot 12-Gauge Shotguns \$137,265
- 57 Grenade Launchers \$41,040

Infographic by OpenTheBooks.com



Equipment provided via 1033 was necessary to address modern threats and perform critical life-saving functions

- ▶ Armored vehicles are rarely deployed and provide protection for police & civilians
- ▶ Reforms have ensured only appropriate equipment is transferred
- ▶ Provides vital resources to underfunded PD's
- ▶ Majority of items are uncontrolled & non-lethal

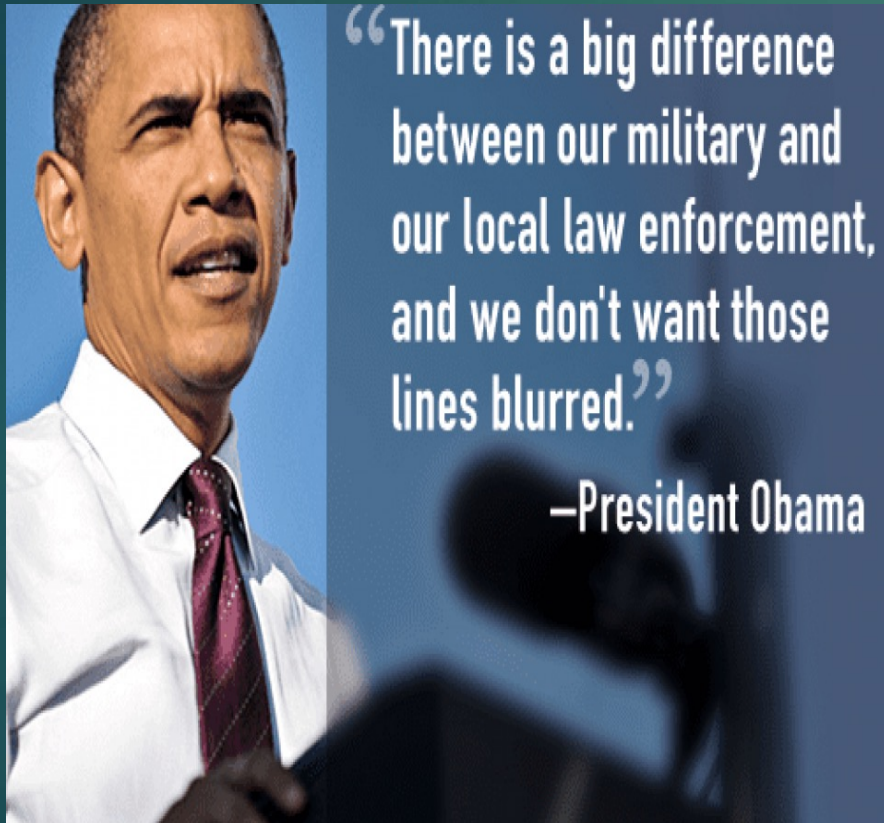
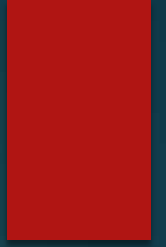
Key Findings SWAT

SWAT's use of some military equipment & tactics is effective in dealing with high-risk situations

- ▶ Proven to resolve high-threat situations with minimum force
- ▶ Rarely resort to lethal force
- ▶ SWAT is adopting more deliberate tactics with the use of technology
- ▶ Training/equipment facilitates critical life-saving functions that traditional police officers do not have the capability to resolve



Adoption of Military Equipment, Organization, and Tactics to Respond to Modern Threats Has Resulted in Some Valid Community Concerns



Some of the public opposes police use of military weapons and armored vehicles

The threat of violence

Perceptions of police militarization

SWAT is being used more expansively

Aggressive tactics by SWAT can undermine the safety and trust of communities



Recommendations

Use of SWAT

- ▶ SWAT operations should utilize (when appropriate) deliberate tactics with the use of technology when serving warrants on the home
- ▶ States should create policy guidelines/criteria for SWAT deployments
- ▶ States should create uniform training standards for SWAT programs

Use of Military Equipment by the Police

- ▶ DOJ should process all applications to procure controlled items from 1033
- ▶ All prohibited items in police possession should be returned to the DLA
- ▶ Law enforcement agencies should stop wearing camouflage uniforms

The background features a teal-colored financial chart. The upper portion displays a candlestick chart with several white candlesticks and a solid teal line. A dotted teal line with a downward-pointing arrow is positioned below the candlesticks. The lower portion shows a bar chart with vertical bars of varying heights. A solid red rectangle is located in the top right corner.

Future Research

Explore

The relationship between U.S. wars abroad and potential impact of militarization of police at home

Probe

The influence of former combat veterans in policing