

An Evaluation of the Implementation Purposes of the Militarization of the American Police

Force

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Abstract

There is a new era of policing as American societies organize in a manner to respond to modern threats. A momentous contemporary development and change in policing was implemented in 1997 through the issuing of Program 1033, ultimately allowing transfers of excess military equipment to local law enforcement agencies. However, following the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014, paramilitary responses to nonviolent protests in Ferguson, Missouri sparked controversy, fear, and outrage regarding Program 1033 as media postings of this response were spread nationally. By virtue of this, discussions and debates surrounding the implementation purpose and necessity of militarization, or the transfer of excess military equipment, were reintroduced. Even with the center of attention revolving around the intentions of Program 1033, there is insufficient statistical evidence or research that covers all aspects of the purposes of militarization. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate Program 1033's effect on its original implementation purposes of enhancing officer protection, reducing violent crime, and promoting positive public perception and support for the overall police environment.

Introduction

Police militarization is the use and transfer of excess military equipment to local law enforcement agencies (LEAs). This is made possible through the implementation of Program 1033 by the 104th Congress in 1997, allowing the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess military equipment to LEAs throughout the United States. Under Program 1033, excess military equipment is shipped to local LEAs at little to no cost. To put this into perspective, released data from the US Department of Defense (DoD) indicates that between 2006 and 2012, there were more than 176,000 transfers of equipment throughout 8,000 police agencies in the United States (Bove & Gavrilova, 2017, p.2). Today, the equipment distributed by militarization programs is predominantly utilized by Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams and other paramilitary forces.

Moreover, the national discussions and debates surrounding Program 1033 and militarized police forces were introduced through events in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9, 2014. On this date, protracted nonviolent protests were performed following the shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old African American named Michael Brown. To regulate the protests, the Ferguson and St. Louis County Police Department took a paramilitary response by deploying military grade weapons, vehicles, and equipment. Consequently, fear was spread nationwide through social media postings, photos, and images of “heavily armed police officers confronting unarmed civilians,” provoking renewed “interest in police militarization” (Turner & Fox, 2017, p.1).

Subsequently, the separation between the military and law enforcement was disintegrating through this visual representation of Program 1033. The use of military weapons

in the situation was widely criticized by popular stakeholders, policymakers, and even former President Barack Obama. The backlash has predominantly revolved around whether or not militarization achieves its expectations in benefiting the overall policing environment.

Established through ongoing discussions and debates, reasons and expectations for implementation include protecting law enforcement officers, reducing violent crime, and promoting positive public perception. Because of the focus surrounding these aspects, this study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of police militarization in achieving the purposes of implementing Program 1033 and militarization.

Literature Review

Developing Risk Societies

First, to understand the origins of police militarization and enactment of Program 1033, it is imperative to comprehend the changes in society that lead to the demand for it. Nicholas S. Bolduc (2016), a criminologist at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, reveals that police militarization most likely stemmed from the theory of risk. In his article, *Global Insecurity: How Risk Theory Gave Rise to Global Police Militarization*, Bolduc (2016) introduces the social concept of “risk societies,” or societies that organize in a manner of responding to risk. In this case, contemporary American society display attributes of a risk society through the implementation of police militarization. As Program 1033 strives to counter the risk of violent crimes to augment the feeling of safety for US citizens, the adjustments in the policing field are executed to organize in response to the perceived risks in the current environment, defining the American risk society.

Shadows of Ferguson

After the shooting of Michael Brown on August 9th, 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri, the African-American community nonviolently protested, generating tension throughout the city. As a result of this, the Ferguson and St. Louis County police departments responded immediately in a paramilitary fashion through their deployment of SWAT teams. According to Gilbert Rivera (2015) in his article *Armed Not Militarized: Achieving Real Police Militarization*, the SWAT teams were equipped with “short-barreled military Colt M4 carbine (5.56-mm) rifles, semi-automatic assault rifles” with scopes which can hit a target up to “500 meters away” and widely considered “the United States Armed Forces’ weapon of choice” (p.2). Likewise, the paramilitary police forces patrolled the city wearing camouflage uniforms similar to the U.S Marines. To patrol, the SWAT teams utilized an armored vehicle “with variants that are resistant to 50-caliber machine gun fire and used by military Explosive Ordnance Disposal Units” called the Bearcat (Rivera, 2015). Seemingly, negative police perception correlated from the perceived fear as the valued line dividing the military and law enforcement was diminishing.

This visual reminder of Program 1033 lead to widespread fear and controversy throughout the United States, sparking conversation surrounding police militarization and its purposes.

National Argument

Following the paramilitary presence in Ferguson, many concerns of militarization were brought up as. Phillip Carter (2014), a military veteran previously deployed in Iraq, introduced a hindrance of what he observed in Ferguson. He noted that the militarized forces in Ferguson looked “more like an infantry or military police company in Iraq” (Carter, 2014, p.5). He further

states that the equipment holds the capability to “transform the police department into an occupying army” which enables the police to “act with such speed and violence,” destroying any “meaningful right to peacefully assemble or address grievances towards government” (Carter, 2014, p.5). From this, Carter (2014) specifies that the repercussions of the deployment of paramilitary forces include the potential of it to undermine and violate the rights of citizens. This feeling of oppressed rights and triggering of fear by law enforcement may lead to the severe crippling of police legitimacy and public perception.

On the other hand, advocates of militarization generally support its implementation due to the belief in the necessity of it to “enhance officer safety and deter violent crime,” introducing an implementation purpose to enhance police protection (Mummolo, 2018, p.9185).

Us vs. Them and Impacts on Psychological Roles

Joseph B. Doherty (2016), a researcher at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, stated there may additionally be a correlation “between military weapons and the roles that both police officers and civilians adopt in the presence of them,” displaying the psychological effects of militarization (p.443). In terms of police forces, an influx of military equipment may develop an “us vs. them” mentality, a mindset where an individual group seeks to assert dominance. This prompts police forces to adapt psychologically to “behave like small armies occupying enemy territory.” Law enforcement’s shift towards an “us vs. them” mentality has the potential to critically damage the relationship between law enforcement and American citizens as it leads to societal dominance rather than the service to the public (Doherty, 2016, p. 442).

For citizens, the input of military equipment is likely to demotivate them to commit crimes as the repercussions in doing so are increasingly substantial with the growing presence of paramilitary forces. However, the public role and mentality may adjust to one that fears exercising freedoms and rights in the same environment as paramilitary forces. As presented by Doherty (2016), there are various psychological impacts that must be taken into consideration when evaluating the influences for the effects of Program 1033.

Previous Research

Jonathan Mummolo (2018), an Assistant Professor of Politics and Public Affairs at Princeton University, in his paper, *Militarization Fails to Enhance Police Safety or Reduce Crime But May Harm Police Reputation*, explores the different aspects of militarization. He establishes the following three purposes for implementation: the enhancement of police protection, reduction of violent crime, and the promotion of public perception. This substantiation of the three purposes classifies the central points extracted from the ongoing militarization discussions. In addition, Mummolo's (2018) study evaluates the frequency of the deployment of SWAT teams within the state of Maryland. In his results, he concluded that the deployment of SWAT teams in his study have become more common, even normalized. Thus, the excessive use of SWAT teams bring up questions about the effectiveness of the numerous SWAT team deployments.

Purpose

Many studies and scholarly articles tend to focus on the opinions and assumptions of the authors themselves. Furthermore, such studies regarding the influences of police militarization are not always based on a national scope. Because militarization is a nationally based topic, a

national perspective should logically be the base range for an effective study to contribute to the current discussion. Focusing the scope of militarization on a state has limitations of misrepresenting and inaccurately conveying the opinions and statistics of the diverse environment of the United States. Likewise, Program 1033's distribution also varies geographically and demographically.

Moreover, existing studies primarily fixated on the overview and general statistics relating to the geographies and input of Program 1033. Because of this, there is a lack of comprehensive studies on the purposes and directions of Program 1033. Additionally, it is necessary to also assess the direction of Program 1033, which is heavily considered in this study.

Conclusively, through the evaluation of previous research, debates, and discussions, it is established that the implementation of police militarization is aimed predominantly to improve three factors: police protection, violent crime reduction, and police perception. Simply put, enhancing police protection refers to the decrease of officer deaths and the reduction of violent crime relates to a reduction in the rate of specific violent crime. Moreover, the strengthening of public perception and police legitimacy yields to the promotion of a more positive perception and support towards the police environment and militarization itself.

In this study, these three components of implementation will be evaluated as they are deemed critical factors in today's militarization debate. Moreover, measuring these three factors will ultimately determine whether or not police militarization contributes to the enhancement of the overall United States daily law enforcement environment. This evaluation is necessary since questions have risen regarding police militarization's role as a necessary infringement of freedom in order to uphold public safety.

Methodology

Question 1: Does the transfer of military equipment to local law enforcement agencies (LEA) achieve its implementation purposes for the overall enhancement of officer protection, violent crime reduction, and police legitimacy in the day-to-day policing environment?

Question 2: Are the implementation purposes and the discussions/debates revolving around these expectations of Program 1033 propelling towards an adequate direction?

In order to answer the research questions, data regarding the following factors will be assessed:

1. Law enforcement officer safety
2. Violent crime trends during the years of the accumulation of military equipment (specifically rape, murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and aggravated assault)
3. Public perception and awareness of Program 1033
4. Executive opinions and viewpoints
5. Level of involvement in day-to-day policing

Police Safety

One of the goals of implementing police militarization is to enhance police safety. To measure this, data was acquired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) program. Datasets from the program include the number of officers killed feloniously throughout the years 1999-2017. According to the FBI, when an officer is killed or assaulted during the line of duty, the FBI gathers data about circumstances pertaining to the death.

As LEAs' acquisition of excess military equipment increased from 1997-2017, the data will conclude whether or not the growth in distribution corresponds to the trends of officer death through the comparison of the trends of low accumulation versus high accumulation. This comparison of the levels of accumulation is conducted by sorting the period into two eras: years of lower accumulation (1999-2007) and years of higher accumulation (2008-2017). The averages of lower accumulation will be compared with the averages of higher accumulation to display the comprehensive effects of the addition of military equipment.

Additionally, the standard deviation of the statistics will be generated and evaluated to measure the significance of the impact Program 1033 has on the overall daily policing environment through the assessment of the overall spread and deviation from the mean.

To measure the distinct influence high exports of excess military equipment has had on police safety, the comparison of the accumulation of excess military equipment and the number of officers feloniously killed during the years 2006-2013 are evaluated. The years 2006 and 2013 are significant as there was a 1,414% increase in the value of excess equipment transferred from 2006 to 2013 (Radil et al., 2016, p.7). This substantial percent increase will provide insight into how the immense acquirement corresponds to the number of officers feloniously killed through the specific analysis of the years 2006 to 2013.

As law enforcement protection is a crucial aspect in day-to-day policing, the data will also answer the question of the level of involvement of police militarization in everyday life in American society to conclude whether or not it has a contribution in protecting and reducing the number of officer deaths. Essentially, the statistics will provide a perspective on the effects of militarization and the level of efficiency of its involvement in daily policing.

However, limitations do come with this method of data collection. First, the methods are correlation-based and therefore falls short of definite causation. Because of this, the value of impact Program 1033 encompasses cannot be quantitatively generated or represented through these methods. Furthermore, evaluating officer safety through the number of officers feloniously killed each year is not the only way to measure this factor. In fact, officer safety may also be measured in different categories including officer assaults and officers accidentally killed.

Violent Crime Reduction

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program is utilized to analyze trends of violent crime in relation to the cumulation of militarization. The UCR provides the number and rate of specific violent crimes throughout the years spanning 1998-2017. The violent crimes evaluated in this study are as follows: rape, murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and aggravated assault.

Similar to the previous factor of police protection, the aspect of violent crime reduction is measured through the overall rates of violent crime of the years 1998-2017 to display the comprehensive correlation of militarization and violent crime. The number of violent crimes committed per case will be evaluated through the rate of the specific violent crime per 100,000 inhabitants to compensate for the growing population of the US. Again, the averages of these rates will be categorized and separated by spans of years of varying degrees of accumulation: 1998-2007 and 2008-2017. Separating and evaluating the spans of years will convey the comparisons between the rates of violent crime in the years of lower accumulation and the years of higher accumulation. Furthermore, the overall standard deviation of the years 1998-2017 will be used to display the degree in which the data deviates to ultimately reveal the significance of

the impact of Program 1033 on the specific violent crimes. It will also illustrate the psychological changes and adjustment in roles in relation to the accumulation of military equipment.

To display the specific effect and impact mass distribution has on these violent crimes, the comparison of the 1,141% increase in value of accumulation of excess military equipment from the years 2006 to 2013 will be evaluated and compared to provide intuition to how the immense acquisition contributes to the trends in violent crime rates by correlating the years of vast increase of militarization to violent crime rates.

Similarly, the limitations of these methods remain parallel to the previous factor of police protection as the correlation to violent crime rates and accumulation do not equate to definite causation. For this instance, there may be other variables capable of influencing the trends of violent crime.

Public Perception

Public perception is evaluated through a 2018 survey from a study conducted by Richard K. Moule Jr., Bryanna Hahn Fox, and Megan M. Parry (2018) in their article *Categorically Complex: A Latent Class Analysis of Public Perceptions of Police Militarization*. In this study, a survey was sent out to 702 American adult citizens to evaluate their perception of police militarization. The survey was created and distributed through the survey website, Qualtrics, and distributed to the 702 Americans. With a large survey number, the survey reached out to diverse populations and the respondents were stratified on “gender, race, and household income to mirror the composition of American adults” to ensure the heterogeneity of the survey sample

(Moule Jr. et al., 2018, p.8). The survey took approximately 18 minutes as it assessed the respondent's opinions of the police use and exercise of militarization programs.

Additionally, a 2018 study conducted by Aaron C. Davenport, Jonathan William Welburn, Andrew Lauland, Annelise Pietenpol, Marc Robbins, Erin Rebhan, Patricia Boren, and K. Jack Riley (2018) aimed to evaluate various factors of public perception. In this study, the diverse sample size of 1,044 U.S citizens, identified based on race and age, was surveyed through RAND's American Life Panel (ALP). The ALP "is a nationally representative, probability-based panel of over 6,000 members ages 18 and older who are regularly interviewed over the internet for research purposes" (RAND, 2019). This survey evaluates the awareness of the Department of Defense's 1033 program and the respondents' extent of support for limiting militarization. The study was aimed to record the public awareness and opinions of Program 1033 and the current law enforcement environment.

The following questions were asked:

1. Do you perceive your local police/LEA to be adequately equipped?
2. Are you aware of federal programs that provide excess military equipment to police/LEAs?

By combining these studies, the overall American citizen perception of militarization can be assessed based on their degree of support, awareness, and trust through the evaluation of a large, diverse American sample size.

Executive Perception

Frederick W. Turner II & Bryanna Hahn Fox (2017) conducted a study on the executive perception of militarization to uncover their concerns and opinions on the current militarization

system. In this study, three perspectives were explored: Members of the 114th Congress U.S. House of Representatives, law enforcement executives, and law enforcement officers across the United States. These members were purposively sampled through the survey website, SurveyMonkey.

The 114th Congress U.S. House of Representatives had 434 total members who “served from 3 January 2015 through 2 January 2017” (Turner II & Fox, 2017, p.5). After two rounds of distribution, a total of 25 Congress members completed the survey.

However, with the low number of respondents from Congress, there is an obvious limitation as the 25 respondents do not adequately represent the entire 435 members of Congress. Moreover, not all 25 respondents answered every question.

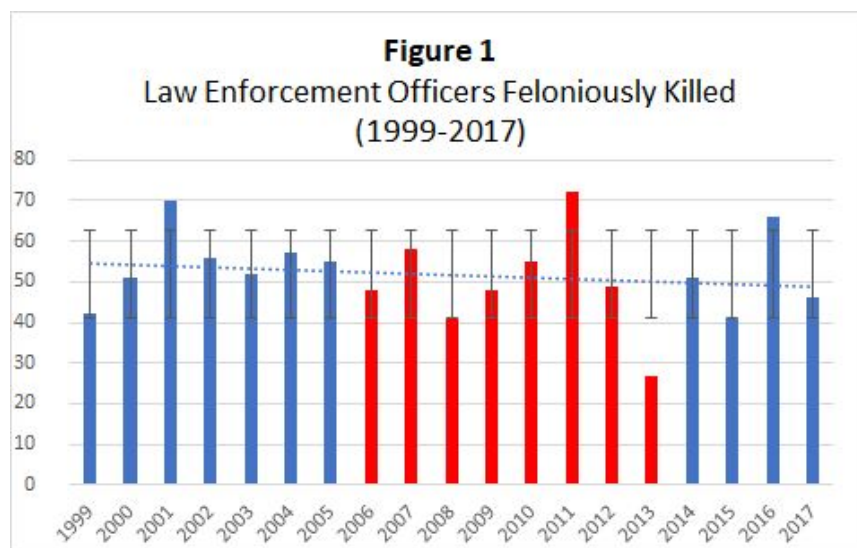
Furthermore, police executives and officers were contacted and identified through membership rosters for professional law enforcement associations across the country. As there are “nearly 18,000 police agencies in the United States,” members of “five of the largest and most nationally representative police organizations” were invited to participate in the study: Florida Police Chiefs Association, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, North Carolina Police Executives Association, Southwest Florida Police Chiefs Association, and American members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (Turner II & Fox, 2017, p.5). There was a total of 511 police executives and officers who responded to the survey. The same survey distributed to the 114th U.S Congress House of Representatives was also distributed to the police executives and officers to evaluate and compare their opinions on militarization and SWAT team deployment.

Assessing the executive personnel viewpoint is especially critical in this study as they convey the level of necessity for paramilitary forces and hold the capability of overseeing and influencing the future of Program 1033.

Results and Discussion

Law Enforcement Officer Protection

According to the FBI’s LEOKA database, the number of law enforcement officers feloniously killed were rather static from the years of rising militarization since the implementation of Program 1033. In total, there were 985 law enforcement officers that were feloniously killed during the span of 1999-2017 (Not including those who were killed during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001). Represented in Figure 1, The average across the years was 52 law enforcement officers killed per year with an overall standard deviation of 11, displaying that the data did not deviate significantly from the mean. This represents the relatively insignificant impact Program 1033 has on the concerns of law enforcement officer protection.



Furthermore, the average of officers feloniously killed from the years of lower accumulation (1999-2008) was 53 compared to the average of the years with higher accumulation (2009-2017) at 51, displaying rather static average officer deaths per year. This 3.8% decrease is rather insignificant which also translates to the low extent of impact militarization has on reducing violent crime through the correlation between the levels of accumulations and officer deaths corresponding.

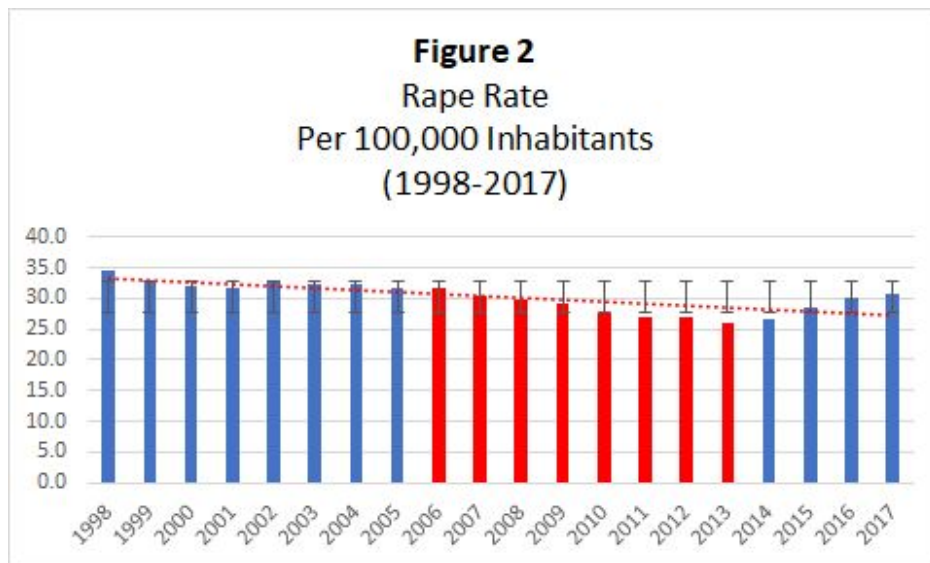
Additionally, highlighted red in Figure 1, the trends within the eight years of 1,141% increase of excess military equipment (2006-2013) are rather inconsistent. Even more, the average of officers killed within these years stands at 50 and does not deviate significantly from the overall average of 52. Due to the inconsistent trends and low deviation from the total means during vast accumulation, Program 1033 has shown a low influence on officer protection.

Altogether, the statistics further suggest that militarization does not have a clear effect on enhancing its safety in day-to-day policing. A reason for this, mentioned by Mummolo (2018), is because the rates are so low, thus “it would be hard for anything to have an effect on them” (p.9185). Nonetheless, the lack of effect on police protection demonstrates the low impact and involvement militarization holds on day-to-day policing as it fails to enhance the daily factor of officer safety.

Violent Crime Reduction

Unlike the aspect of police protection, there were considerable decreases in violent crime including rape, murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and aggravated assault during the accumulation of militarized equipment. The rate of rape per 100,000 inhabitants is an average of 30.7 with a low standard deviation of 2.47. There is a minor decrease of the rates over the time of

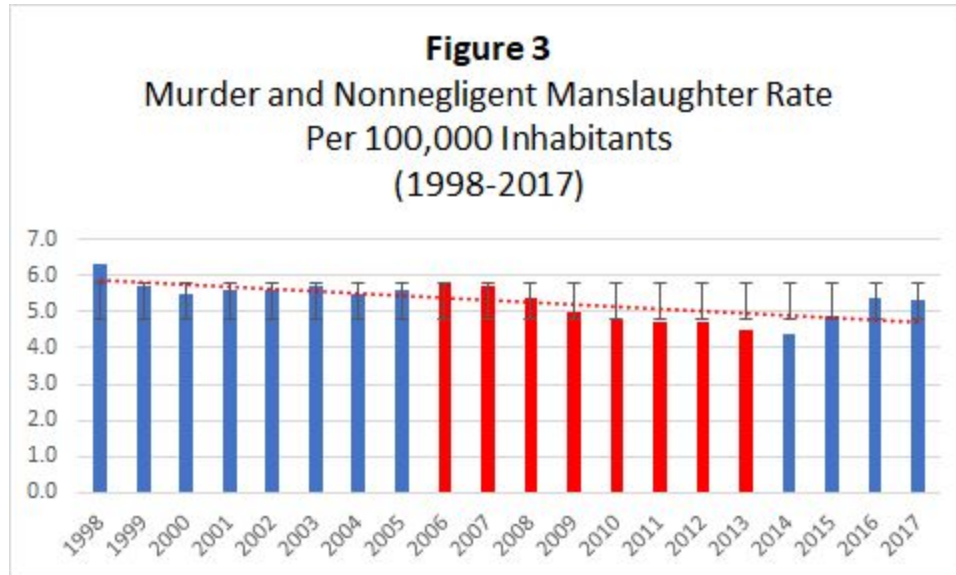
the deployment of the equipment as the mean of the rate of rape crime throughout 1998-2007 is 33.2, compared to the rate from 2008-2017 of 28.2 (-5.0), an approximate 15% decrease.



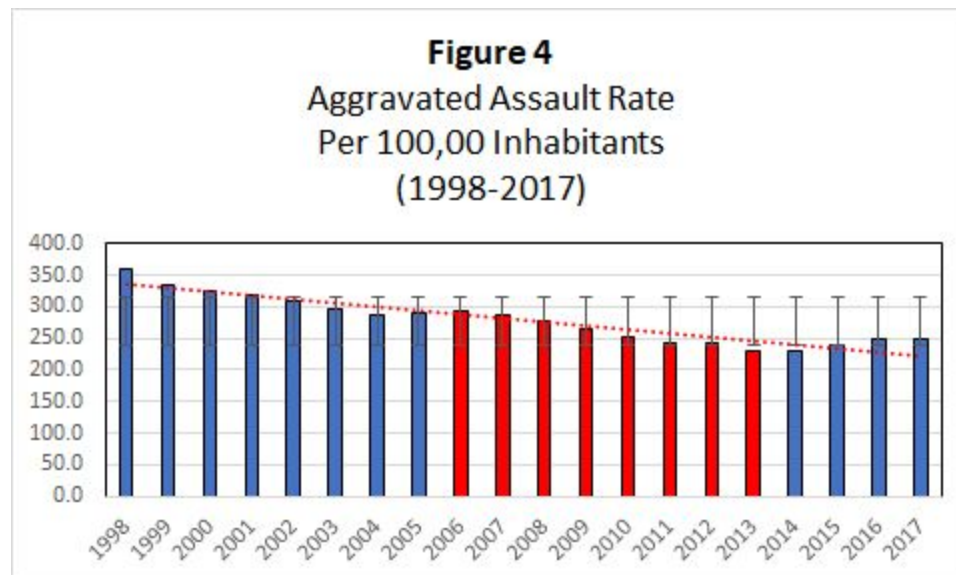
Furthermore, as highlighted in Figure 2, the years of excess militarization distributed, there is a clear decreasing trend throughout the years spanning 2006-2013, demonstrating the influence the tremendous intake of equipment has on overall rape rates. To further illustrate, in 2006, the rate of rape per 100,000 stood at 31.6 and experienced an 18% decrease (-5.7) in comparison to the 2013 rape rates at 25.9. Lastly, the overall average is 28.6, with a rather low standard deviation of 1.99, compared to the overall average of 30.7 (Figure 2).

Moreover, the rate of murder and manslaughter per 100,000 inhabitants displayed similar results (Figure 3). First, the average rate of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter from 1998-2007 is 5.7 per 100,000 inhabitants. Furthermore, the rate decreased to 4.9 (-.8) from the span of 2007-2017 conveying a 14% decrease between the eras. The standard deviation, once again, is considerably low at .5 as it deviates from its mean of 5.3. Furthermore, between the

years 2006 and 2018 yielded a 22.4% decrease in the rate of murder and manslaughter (Figure 3) with an average mean of 5.3 and a .5 standard deviation.



The gradual consistent decrease rate of aggravated assault results experienced similar trends as the other violent crime rates (Figure 4). First, there was an overall mean of 278 (1998-2017). The difference in averages of the years of lower accumulation (1998-2007) of 310.2 to the years of higher accumulation (2008-2017) of 247.3 (-62.9) yields an approximate 20.3% decrease between the two means. Moreover, the years 2006 (292.0) and 2013 (229.6) had a 21.4% decrease and a standard deviation of 22.9 to its overall mean of 261 (2006-2013).



Overall, during the years of active militarization, the rates of rape, murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and aggravated assault all decreased by at least 14%, possibly corresponding to the accumulation of excess military equipment. As represented by Figures 2, 3, and 4, there is a decreasing trend that illustrates how the growing accumulation of excess military equipment corresponds with the gradual decrease of specific violent crime rates. This is also emphasized through the comparison of the years 2006 and 2013 and how the 1,141% increase of equipment value input corresponded to the decrease of violent crime.

The data presented exemplifies the psychological effect militarization has on the fear of committing these specific violent crimes with paramilitary forces in the environment. It also displays how citizens are likely to adapt to a new role and increased awareness linked with the accumulation of excess military equipment. However, the psychological influences of fear may be a deficit in the aspect of public perception.

In essence, it is important to note that the definite causation of Program 1033 in correlation to these decreasing trends is inconclusive and cannot be statistically measured due to the limitations of these methods as it was unable to measure causality. For this instance, there are other variables that could also induce a decline in violent crimes including the decrease of poverty rates and advancements in security.

Public Perception

First, in the RAND's survey (n=1,044), essentially 48% (501) of those surveyed were not aware of militarization programs. Furthermore, 32% (344) stated that militarization programs are "valuable to the community," while 20% (209) mentioned that they are "detrimental to the community" (Figure 5). In relation to this, it is revealed that the majority of the American sample

size was unaware of police militarization as it outnumbered the supporters and opposers within the survey sample. This indicates the lack of involvement paramilitary forces and distributions of Program 1033 has on day-to-day policing. This awareness is especially critical in reducing violent crime as the awareness of Program 1033 is what drives the psychological fear of executing violent crimes in a militarized police environment. As a result, the lack of awareness of the American population illustrates a significant limitation to Program 1033’s ability to reduce violent crime.

Figure 5
Are You Aware of Federal Programs That Provide Excess Military Equipment to Police/Law Enforcement Agencies?

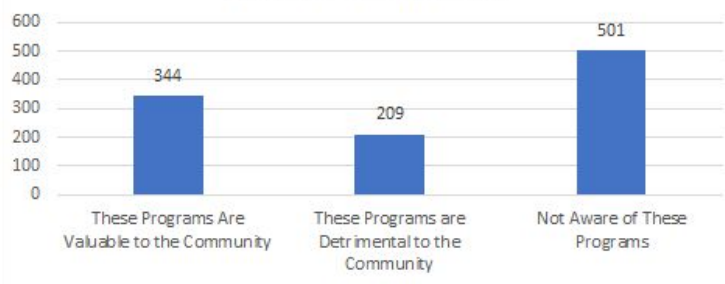
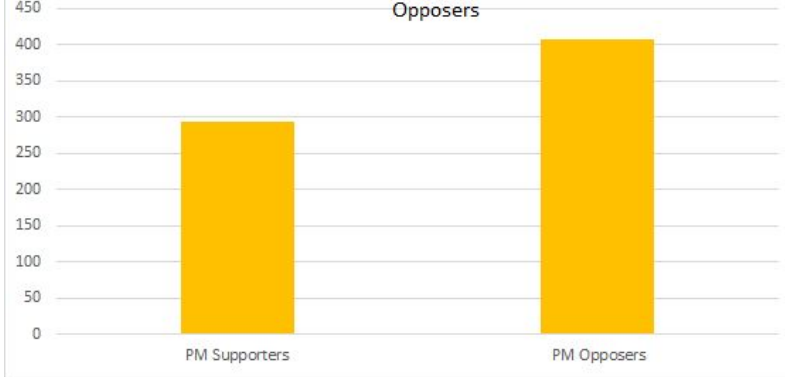


Figure 6
Fox, Moule, & Parry's Survey (2018): Paramilitary Supporters and Opposers



Secondly, in the survey distributed by Fox and Parry (2018) (n=702), there were 294 (42%) militarization supporters compared to 408 (58%) opposers (Figure 6).

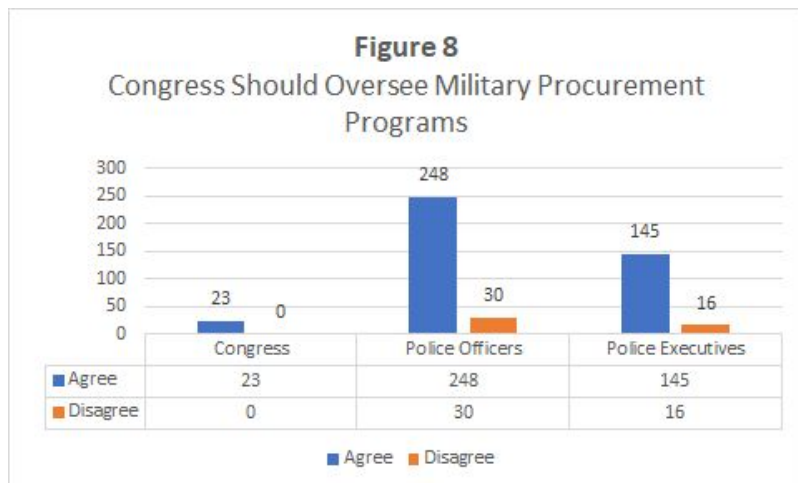
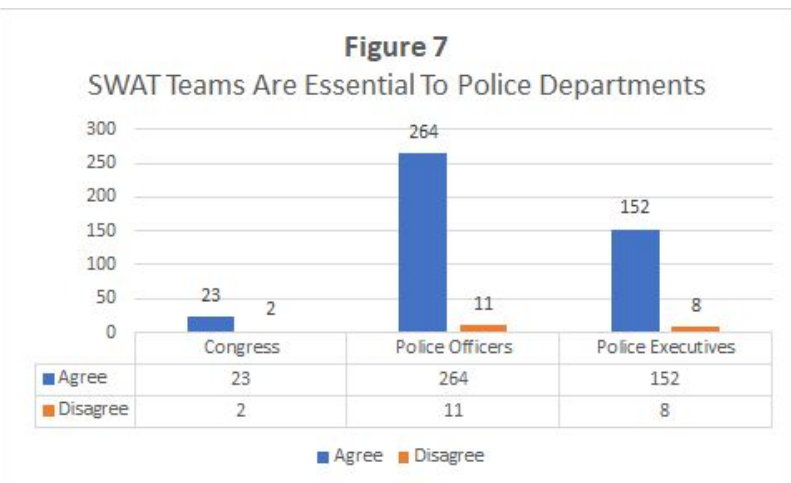
Even though there were a considerable amount of supporters in both surveys, it is likely that militarization advocates generally supported it due to the belief in the need to “enhance officer safety” (Mummolo, 2018, p.9181). Thus, the feelings and assumptions of these supporters may be inaccurate as their beliefs do not correspond to the presented data from the LEOKA. On the other hand, the feelings that Program 1033 is detrimental to communities indicate that if

militarization pursues in the direction of direct involvement, the number of opposers will increase.

Nevertheless, even though militarization does not effectively promote positive perception, it is important to take into account that militarization may weaken the “community relations necessary for effective policing” (Krasta, 2017, p.8). Essentially, as Program 1033 strives to improve contemporary policing, there may be a compromise as strengthening policing through militarization evidently correlates to the reduction of violent crime; however, the public perception is weakened consequently.

Executive Perception and Regulated Militarization

Fox and Parry’s (2017) survey of the 114th Congress House of Representatives, police executives, and police officers (n=485) conveyed the opinions of those in authority and who are directly involved in the law enforcement environment. First, the respondents from Congress did not support the current direction of police militarization as 21 of the 25 who responded reported “no” when asked if they supported militarization. On the other hand, the majority of police officers (n=275) and executives (n=158) supported militarization, with 62% support for police executives and 63.3% support for police officers (Figure 7). Furthermore, when asked whether or not Congress should oversee militarization programs, over 89% of all the officers (n=278),



executives (n=160), and the Congress members (n=23) agreed or strongly agreed with the concept of Congressional oversight (Figure 8).

As the majority of the survey sample supported militarization programs, this indicates the level of necessity and advantages military equipment brings to law enforcement. Because of this, according to LEAs and Congress, militarization is deemed a necessary resource despite its low level of general involvement in day-to-day policing.

Additionally, the majority of all three groups agreed that Congress should overlook the distribution. From this, requiring Congressional overview may contribute to more adequate distributions, ultimately avoiding oversupply and negative perceptions to further of the effectiveness of Program 1033.

Future Research and Limitations

Program 1033 displays its lack of involvement in day-to-day policing as Americans remain unaware of such programs. Therefore, taking a new approach by turning away from day-to-day factors and redirecting towards extreme crimes will open opportunities to further the effectiveness in the policing environment in the American risk society. Since the parameters and limitations of the methods in this study were unable to measure the specific causation militarization holds on these trends, there could be further extensive research and evaluation to obtain data regarding definite causality of militarization and the various trends. Unexplored areas, including effective placement and distribution, should be studied in depth to extend the effectiveness and understanding of Program 1033.

Conclusion

Applications and Future of Militarization and Program 1033

A major flaw presented in the purposes of militarization is that it aims to be more involved in the day-to-day policing environment through the attempts to enhance daily policing factors. To further illustrate, the implementation purposes may be improper as militarization is not suitable to be a normalized component of the daily policing environment; thus, it cannot have a role in directly influencing these day-to-day factors. Even if the strive towards direct involvement were to be continued, substantial issues and deterrence in public support may become more pervasive as represented through the surveys of public perception regarding Program 1033.

As all the aspects of police protection, violent crime reduction, and public perception are critical parts of everyday policing, in order to have a direct impact, militarization itself must be involved in day-to-day policing. According to statistics, Program 1033 fails to enhance the aspects of police protection and public perception, and it is indicated that public perception will decline further if militarization increases. However, the presence may have an indirect psychological impact on fear of the repercussions in committing violent crimes with paramilitary presence, as implicitly illustrated by the decreasing crime trends

Furthermore, members of the 114th U.S Congress House of Representatives and police executives explicitly reveal that paramilitary forces and SWAT teams are still deemed a necessary resource for situations unfit for traditional police forces. As the United States is evolving into a risk society in which extreme crimes and emergency situations become more relevant, paramilitary forces are essential to control these rare events. With this, adequately

equipped paramilitary forces, or SWAT teams, should be regulated and restricted to specific situations they were designed for, including the controlling of incidences of extreme crimes, rather than the patrolling in the daily policing environment. The militarized response in Ferguson, Missouri is one example why paramilitary forces should be restrained from patrolling and over-deployment as it leads to widespread fear and backlash from the public, essentially emitting negative perceptions and lack of trust in law enforcement nationally. Restricting the use of SWAT teams to specific extreme situations and aiming towards a direction of maintaining a more indirect involvement will avoid the decrease of public perception as it refrains from the complete shift of psychological roles and mentalities of the police force and citizens.

Ultimately, militarization is a necessary resource that has the potential to control extreme crime and uphold feelings of safety. However, the utilization and deployment of paramilitary forces need to be shifted to a direction favoring minimal deployments and a role that does not hinder society from operating freely. Instead of distributing military equipment for the enhancement of day-to-day factors, directions of militarization should change to aim towards controlling extreme crime, while it continues to indirectly reduce and deter crimes psychologically. Essentially, revising the roles and purposes of militarization will contribute to the push towards the provision of feeling safe without inflicting on the notion of freedom in American society.

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