

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

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# What is Police Militarization?

- Excess Military Equipment

- Program 1033 (1997)- allows the Secretary of Defense to sell or transfer excess military equipment

  - Issued under President Clinton

  - Militarized local LEA to varying degrees, adopting weapons, attire, tactics, and organizational structures developed for theaters of war”

- SWAT Teams and Paramilitary Forces

# Militarization Presence in Ferguson, Missouri

- Riots followed the shooting of Michael Brown

- Paramilitary presence:

  - Camouflage uniforms similar to the U.S Marines.

  - Military grade assault rifles and vehicles

- Sparked fear both within the community and nationally through media

  - National debates and discussions

  - Trickling use of paramilitary forces



Extracted From: <https://billmoyers.com/2014/08/13/not-just-ferguson-11-eye-opening-facts-about-americas-militarized-police-forces>

# Militarization Presence in Ferguson, Missouri

- \$4.3 billion worth of equipment transferred from 1997-2014

- Phillip Carter:

  - The equipment “enables the police to act with such speed and violence” <sup>1</sup>

  - “Destroy any meaningful right to peaceably assemble or address <sup>1</sup> grievances towards government”

1. Woolf C., (2014), US veteran says police response in Ferguson 'isn't the country we fought to protect'. Retrieved from <https://www.pri.org/stories/2014-08-15/us-veteran-says-police-response-ferguson-isn-t-country-we-fought-protect>

# Mapping of Program 1033 Distributions



## Aircraft

Planes and helicopters



## Armored Vehicles

Including cars and trucks



## Body Armor

Including vests and helmets



## Grenade Launchers

Usually used for smoke grenades and tear gas



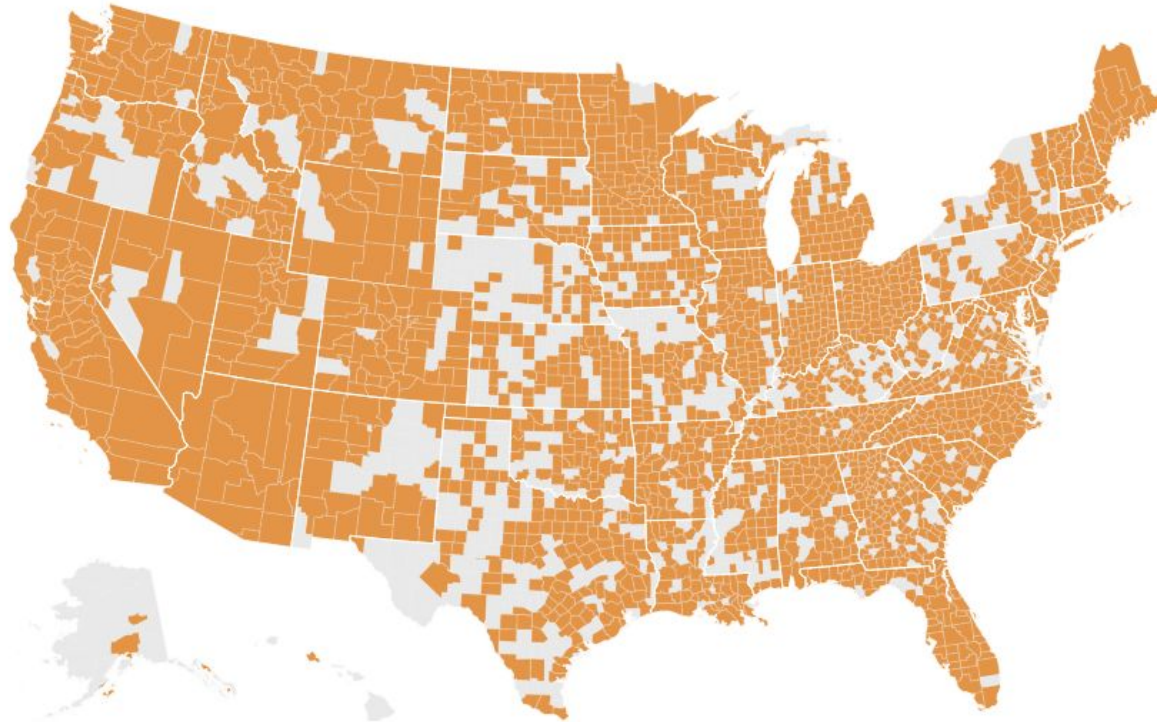
## Night Vision

Including sights, binoculars and accessories



## Assault Rifles

5.56-mm and 7.62-mm rifles



Counties marked in orange have received some sort of military equipment from program 1033

## Question

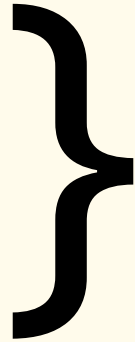
Does the transfer of military equipment to law enforcement agencies achieve its implementation reasons for the overall enhancement of officer protection, violent crime reduction, and police legitimacy in day-to-day policing?

# Current Research/Literature

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# Purposes of Militarization

- 1) Police Protection
- 2) Violent Crime Reduction
- 3) Police Legitimacy



Factors of the day-to-day policing environment



# Current Research

- Militarization stems from America's developing risk society <sup>2</sup>
  - Organize in response to Risk <sup>2</sup>
- Pre Existing Studies: Jonathan Mummolo, Researcher at Princeton University <sup>3</sup>
  - Established three aspects through evaluation of discussions and debates <sup>3</sup>
  - Evaluated the implementation purposes <sup>3</sup>
  - Scoped in Maryland <sup>3</sup>
  - Only evaluated officer protection through SWAT teams

2. Bulduc S.N., (2016). *Global Insecurity: How Risk Theory Gave Rise to Global Police Militarization Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, 23(1), 276-292. Extracted From <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ijgls/vol23/>

3. Mummolo J., (2018). Militarization fails to enhance police safety or reduce crime but may harm police reputation. *PNAS September 11, 2018*, 115(37), 9181-9186. doi: 10.1073

# Gap

- Little systematic evidence in research in three aspects
  - Assumption Based
- No national scope

# Methods

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## Methods

### Factor #1: Police Protection

- ◆ LEOKA
- ◆ Officers Feloniously Killed (1999-2017)
  - Standard Deviation
  - Mean of 1999-2008 vs 2009-2017  
  
(Low Accumulation Vs. High Accumulation)
- ◆ Accumulation of militarized equipment and its correspondence to overall LEO death rates

### Factors Established:

- 1) Officer Protection
  - 2) Violent Crime Reduction
  - 3) Police Legitimacy/ Public Perception
-

## Methods

### Factor #2: Violent Crime Reduction

- ◆ Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Database
- ◆ Violent Crime Rates (1998-2017)
  - Murder, and aggravated assault
  - Rate of the specific violent crime per 100,000 inhabitants
- Standard Deviation
- Mean of 1998-2008 vs. Mean 2009-2017  
(Lower Accumulation Vs. Higher Accumulation)

### Factors Established:

- 1) Officer Protection
  - 2) Violent Crime Reduction
  - 3) Police Legitimacy/ Public Perception
-

## Methods

### Factor #3: Public Perception

- ◆ 2018 Study conducted by Richard Moule, Bryanna Fox, and Megan Parry
  - 702 Americans stratified on gender, race, and household income
    - Level of Support
- ◆ Survey of 1,044 U.S. citizens through the RAND's American Life Panel
  - Extent on the support for militarization
  - Public Awareness

### Factors Established:

- 1) Officer Protection
  - 2) Violent Crime Reduction
  - 3) Police Legitimacy/ Public Perception
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# Limitations

- Extent of impact on trends cannot be statistically measured
- Outliers
- Awareness of citizens

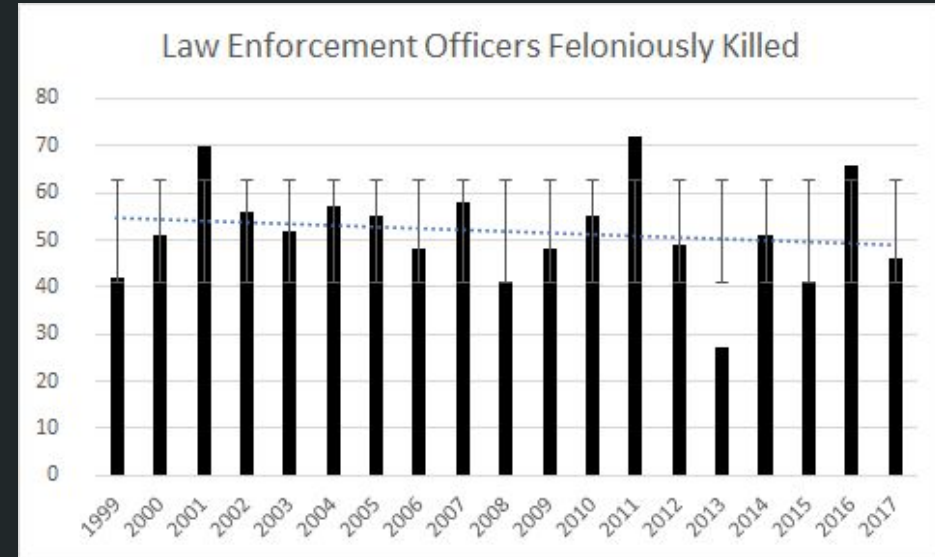
# Results and Discussions

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## Law Enforcement Officer Protection

- No Clear Trend
  - Inconsistent trends
- Average (1999-2017) = 52
  - Mean 1999-2008 =53
  - Mean 2009-2017 =51
- Standard deviation=11
- Insignificant Impact on Officer Protection in the Day-to-day environment



# Violent Crime Reduction

## Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter Crime

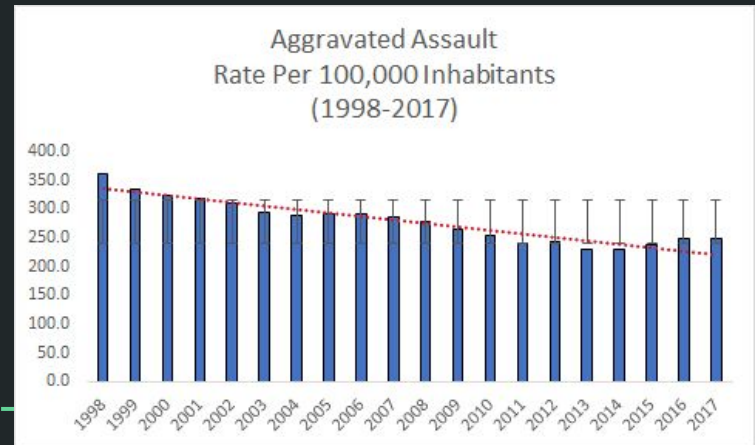
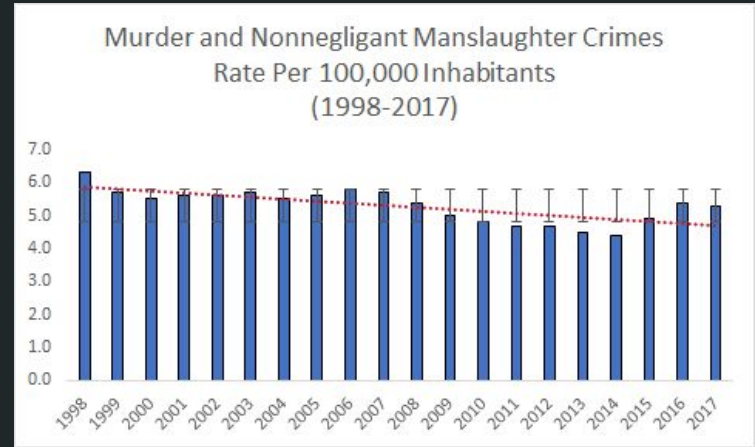
- ◆ Standard Deviation= 0.50
- ◆ Overall Mean (1998-2017)= 5.3
- ◆ Mean 1998-2007=5.7
- ◆ Mean 2008-2017=4.9 (-14.0%)

## Aggravated Assault

- ◆ Standard Deviation= 37.81
- ◆ Overall Mean (1998-2017)= 278.8
- ◆ Mean 1998-2007= 310.2
- ◆ Mean 2008-2017= 247.3 (-20.3%)

→ Clear decreasing trends, low standard deviation

→ Indirect effect



## Public Perception

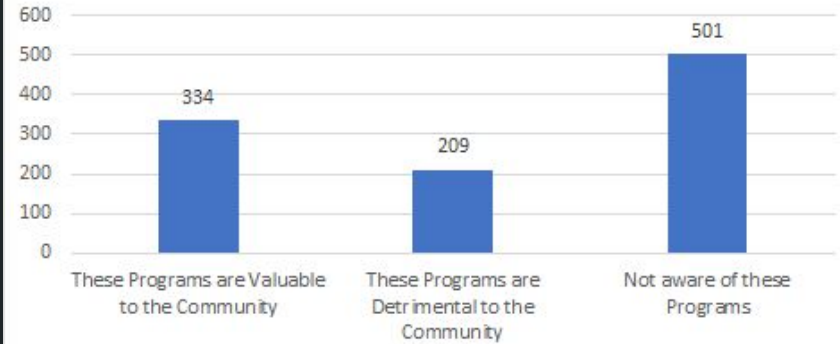
RAND's survey (n=1,044)

- ◆ 334 (32%) valued militarization
- ◆ 209 (20%) Viewed as detrimental
- ◆ 501 (48%) Were unaware of federal militarization programs
  - Demonstrates lack of involvement

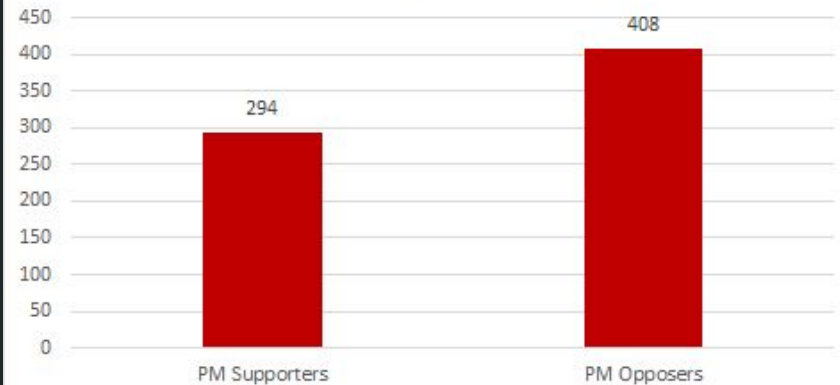
→ Fox, Moule, Parry's Survey (n=702)

- ◆ 294 (41%) PM Supporters
- ◆ 408 (59%) PM Opposers
- ◆ Limitations: Did not measure awareness

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



Fox, Moule, Parry Survey: PM Supporters and Opposers



# Current Issues

- No direct impact on three aspects
- Militarization must be involved in day-to-day policing to have direct influences of these factors
- Invalid implementation purposes and current discussions
  - No involvement in environment

# Future Implications of Militarization and Program 1033

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Fox, Moule, Parry's Executive Survey

- ◆ 511 police executives and officers
- ◆ 25 Members from the 114th Congress U.S. House of Representative

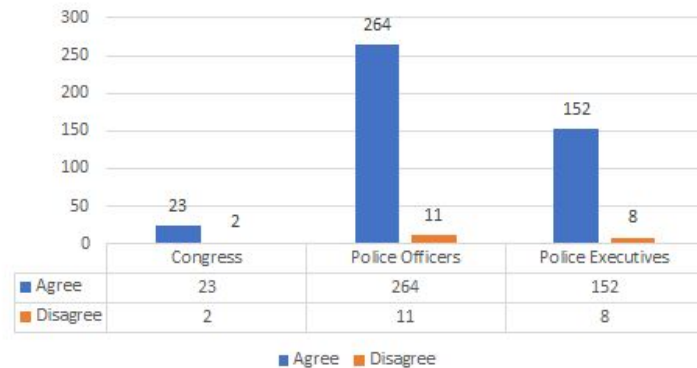
→ SWAT Teams are essential

- ◆ Congress- 92% Agreed
- ◆ Police Officers- 96% Agreed
- ◆ Police Executives- 95% Agreed

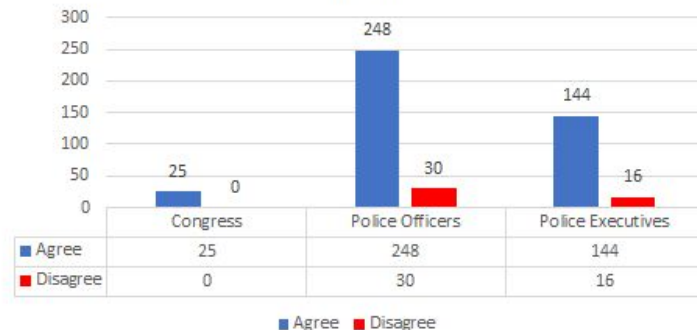
→ Congressional Oversight

- ◆ Congress- 100% Agreed
- ◆ Police Officers- 89% Agreed
- ◆ Police Executives- 90% Agreed

### SWAT Teams Are Essential to Police Departments



### Congress Should Oversee Military Procurement Programs



# Implications of Militarization and Program 1033

## New Directions:

- SWAT teams and paramilitary forces deemed necessary for situations unfit for traditional police officers
- Improve extreme crime control
- Control extreme crime in current risk society
- Apply congressional oversight
  - Adequate distribution



Extracted from: <https://www.cnn.com/2014/08/14/>

# Conclusion and Future Research

- Open new research to improve extreme crime control
  - Most effective distribution
  - Enhance feeling of safety without infringing on rights



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