

THE BLACK ALLIANCE FOR PEACE

A People(s)-Centered Human Rights Project Against War, Repression and Imperialism

Police Militarization: 1033 Program

- The 1033 program allows any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency to acquire military weapons from the Pentagon. Police departments claiming to need help fighting the “War on Drugs”—created to further control, colonize, incarcerate and terrorize working-class African/Black people—are particularly encouraged to partake.
- The Pentagon’s weapons and tactics developed for their occupations, coups and wars on Africans and other colonized people around the world also are used to terrorize and control African/Black people and our uprisings in the United States.
- Police militarization was first established to put an end to the Black Liberation Movement of the 1960s and ‘70s.¹
- \$6 billion in military equipment has been transferred to law enforcement since 1990 (\$2.2 billion between 2006-15). Instead, \$6 billion could pay for healthcare for 2.53 million kids for one year, or 107,999 infrastructure jobs for one year.²
- Here is a breakdown (this is an incomplete list; see links)³:
 - **New York City:** \$1,523,000 in MRAPs (Mine Resistant Vehicles)
 - **St. Louis:** \$405,796 in unmanned robotic and other vehicles
 - **Atlanta (Fulton County):** \$261,884 in military weaponry
 - **Washington, D.C.:** \$605,761 in military-grade night vision and target equipment; and
 - **Baltimore:** \$500,000 in military weaponry, including glocks and riot-type shotguns kept at historically Black colleges, Coppin State University and Morgan State University
- Taxpayers in Washington, D.C. pay \$182.27 million per year to Lockheed Martin, a weapons manufacturer. Instead, that amount could fund:⁴
 - 1,822 jobs with supports in high poverty communities for one year, or
 - 21,170 Head Start slots for one year, or
 - 61,323 children receiving healthcare for one year, or
 - 6,113 four-year scholarships for university students.

- Under the Obama administration, military-weapons transfers to local law-enforcement agencies increased by 2,400%.⁵ Obama transferred \$459 million in Pentagon materials to police, more than any other president.⁶
- Most of the Congressional Black Caucus has voted in support of police militarization.
- The more militarized the police, the more civilians they kill.⁷
- In St. Louis, cops murder African/Black men at rates higher than the national civilian murder rate.⁸
- 124 Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) deployments occur each night, overwhelmingly in African/Black neighborhoods. They use grenades, tear gas, assault rifles, armored vehicles, helicopters and more, to terrorize and sometimes kill victims. Most raids are for suspected drug possession, not for active-shooter situations. SWAT raids have occurred in African/Black communities for underage drinking and for running a barber shop without a license.^{9 10 11}
- There is no proportional relationship between the civilian “crime” rate and the rate by which police murder civilians.¹²
- In 2017, African/Black people were 25% of those murdered by police, yet 13% of the population. African/Black men ages 15-34 are 5 times more likely to be killed by police than white men in that age group.¹³

SOURCES

- [1] <https://fightforthesoulofthecities.com/1033-sign-on>
- [2] <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/?state=00&program=111111>
- [3] <https://www.openthebooks.com/map/?Map=1&MapType=Heat> and <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2014/12/03/the-pentagon-finally-details-its-weapons-for-cops-giveaway> and some data calculated by National Priorities Project
- [4] <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/?state=24&program=52&place=2404000>
- [5] https://blackagendareport.com/obama_reinforces_militarized_police
- [6] <https://truthout.org/articles/president-obama-prepares-to-reinforce-the-militarized-police-occupation-of-black-america>
- [7] <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2053168017712885>
- [8] <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org>
- [9] <https://blackagendareport.com/node/22056>
- [10] <https://www.counterpunch.org/2014/08/20/how-the-pentagon-militarized-the-us-police-force>
- [11] <http://thefreethoughtproject.com/police-raid-wrong-home-terrorize-innocent-disabled-woman>
- [12] <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org>
- [13] https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/fryer/files/fryer_police_aer.pdf