



Militarization Of Police Brings Focus On Training

Currently, the 1033 law does not require agencies to receive strict training for specialized equipment.

(TRNS)- The 1033 program that provides domestic police force's with surplus military equipment may require revisions in regards to training, according to Mark Lomax, the Executive Director of the National Association of Tactical Officers.

Speaking at a CATO Institute panel, Lomax said that the equipment acquired through the act has been used successfully in cases like the manhunt for one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects and that "most use it responsibly." However, he also acknowledged that the law has some gaps. For instance, the bill currently does not require law enforcement officials to train with specialized equipment.

"Training should be required for those selected equipment, you know, not for a filing cabinet or a computer or whatever, but for weaponry and for tactical vehicles, aircraft, those kinds of high end things," Lomax said. "The agency should show that they had the training, or they're going to acquire the training."

Lomax said that both the House and the Senate should both zero in on training when revising the program.

The use of military style hardware among police has proven to be controversial following the heavy-handed police response to riots in Ferguson, Missouri.