



Militarization of Alabama law enforcement is the wrong way to go

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There is an alarming trend towards militarizing [law enforcement](#) in the United States. Our law enforcement agencies are being turned into paramilitary organizations. This trend should concern each and every Alabamian. There are countless good police departments and Sheriff offices not buying into the jack booted mindset.

Bob Livingston of Personal Liberty Digest in his excellent article; "[America's Newest Vaccination](#)" details some of the 'conditioning' citizens are receiving. This type of conditioning brings to mind the old adage of how to boil a frog. If you take a frog and throw him in boiling water; it will simply hop out. Put the frog in cold water and gradually turn up the heat a little at a time. He becomes adjusted to each temperature change until the heat over-powers the animal. This is the tactic being used against the American people.

We now have the possibility of indefinite detention of citizens without due process of law via the National Defense Authorization Act. We have drones flying above us all across the country. We have government snooping in our e-mails, Facebook, etc...through "cyber-security" legislation. we have recently enacted "free speech free" zones. We've seen the Constitution being treated as a doormat by the Obama Administration. These abrogations though subtle and incremental are the beginning of the end for liberty. The heat is being turned up and unless we wake up, stand up, and speak up; we are going to be a boiled frog.

The degree to which our military is being used to condition civilians to accept a police state is alarming. Our police departments are increasingly becoming less 'peace officer' and more 'storm trooper'. Nearly gone are the days of law enforcement knowing us and vice-versa.

A few of the examples covered by Bob Livingston:

1. Following Hurricane Katrina law enforcement and Louisiana National Guard troops went house to house and confiscated lawfully owned firearms.

2. Vehicles from the 200th Military Police Command, Ft. Meade have been patrolling the streets of [Sheboygan County, WI](#) since August 5. The "training exercises" are scheduled to run through August 17. What kind of training exercises needed to be done in a U.S. city?
3. This past May; U.S. Army troops and the [Miami Police Department](#) conducted "a joint training exercise". Why would combat troops need to train with civilian police? This is specifically prohibited by the Posse Comitatus Act.
4. Bravo Company of the Minnesota National Guards Crookston Armory conducted Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) this past February.
5. Air Force Security Police (SP) from [Homestead Air Reserve Base](#) are answering law enforcement calls and detaining law breakers for local law enforcement.
6. Members of the Tennessee National Guard and SP's from Arnold Air Force base manned [checkpoints](#) with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and Department of Homeland Security in 2009. Strange bedfellows here!
7. 22 Military Police and an Officer from Ft. Rucker, Alabama patrolled the streets of [Samson, Alabama](#) after a shooting in 2009. Another blatant violation of the Posse Comitatus Act.
8. The California Highway Patrol in 2008 worked alongside the [U.S. Marine Corps Air and Ground Combat Center](#) to curb accidents and DUI's in San Bernardino, CA. Sounds noble but still a violation of the Posse Comitatus Act.
9. [The Washington Post](#) reported that the military expects to have 20,000 uniformed troops trained as a reactionary force for domestic threats. Alabamians should inquire into what these domestic threats are.
10. The Army Times in 2008 reported that the combat experienced 3rd Infantry Division; 1st Brigade Combat Team was training "to help with civil unrest, crowd control, or deal with potentially horrific scenarios." This sounds an awful lot like martial law.

We are being conditioned to accept martial law as a viable option.

The U.S. Department of Defense through it's **1033 Program** is actively militarizing American law enforcement. [The New American](#) magazine reports that since 1997; \$2.5 billion in amphibious tanks, helicopters, armored personnel carriers, robots, weapons, grenade launchers, etc.... have been distributed to over 17,000 local and state agencies. Paramilitary police squads are popping up all over the nation. The article quotes former Kansas City, Missouri police chief Joseph McNamara; "The profile of these military police units invading a neighborhood like the occupation army is contrary to what you want to do as a police department."

Are the days of "protect and serve" gone; only to be replaced by the Progressive "shock and awe" mentality. Traditional law enforcement strove to keep the peace, preserve order, and work with citizens. Militarized police and the military mentality that comes with it can be dangerous. Soldiers are trained to kill and destroy; not apprehend and arrest. The TNA article included the findings of the

2006 CATO Institute study; "Overkill: The Rise of Paramilitary Police Raids in America". This is important since there are 50,000 such raids taking place every year:

- "Over the past 25 years, America has seen a disturbing militarization of its civilian law enforcement, along with a dramatic and unsettling rise in the use of paramilitary police units for routine police work." This military inspired zeal has resulted in needless fear tactics against innocent bystanders, non-violent offenders, and on occasion the innocent of any crime (wrong address, wrong name).
- "The raids terrorize innocents when police mistakenly target the wrong residence. And they have resulted in dozens of needless deaths and injuries, not only of drug offenders, but also of police officers, children, bystanders, and innocent suspects." TNA points out that even in light of such mistakes; military gear fit for overthrowing a small country is being transferred to civilian police.

The DoD's 1033 Program has provided the Etowah County Sheriff's Department with an 8x8 Armored Personnel Carrier. It was acquired by Etowah County Sheriff Todd Entrekin for use by the Etowah County Joint Special Operations Group. Calhoun County, Alabama acquired 2 M-113 Tracked Armored Personnel Carriers. They are parked under the 202 Bridge in Anniston.

Sadly the storm trooper mentality has crept into Alabama. Such Progressive reasoning once it takes root is hard to shake. We need to return to the days protect and serve. Alabama does not need militarized police; any more than any other state does. We do not need police acting like military or military acting like police. The Founders knew the danger this posed and drew a fine distinction between the two.

If we don't reverse course from this slippery slope; we will lose track of what this nation was intended to be. Failure to stop such madness may mean exchanging the fresh air of freedom for the burdensome chains of slavery that comes with a police state. What say you; Alabama? Arise and question the need to militarize our police. Arise and question the military's participation in law enforcement in violation of the Posse Comitatus Act.