



US: 189 Police Departments Lose Military Equipment from Pentagon

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The Pentagon's press secretary said last week that the program to provide police departments with military-grade gear has "rigorous compliance and accountability standards."

The Pentagon suspended 184 local and state police departments from a program that provides them with military-grade equipment, the media outlet Fusion reported on Monday.

The suspended police departments lost assault rifles, 45-caliber pistols, shotguns and Humvee vehicles.

"[The program] is obviously very sloppy, and it's another reason that Congress needs to revisit this promptly," Tim Lynch, director of the CATO Institute's project on criminal justice, told Fusion. "We don't know where these weapons are going, whether they are really lost, or whether there is corruption involved."

President Barack Obama ordered a review of the Pentagon's 1033 program which provides local police with a wide range of military gear that also includes body armor, mine-resistant trucks, sniper scopes and silencers. More than 8,000 police departments across the United States participate in the program.

The program has received scrutiny in light of a militarized police force in Ferguson, Missouri, violently clashing with protesters following the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teen by a white police officer on Aug. 9. The local police force is also part of the 1033 program.

The U.S. Senate has scheduled a hearing in September on the program.