



Attorney General Eric Holder calls for review of police tactics

By Bob Knudson
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Attorney General [Eric Holder](#) may be on his way out, but that doesn't mean he's laying low. He [addressed a forum of mayors and police officers](#) in Little Rock today regarding the rise in [police](#) abuse cases in the last few years that have made police departments functionally no better than government sanctioned gangs.

The shooting in [Ferguson](#), Missouri in August is just the latest high profile case of excessive force and cops acting more like [Barney Fife than Andy Griffith](#). Not [that the attention](#) has [slowed cops](#) down nationally.

According to the [Cato Institute](#), police misconduct occurs with frightening regularity. It's even worse if you're a minority; just ask the fellow who was tasered for not wearing a seatbelt. The shooting in Ferguson was almost certainly race-related as well, as cops are gaining a reputation for profiling and having lower judgement capabilities than the general public. That's not a joke, there are [maximum IQ requirements](#) for police in most departments.

So what happens when you give a group of people with lower capacity for judgment and a penchant for [racism](#) access to [military grade equipment and impunity](#) to do as they will with it? It seems you get the situation that we have now; namely, police forces run amok in our country.

"The Justice Department is working with major police associations to conduct a broad review of policing tactics, techniques and training," [Holder said](#). Since Holder will be leaving office as soon as his replacement is found, we'll have to wait to see if this review moves forward.

Greater collaboration between departments and the federal government may seem like a good idea on the surface. Indeed, it will likely lead to a certain level of reform and standards that will, in the short run, reduce police violence. However, it could also lead to a centralization of police, and centralization of any service leads to a reduction in it's efficacy and an increase in its costs. Just ask the Affordable Care Act, the Department of Education and any number of other government run services.

It is encouraging to know that the issue is finally garnering some serious attention from those at the highest levels of government, even if it is just lame duck Eric Holder making the statements.

