

August 30, 2017
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned by militarization of policing. The police provide vital security and law enforcement roles for our communities. I worry that there is too much emphasis on military style operations rather than the types of incidents which officers face more frequently. This trend appears to be largely driven by federal policies. The give-away of military equipment had a big impact on police operations in the 1990's, with the military equipment having the effect of distancing officers from the public and prompting agencies to find a use for it. This lead to many reports of poorly vetted SWAT team drug raids throughout the country and escalation in dealing with protests. While more equipment may seem like a good idea and be difficult for a cash-strapped department to resist the result has been to divert resources from where they are needed.

Please assure me that you will not give military equipment to police departments.

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our safe communities.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson