

April 18, 2017  
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Dear Sheriff Aherns:

I am concerned by militarization of policing. The police and your sheriff's office provide vital security and law enforcement roles for our community. I worry that there is too much emphasis on training for large scale attacks and disasters rather than the types of incidents which officers face more frequently. This trend appears to be partly driven by federal funding but has been enthusiastically embraced by your office through, for example, your annual competition. This type of training may condition people to overreact rather than deescalate. Even the military style equipment has the effect of distancing officers from the public and there is the fear that once available there will be the tendency to find a use for it leading to reports of poorly vetted SWAT team drug raids throughout the country.

*Please assure me that you will work to keep training correlated with the actual demands of the jobs.*

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson