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SNAPSHOT OVERSIGHT REPORT

THE MILITARIZATION OF LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS





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THE MILITARIZATION OF LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

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Thomas W. Smith – Chairman of OpenTheBooks.com

“Open the Books is doing the work I envisioned when the Coburn-Obama bill became law. Their innovative app and other tools are putting sunlight through a magnifying glass.” March 11, 2014

Dr. Tom Coburn, Honorary Chairman of OpenTheBooks.com

OUR REPORT MADE POSSIBLE BY:

The “Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006”

Sponsors: Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) & Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL)

(Public Law 109-282, 109th Congress)

“Is the spending in the public interest or the special interest?”

– U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn

***“I know that restoring transparency is not only the surest way to achieve results,
but also to earn back the trust in government...”***

– U.S. Sen. Barack Obama

THE MILITARIZATION OF LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

It's no secret the American people are distrustful of our political class, and rightly so. But transparency can help restore trust by giving people the information they need to hold elected officials accountable.

One area of federal spending that raises troubling questions on both sides of the political divide is [the transfer](#) of surplus Department of Defense (DoD) equipment to local police departments under the [1033 Program](#) created by the National Defense Authorization Act (1997) authorized the transfer excess military equipment to civilian law enforcement.

Liberals tend to raise civil liberties concerns while conservatives question why the federal government is involving itself in area of responsibility traditionally reserved for states and local communities. Both sides would probably agree that the federal government itself has become a 'gun show' that never adjourns and is distributing massive amounts of firepower to local police departments.

At [OpenTheBooks.com](#) we want to provide the information taxpayers care about let you decide how to hold public officials accountable.



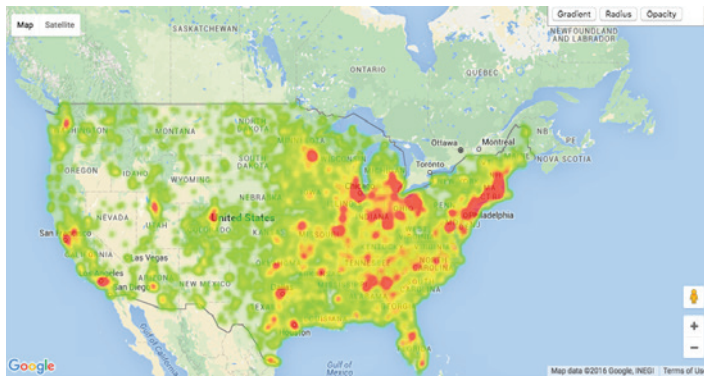
A FEW NOTABLE FINDINGS IN OUR REPORT:

- In total, our new data reveals \$2.2 billion worth of military gear including helicopters and airplanes, armored trucks and cars, tens of thousands of M16/M14 rifles, thousands of bayonets, mine detectors, and many other types of weaponry (2006-2015). [Search](#) by ZIP code across America, what did your hometown police department receive?
- In California (which has some of the toughest gun laws in the country) we found 18,794 DoD transactions transferring weaponry including nearly 7,500 trades involving M16/M14 rifles. The University of California at Berkley accepted the delivery of 14 M16/M14 rifles. Yet that paled in comparison to the 1,105 M16/M14 rifles (5.56mm and 7.62mm) and two Mine-Resistant Vehicles acquired by the Los Angeles County Sheriff.
- In Florida, the state highway patrol received 1,795 M16/M14 rifles (5.56mm), plus six military-armored vehicles, three Mine Resistant Vehicles, and three Complete Combat/Assault/Tactical Wheeled Vehicles.
- In Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Police procured 500 M16/M14 rifles – which is half of what the entire state of New Jersey received in rifles. The Metro Transit police have also followed [a federal procurement](#) process to obtain 134.5 lbs. of C4, TNT, potassium chlorate, semtex (plastic explosive), and other explosives over the next nine years.

In addition, here's a cross-section of military-weaponry and equipment distributed to law enforcement:

- 7,091 trucks (cargo, panel, van, dump, utility, lift, and military) (\$400.9 million); 625 mine resistant vehicles (421.1 million); 471 helicopters (\$158.3 million); 56 airplanes (\$271.5 million); and 329 armored trucks and cars (\$21.3 million);
- 83,122 M16/M14 rifles (5.56mm and 7.62mm) (\$31.2 million); 8,198 pistols (.38 and .45 caliber) (\$491,769); and 1,385 riot 12-gauge shotguns (\$137,265);

- 18,299 night-vision sights, sniper scopes, binoculars, goggles, infrared and image magnifiers (\$98.5 million); 5,518 infrared, articulated, panoramic and laser telescopes (\$5.5 million);
- 866 mine detecting sets, marking kits, and probes (\$3.3 million); 57 grenade launchers (\$41,040);
- 5,638 bayonets (\$307,769) and 36 swords and scabbards.



Openthebooks.com "heat" map of Federal Weapons Loaned to Public Bodies.

Top 12 States

Receiving Department of Defense Surplus Gear

STATE	*TOTAL VALUE
FLORIDA	\$304,009,144.27
TEXAS	\$170,696,365.30
CALIFORNIA	\$162,531,720.66
TENNESSEE	\$141,314,739.08
ARIZONA	\$128,142,378.77
VIRGINIA	\$106,991,724.61
ALABAMA	\$82,663,233.26
OHIO	\$81,923,360.68
GEORGIA	\$77,447,356.40
NEW JERSEY	\$76,857,429.85
ILLINOIS	\$69,944,052.69
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$58,963,128.81

TOTAL: \$1,461,484,634.38

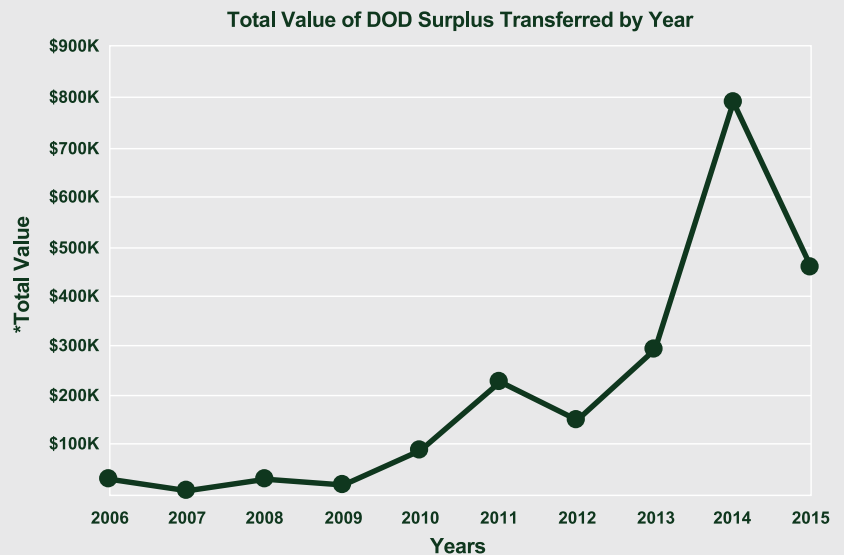
*Total Value of Surplus Department of Defense Gear

1033 Program

Department of Defense Transfer of Surplus Military Equipment – by Year

YEAR	*TOTAL VALUE	ITEM COUNT
2006	\$29,460,929.96	32,555.00
2007	\$12,072,784.48	7,371.00
2008	\$33,848,577.09	11,352.00
2009	\$25,636,508.60	3,477.00
2010	\$91,233,813.29	10,794.00
2011	\$227,492,072.18	15,316.00
2012	\$151,043,993.88	58,577.00
2013	\$291,695,653.85	329,642.00
2014	\$787,252,497.39	490,512.00
2015	\$459,647,299.42	540,176.00

*Total Value of Surplus Department of Defense Gear



For more information, see our complete database at OpenTheBooks.com and our interactive map that allows a user to rapidly zoom into their hometown or local area, [click here](#).

The 1033 Program created by the National Defense Authorization Act (1997) authorized the transfer excess military equipment to civilian law enforcement. In 2015, President Obama signed Executive Order 13688 into law which limited and prohibited certain types of equipment transfer starting in 2016.



BACKGROUND ON OUR REPORT RESEARCH:

Our motto is ‘*Every Dime. Online. In Real Time.*’ Remember, it’s your money. Therefore, we attempt to provide non-partisan facts using the resources of the 2.6 billion captured public expenditures at OpenTheBooks.com. We leave systemic solutions to the public policy debate.

Across the policy continuum, everyone can stand against waste, fraud, duplication of services, and taxpayer abuse. Our goal is that the federally disclosed expenditures showcased in this oversight snapshot report aid in the education of all stakeholders and thereby fully inform the debate on all sides.

American Transparency (OpenTheBooks.com) Chairman of the Board Thomas W. Smith recognizes the hard work of our team...

Adam Andrzejewski, founder and Chief Executive Officer, provided data interpretation, gave context, and authored this report. **John Hart**, Senior Advisor provided drafting, editing and contextual analysis. **Craig Mijares**, Director of Information Technology, assembled and organized the datasets. **Matthew Tyrmand**, Deputy Director, contributed to the editing and helped disseminate this report to national media. Special thank you to our graphic designer, **Paul Romanowski**.

ABOUT OPENTHEBOOKS.COM

Our mission is to post online “every dime” taxed and spent by federal, state and local units of government across America. Currently, we display 2.6 billion lines of government spending and are the largest publically accessible database of government spending in the world. We use the latest in technology to display the spending, including the first-to-market mobile app – Open The Books - which hyper-localized all disclosed United States Government checkbook spending since 2000. As showcased in The Wall Street Journal, our app is free for Apple and Android.

Since 2013, we publish OpenTheBooks Oversight Reports: *The Militarization of America; The Department of Self-Promotion - \$4.4 Billion in Federal Agency PR Spending; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Export – Import Bank; Fortune 100 Companies; Small Business Administration Lending to the Wealthy Lifestyle; Veterans Administration Cash Compensation: Salaries and Bonuses; and Farm Subsidies in Urban Areas*. Learn more at OpenTheBooks.com.

DISCLAIMER:

This report quantifies ‘Program 1033’ spending since FY2006-FY2015 from federal transactions compiled at www.openthebooks.com as a result of the Freedom of Information Act requests by IllinoisLeaks.com. To the extent that the government makes mistakes in the reporting of inaccurate or incomplete data, our report will reflect these same mistakes.



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