

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

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TCP Decries Revised Rules on Transfer of Military Gear to Local Cops


WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project, offered the following comment in response to a [revised list issued earlier today](#) by the interagency Law Enforcement Equipment Permanent Working Group of the types of military equipment that may be acquired by state and local law enforcement agencies:

"We are very disappointed that the Working Group did not go further in expanding the list of prohibited and controlled items that may be transferred to local police. It missed an important opportunity to strengthen its original recommendations.

"The excessive militarization of local law enforcement agencies creates the dangerous perception that police officers are at war with the communities they serve, and threatens the constitutional rights that the officers have sworn to uphold."

Earlier in September, TCP's [Committee on Policing Reforms](#) -- a bipartisan group comprising former law enforcement and military officers, prosecutors, judges, and experts in criminal law -- [issued a report](#) that examines the constitutional and policy concerns raised by law enforcement's use of military equipment and tactics. The report calls on the Obama administration to impose stronger limitations on the federal programs providing tactical military equipment to states, such as adding flash bang grenades and long range acoustical devices to the list of prohibited items, and requiring law enforcement agencies to demonstrate military equipment would be used only in limited and narrowly-tailored circumstances. The group also urged greater transparency and accountability in the transfer of military equipment to civilian law enforcement.

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[About The Constitution Project](#) 

Created out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy strong, The Constitution Project brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.

