



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS October 26, 2020

MICHAEL McHALE

President
Florida Police Benevolent Association

The Honorable James M Inhofe
Chair
Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chair

JOHN A. FLYNN

Vice President
Police Benevolent Association of New York City

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

TODD HARRISON

Recording Secretary
Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN

Treasurer
Massachusetts Coalition of Police

Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Preserving the Integrity of the 1033 Program

MARC KOVAR

Sergeant-at-Arms
New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Smith and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry:

CRAIG D. LALLY

Executive Secretary
Los Angeles Police Protective League

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the nation, I am writing to urge you to maintain Section 1054 of S. 4049 in the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act conference report and refrain from putting further restrictions on the Department of Defense 1033 program.

MARK YOUNG

Vice President,
Associate Members
Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association

Programs like the 1033 program have been vital resources in allowing State, local and Tribal law enforcement to acquire items used in search and rescue operations, disaster response, and active shooter situations that they otherwise would not be able to afford. This equipment has not led to the "militarization" of police, but rather has proven to be essential in protecting communities against violent criminals with increasing access to sophisticated weaponry, IEDs, and body armor.

JAMES PALMER

Parliamentarian
Wisconsin Professional Police Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and
General Counsel

Section 1054 of S.4049 prohibits the transfer of bayonets, grenades, weaponized tracked combat vehicles, and weaponized drones – items that are not used in community policing – to State, local or Tribal law enforcement agencies. It also ensures that any law enforcement agency that receives surplus military equipment from the 1033 program trains its officers on "respect for the rights of citizens under the Constitution of the United States and de-escalation of force."

With these provisions, Section 1054 works to restore community trust in law enforcement while recognizing how vital the equipment provided through this program is to protect the safety of our officers and the communities they serve.

Given the unfortunately high number of mass shootings that have occurred in recent years and the fact that state and local law enforcement are the first line of defense during any

incident including foreign and domestic terrorism, Congress should be ensuring law enforcement agencies are able to acquire such equipment for the protection of their communities, not limiting it. NAPO would oppose the inclusion of any further restrictions on this program or the equipment it provides in the FY 2021 NDAA conference report.

Therefore, NAPO urges you to maintain Section 1054 of S. 4049 and protect the ability of State, local and Tribal law enforcement to access necessary surplus military equipment. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director