

Vigilantes with a Badge: Warrior Cops Endanger Our Lives and Freedoms

by John W. Whitehead via sal - ICH Tuesday, Aug 28 2018, 6:57pm

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“There are always risks in challenging excessive police power, but the risks of not challenging it are more dangerous, even fatal.” -- Hunter S. Thompson



I have known a lot of good cops, I have defended a lot of good cops, and I have been fortunate to call a number of good cops friends.

So when I say that warrior cops -- hyped up on [steroids and amphetamines] and intoxicated on their own authority and the power of the badge -- have not made America any safer or freer, I am not disrespecting any of the fine, decent, lawful police officers who take seriously their oath of office to serve and protect their fellow citizens, uphold the Constitution, and maintain the peace.

My beef is with the growing squads of warrior cops who have been given the green light to kill, shoot, taser, abuse and steal from American citizens in the so-called name of law and order.

These cops are little more than vigilantes with a badge. Indeed, it is increasingly evident that militarized police armed with weapons of war who are allowed to operate above the law and break the laws with impunity have not made America any safer or freer, you should not take my word for it, prove it for yourselves.

A new study by a political scientist at Princeton University concludes that militarizing police and SWAT teams “provide [no detectable benefits](#) in terms of officer safety or violent crime reduction.”

In fact, according to researcher Jonathan Mummolo, if police in America are feeling less safe, it’s because the process of transforming them into extensions of the military makes them less safe, less popular and less trust-worthy.

The study, the first systematic analysis on the use and consequences of militarized force, reveals that “police militarization neither [reduces](#) rates of violent crime nor changes the number of officers assaulted or killed.”

In other words, warrior cops [aren't](#) making us or themselves any safer.

Consider that not a day goes by without reports of police officers overstepping the bounds of the Constitution and brutalizing, terrorizing and killing the citizenry. Indeed, the list of incidents in which unaccountable police abuse their power, betray their oath of office and leave taxpayers bruised, broken and/or killed grows longer and more tragic by the day.

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