

Urban Shield Taskforce Data Docket
Compiled by the Stop Urban Shield Coalition

Note: Videos are linked in this document, they are not in dropbox

Link to Drop Box Folder:

1. Does the Urban Shield Project meet the Federal guidelines set out in the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant?

Data sources:

- BAUASI Priority Objectives
- U.S. House of Representatives: Democrats Committee on Appropriations - Impact of Trump's Budget Cuts
- BAUASI Approval Authority: FY17 Risk and Gap Analysis
- Stop Urban Shield report - See sections "How Urban Shield is Funded" & Flexibility on UASI Funds" on page 3
- Federal definitions of terrorism

Documents 1.0 - 1.7 (see below) are attached)

The sources for Learning Question #1 above (including Documents 1.0 - 1.7 described below) establish that:

- (a) BAUASI projects must have a “nexus to terrorism”, while
- (b) terrorism is narrowly defined by US Statute and FEMA, such that it almost never occurs in the Bay Area, but
- (c) President Trump and DHS top officials are broadening the definitions of terrorism and security threats in ways that threaten sanctuary commitments in BAUASI jurisdictions.

The BAUASI Priority Objectives, FY17 Risk and Gap Analysis, and BAUASI Training and Exercise Manual also establish that

- (d) federal UASI guidelines include community preparedness and goals for prevention and resiliency, but that
- (e) BAUASI puts a low priority on these needs and capabilities.

Document 1.0: UASI requirement re “nexus to terrorism”.

Document name: “FY 2016- Project Proposal Guidance_0.pdf”

URL: No longer online

Comment: On p. 5 of document, “All proposals must meet the following criteria: Have a clear ‘nexus to terrorism,’ – i.e., the proposal must specify how the activities will support terrorism preparedness”

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On p. 3: “UASI funds may be used for other preparedness activities as long as the dual use quality and nexus to terrorism is clearly demonstrated.”

On p. 23: “Funds may be used for a range of emergency preparedness and management planning activities... Examples of planning activities include: Developing hazard/threat-specific annexes that incorporate the range of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities... Developing related terrorism and *other catastrophic prevention* [emphasis added]””

Document 1.1: US Code definition of terrorism.

URL: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/22/2656f>

Comment: According to 22 U.S. Code § 2656f, “the term ‘terrorism’ means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents”.

Document 1.2: FEMA definition of terrorism

Document name: “FEMA terrorism.pdf”

URL: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1549-20490-0802/terrorism.pdf>

Comment: On p. 4 of document: “Terrorism is the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion, or ransom.”

Document 1.3: Statement of President Trump re Black Lives Matter: “I have seen it -- where they are essentially calling death to the police.” “Donald Trump: Black Lives Matter calls for killing police,” *CBS News*, July 19, 2016.

URL: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-black-lives-matter-calls-for-killing-police/>

Document 1.4: When the number of children fleeing violence in Central America grew dramatically in 2014, DHS Secretary John Kelly called undocumented immigrants on the southern U.S. border an “existential threat” to the United States. “Top General Says Mexico Border Security Now ‘Existential’ Threat to U.S.,” *Defense One*, July 5, 2015.

URL: <http://www.defenseone.com/threats/2014/07/top-general-says-mexico-border-security-now-existential-threat-us/87958/>

Document 1.5: DHS Secretary, Marine Corps General John Kelly, comments in 2010.

URL: <http://www.moaablogs.org/battleofthebilge/2010/11/honor-and-sacrifice->

[ltgen-john-f-kelly/](#)

Comment: Presumably “terrorists” are the enemy of the United States. In 2010, Kelly said of “our enemy”: “Our enemy is savage, offers absolutely no quarter, and has a single focus and that is either kill every one of us here at home, or enslave us with a sick form of extremism that serves no God or purpose that decent men and women could ever grasp. St Louis is as much at risk as is New York and Washington, D.C... We have a saying in the Marine Corps and that is ‘no better friend, no worse enemy, than a U.S. Marine.’ We always hope for the first, friendship, but are certainly more than ready for the second. If it’s death they want, its death they will get, and the Marines will continue showing them the way to hell if that’s what will make them happy.”

Document 1.6: Reported nominee for DHS number two post called Black Lives Matter activists “terrorists”: “Trump considers sheriff who called Black Lives Matter 'terrorists' for DHS post,” *The Hill*, April 28, 2017

URL: <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/331139-trump-considers-sheriff-who-called-black-lives-matter-terrorists-for>

Document 1.7: BAUASI Regional Training & Exercise Program Vision statement

Document name: "BAUASI RTEP manual.pdf"

URL: none

Comment: See “Vision” on p. 4 of pdf. The program excludes the community - those who are not part of “our emergency response workforce” - from its vision for the 12-county region.

2. Is Urban Shield strictly an emergency preparedness program?

Data sources:

- Data on how SWAT teams trained in Urban Shield deploy (can reasonably be believed to use their training)

Establishes that units trained in Urban Shield are mostly deployed for search warrants or non-critical incidents, not related to terrorism or Urban Shield scenarios.

- A list of weapons & surveillance vendors at the 2015 and 2016 Urban Shield expo

Establishes that vendors have offered T-shirts with violent messaging, equipment designed for surveillance and crowd control, military-

grade weaponry, all with either no relation to emergency preparedness, or which is likely to also be used for other purposes.

- Alameda County Sheriff BA UASI 2015 Expenditures Graph
Shows how Alameda County BAUASI exercise budget excludes needs for emergency preparedness in areas such as Medical and Public Health, Recovery, and Community Preparedness.

3. In the event of an emergency/ attack or natural disaster, will public safety agencies, public health, other emergency response departments, and the community be adequately trained and equipped to help prevent and respond to such disasters without the training offered by Urban Shield?

Data sources:

- Community Preparedness Alternatives to Urban Shield
Shows some alternatives that could and should be supported to train community members, organizations, churches, schools and agencies to respond to disasters without Urban Shield.
- 3.5: List of jurisdictions that no longer participate, or never participated in Urban Shield Tactical Competition. Document name: "PDs not participating.docx"
- Interview Transcripts with BA UASI Counties' Emergency Services Depts
Establishes that some jurisdictions do not participate in Urban Shield, instead fulfilling their emergency preparedness training through other means. Comment: Request that Sheriff fill out this data by providing complete list of agencies that entered teams in 2016 Urban Shield.
- Reports on lack of prevention of Ghost Ship and San Pablo fires
 - SF Examiner: "The investigating attorneys have determined that a basis exists for the city of Oakland to be held accountable for its failures to adequately inspect and protect the public from the dangers presented in the Ghost Ship. This fire should have been prevented by the city meeting its responsibilities to the public, and unless they are held accountable this tragedy will likely repeat itself. We also believe grounds exist for bringing claims against the County of Alameda and State of California."

- Mercury News: "Despite promises to do better after 36 people died in the Dec. 2 Ghost Ship warehouse tragedy, with critics blasting the fire department's erratic inspection performance, Sabatini decided not to shutter the San Pablo Avenue building, but rather give the owners time to make fixes and allow the local engine company to monitor the situation until "the time that more Code Inspectors are available."

[if !supportLists]◦ [endif]3.1: List of agencies that participated in Urban Shield, 2007-2015. Document name: "Participant List 2007-2015_Searchable.pdf" Comment: Oakland Fire Department participated in 2011, 2015. See pages 14 and 28.

- 3.2 "Fire department emails: Inspections flawed in fire-prone Oakland hills," *East Bay Express*, February 24, 2017. URL: <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2016/12/24/fire-department-emails-inspections-flawed-in-fire-prone-oakland-hills/> Comment: Shows Oakland Fire Department's failures to execute prevention. Online version includes internal document
- 3.3: "Oakland Firefighters Say Their Department Is So Badly Managed, Ghost Ship Warehouse Wasn't Even In Its Inspection Database," *East Bay Express*, December 7, 2016. URL: <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/oakland-firefighters-say-their-department-is-so-badly-managed-ghost-ship-warehouse-wasnt-even-in-its-inspection-database/Content?oid=5055245> Comment: Shows Oakland Fire Department's failures to execute prevention
- "3.4 Long gap in fire inspections.docx" Comment: San Pablo fire that cost lives of four people may have been prevented by more frequent fire inspections

- Bay Area UASI rankings that rig funding in favor law enforcement

These documents demonstrate how non-law enforcement capabilities and needs for emergency preparedness and prevention are undersupported in BAUASI. The lack of prevention by non-law enforcement has resulted in tragic consequences.

- American Public Health Association Policy Statement & Recommendations

- Conclusion: Public safety is essential for public health. However, as a

society, we have delegated this important function almost exclusively to the police. Evidence shows that US policing has failed to deliver safety, placing an inequitable burden of harm on some communities, particularly communities of color.

Community-centered strategies for addressing harm and violence have the potential to increase public safety without the violence associated with policing. Investment in these strategies, as well as those that address underlying social and economic factors associated with crime, provides a promising way forward toward strengthening communities while reducing the harms associated with policing.

5. Urges federal, state, and municipal governments and law enforcement agencies to reverse the militarization of the police, including decreasing the acquisition and use of military equipment and reducing the number of SWAT teams and the frequency of their deployment. Restoring the division between the Armed Forces and the civilian police, as was law in the original Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, should also be pursued.

7. Urges federal, state, and municipal governments to divert funding from law enforcement agencies to community-based programs that address violence and harm without criminalizing communities, including mental health intervention, violence prevention and intervention, and conflict mediation programs, particularly in the communities currently most affected by police harassment and violence.

Analysis of how emphasis on policing, as embodied in Urban Shield, “has failed to deliver safety.”

4. Do the terms, conditions and guidelines of this program meet the demand, need and/or gap for the Bay Area Region to be prepared to respond to natural disaster (fire, earthquake, etc.) or a terrorist act?

Data sources:

- FBI Active Shooter Study: Incidents, majority over before police arrive, number of incidents in which non-law enforcement intervened – see pp. 8-12, 21.

This study sheds light on what the demands and needs for preparation for active shooter incidents are, showing that most of the time, such incidents are over before law enforcement arrives, thus making community preparedness for such incidents at least as relevant as law enforcement (e.g. natural disasters) or other public agency preparedness.

- Urban Shield Scoring Sheet -- the most relevant section is the Penalties. The above document does not appear to penalize participating SWAT teams for killing suspected "threat targets", nor reward them for everyone surviving. It thus militarizes responses to emergencies that do not involve attackers, as well as rewarding "shoot first, ask questions later" behavior.

- **(Not in Dropbox)**

- Report & Video on Urban Shield by Shane Bauer of Mother Jones, "The Making of the Warrior Cop"
 - <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/10/swat-warrior-cops-police-militarization-urban-shield>

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The above video shows how reporters who asked pointed questions in Urban Shield were kicked out, contributing to a community perception of secrecy and lack of transparency around Urban Shield. Such secrecy undermines emergency preparedness as well as community involvement and leadership.

- Video by Denevi Digital Systems (Official Video Production Company for the Alameda County Sheriff Office)

- Urban Shield 2015 Highlight Video
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX1_Aug1Y-8
- Urban Shield 2016 Highlight Video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOcyKEF3wrE>

- Video by Modern Combat Sports

- Urban Shield S.W.A.T. Competition
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPq4NEEtAlc&t=532s>

These videos depict more militarized SWAT responses than first responder exercises for natural disaster.

5. What is the impact of Urban Shield on the community's relationship

with law enforcement and other emergency preparedness responders such as the public health department; health care agencies; public education agencies; public transportation agencies; fire departments; and emergency medical services?

Data sources:

- ***Narratives of Urban Shield's Impact (not in Drop Box)***

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- Video of youth and formerly incarcerated man impacted by Urban Shield-trained SWAT teams, and footage from Urban Shield. This was shown at Monday's event at The Way: <https://vimeo.com/213754706>
- Video Testimonies of SWAT stories - <https://www.warresisters.org/swatstories>

The above videos demonstrate how militarized SWAT deployments by jurisdictions trained in Urban Shield negatively impact people of color and from marginalized communities who experience them.

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- Communities Push Berkeley to Stop Urban Shield by Survival Media Agency - <https://vimeo.com/218691451/9e91b998d4>

Demonstrates a lack of trust between public officials and the Berkeley community as a result of Urban Shield.

- ACLU's "War Comes Home" on SWAT's focus on serving warrants in communities of color

This data demonstrates that nationally SWAT deployments disproportionately impact communities of color. Since Urban Shield is a prominent SWAT training, this disproportionate deployment impacts relationships of communities of color with law enforcement.

- Article: *Berkeleyside* - "Not Making Us Safer - Police Militarization in Berkeley" by John Lindsay-Poland

The above data source demonstrates a link between Urban Shield-trained police officers and experiences of abuse by Berkeley PD, which impacts law enforcement-community relationships.

- Letter from East Bay Meditation Center
- Letter from First Congregational Church of Oakland

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- Letter from Seminary of the Street
- Letter from Jewish Voice for Peace
- Letter from 52 medical professionals about their concerns regarding Urban Shield
- Letter from SF Board of Supervisors Avalos, Campos, and Mar to Alameda County BOS
- Letter California Nurses Association
- Letter from United Auto Workers Union 2865
- List of Stop Urban Shield participating organizations
- Petition Signed by 998 Alameda County Residents in December 2016
- Resolution from UC Berkeley Student Senate to withdraw UCPD from Urban Shield

The above letters, petition and resolution demonstrate the breadth and depth of community sectors that oppose Urban Shield, indicating the impacts it has on community relationships with law enforcement and other participating agencies.

- Racialized images in Urban Shield scenarios
- T-shirt vendors & Images

Illustrates Urban Shield's stigmatization and criminalization of people of color, damaging relationships between communities of color and agencies involved in Urban Shield.

- Video by Denevi Digital Systems (Official Video Production Company for the Alameda County Sheriff Office) depict more militarized SWAT responses than first responder exercises for natural disasters
 - Urban Shield 2015 Highlight Video
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX1_Aug1Y-8
 - Urban Shield 2016 Highlight Video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOcyKEF3wrE>
- Video by Modern Combat Sports
 - Urban Shield S.W.A.T. Competition
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPq4NEEtAlc&t=532s>

The videos of Urban Shield footage demonstrate militarized and aggressive policing, which impacts community relations with law enforcement.

- Urban Shield trainees in Berkeley PD Dec. 2014 response to protest

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- OPD cases – list of shootings by Urban Shield trainees
- OPD cases – articles about abuses
- "5.0 Urban Shield Trainees Involved in Fatal Shootings.docx"
- "5.1 Man Killed by Cop had Replica Gun.docx" (Fatal shooting by Newark PD officer and participant in Urban Shield)

The above data sources demonstrate a link between Urban Shield-trained police officers and experiences of police shootings and of abuses, which impacts law enforcement-community relationships.

Sheriff Ahern interview re 'trauma is not harm'

Indicates the attitude of the Urban Shield's founder and coordinator toward trauma and its causes that is part of the Urban Shield-community problem.

- Weapons & Surveillance Vendors List

Establishes that vendors have offered T-shirts with violent and racist messaging, equipment designed for surveillance and crowd control, and military-grade weaponry, experienced by community members as militarized, racist, and/or an "occupation" force.

- Sheriff Ahern interview re reasons for inviting Mexican Federal Police
- List of International SWAT teams that have committed human rights abuses

The documented abuses committed by police forces whom the Sheriff has invited to participate in Urban Shield send a message to the community about the low priority, to say the least, given to human rights in Urban Shield planning. The Sheriff's explanation for why Mexican Federal Police forces were invited demonstrates deep insensitivity to both immigration concerns in Alameda County and to community concerns about human rights in Urban Shield.