

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

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)
- A list of weapons & surveillance vendors at the 2015 and 2016 Urban Shield expo
- List of International SWAT teams that have committed human rights abuses
- Alameda County Sheriff BA UASI 2015 Expenditures Graph

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

- Interview Transcripts with BA UASI Counties' Emergency Services Depts
- 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."
- Bay Area UASI rankings that rig funding in favor law enforcement
- 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.

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.
- Urban Shield Scoring Sheet -- the most relevant section is the Penalties, which does not appear to penalize teams for killing suspected “threat targets”, nor reward them for everyone surviving
- **(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>
 - 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>

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)***

- 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>
- Communities Push Berkley to Stop Urban Shield by Survival Media Agency - <https://vimeo.com/218691451/9e91b998d4>
- ACLU's "War Comes Home" on SWAT's focus on serving warrants in communities of color
- Article: *Berkeleyside* - "Not Making Us Safer - Police Militarization in Berkeley" by John Lindsay-Poland
- Letter from East Bay Meditation Center
- Letter from First Congregational Church of Oakland
- 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
- Racialized images in Urban Shield scenarios
- T-shirt vendors & Images
- Urban Shield trainees in Berkeley PD Dec. 2014 response to protest
- OPD cases – list of shootings by Urban Shield trainees
- OPD cases – articles about abuses
- Sheriff Ahern interview re 'trauma is not harm'
- Sheriff Ahern interview re reasons for inviting Mexican Federal Police
- Weapons & Surveillance Vendors List

--

Tash H. Nguyen

Local Advocate, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

1970 Broadway, #1125 | Oakland, CA 94612

P. [510.285.8245](tel:510.285.8245) | Cell. 408.499.7912 | F. [510.428.3940](tel:510.428.3940)