Police militarization is "the process whereby civilian police increasingly draw from, and pattern themselves around, the tenets of militarism and the military model" (Kraska 2007).

The news media constructed police militarization as a social problem during the 2014 Ferguson protests.

Balko (2014) contends that the line between the police and the military has blurred, violating the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 which states: "...it shall not be lawful to employ any part of the Army of the United States...for the purpose of executing the laws."

The news media constructed police militarization as a social problem during the 2014 Ferguson protests. Fear that crimes and criminals are becoming more visible has fueled the militarization of police, as opposed to a force that's part of the community that's protecting them and serving them" (The Indianpolis Star, 2014).


The United States of America has become a war zone," a Pulaski County Sheriff said. "There's violence in the workplace, there's violence in schools and there's violence in the streets. You are seeing police departments going to a semi-military format because of the threats we have to counteract" (The Indianapolis Star, 2014).

"The biggest obstacle to reform is the news media, which exists to hype every crime and scare us all into a frenzy of irrational fear just so they can get higher ratings" (Daily Kos, 2014).

Fear of the threat of violence makes the public more likely to support militarization of their police for protection.

"Social problems" is a name for a category that contains those conditions Americans believe are widespread, wrong, changeable, and in need of change" (Loseke, 2003, p.15).

"Each category is held together by an organizing device...a frame" (2003, p.16).

"A claim is any verbal, visual, or behavioral statement that seeks to persuade audience members to define a condition as a social problem" (2003, p.26).

To help determine why police militarization has been categorized as a social problem, we searched news media for diagnostic, prognostic, and motivational claims about police militarization.

The 1033 Program is the key source of the protective equipment and MRAPs more than 600 of them have been sent to local law enforcement agencies" (NPR, 2014).


In 1997 the National Defense Authorization Act allowed the Department of Defense to transfer surplus military materials to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

In Advances in media technology mean more people have access to images of violence and conflict.

"A claim (cause):" "The United States of America has become a war zone," a Pulaski County Sheriff said. "There's violence in the workplace, there's violence in schools and there's violence in the streets. You are seeing police departments going to a semi-military format because of the threats we have to counteract" (The Indianapolis Star, 2014).

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

References


Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, 18 U.S.C § 1385.


http://www.gallup.com/poll/1649425/mhrap-and-mass_35.html


http://www.gallup.com/poll/1649425/mhrap-and-mass_35.html

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9