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Project Description

The Mapping Police Militarization (MPM) project is an effort to better understand the issues connected to the militarization of U.S. law enforcement. To do this, the project examines the connections between the military and local police departments in the U.S. by tracking the geographic location of surplus military equipment distributed to police departments under the federal government’s Law Enforcement Support Program, also referred to as the 1033 Program.

The 1033 program allows police to acquire surplus military equipment at no direct cost to use in counter-drug and counter-terrorism activities. Available equipment includes general law enforcement supplies (e.g., handcuffs, riot shields, holsters, binoculars, and digital cameras), and general office materials (e.g., office furniture, kitchen appliances, exercise equipment) as well as specialized military equipment including armored vehicles, aircraft, and weapons.

The MPM data cover equipment transfers to law enforcement agencies under the 1033 program from 2006 through 2013. The MPM data are geocoded to U.S. counties or county equivalents. Each equipment transfer records the equipment details (type, amount), the date the equipment was provided, and the government’s estimated value of the equipment. To streamline analysis, the data are also coded into one of six broad equipment types (Weapons, Protective Equipment, Communications/Surveillance, Non-armored Vehicles, Armored Vehicles, and Miscellaneous).

Citation

The MPM data are publicly available. Users of the data are asked to cite the data as follows:


Article available at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2016.1212666.

Funding Information

The MPM project is funded by the Charles Koch Foundation. The views expressed herein are the Principal Investigator’s alone and do not represent the views of funders.

Common Abbreviations

DOD – Department of Defense
FIPS – Federal Information Processing Standard
LESO – Law Enforcement Support Office
DLA – Defense Logistics Agency
**LEA** – Law Enforcement Agency

**nsn** – national stock number

**FSC** – Federal Supply Category

**Summary Data Description**

**Time Period:** 2006 - 2013

**Date(s) of Collection:** May 2015 – January 2017

**Geographic Coverage:** United States

**Geographic Unit:** County
Standard Dataset

General Description

The standard dataset contains a detail record of military surplus equipment transfers between the DOD and LEAs. This dataset is available in a .csv format with each row in the .csv representing a single transfer event. Single events are defined as either single items or groupings of the same items transferred to a LEA on a distinct date. Identical items transferred to the same LEA on different dates are considered different transfer events. The data is aggregated at the county level with no distinction available between LEAs operating within a given county.

Data Format: .csv

Number of Variables: 16
## Variable Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>state postal abbreviation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>county</td>
<td>county name</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fips</td>
<td>FIPS code</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nsn</td>
<td>national stock number</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>item_name</td>
<td>item name</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quantity</td>
<td>quantity</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ui</td>
<td>unit of issue</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquisition_cost</td>
<td>acquisition cost</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total_cost</td>
<td>total cost</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ship_date</td>
<td>shipment date</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>federal_supply_category</td>
<td>Federal Supply Classification group</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Federal Supply Classification group name</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>federal_supply_class</td>
<td>Federal Supply Classification class</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>federal_supply_class_name</td>
<td>Federal Supply Classification class name</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fips2</td>
<td>modified FIPS code</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recode</td>
<td>equipment classification code</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Variable type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>state – state postal abbreviation</td>
<td>Standard two character state postal abbreviation.</td>
<td>character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>county – county name</td>
<td>County or census area name as listed in the 2010 U.S. Census.</td>
<td>character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fips – FIPS code</td>
<td>Unique 5 digit code maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau representing individual counties or their equivalent. The first two digits represent the state while the last three digits represent the individual county. (Example: 48 (Texas) + 113 (Dallas County) = 48113)</td>
<td>character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nsn – national stock number</td>
<td>The national stock number is a unique 13 digit number used by the DOD to identify individual pieces or sets of equipment that are regularly procured and issued through the federal supply system.</td>
<td>character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item_name – item name</td>
<td>A descriptive title for transferred items. In cases where there is an nsn associated with the transferred the name matches the one use in the federal supply system.</td>
<td>character</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
quantity – quantity

**Description:** quantity of items transferred between the DOD and LEAs for each transfer event.

**Variable type:** numeric

**Range:** $1 - \infty$

ui – unit of issue

**Description:** A descriptor that identifies the how the transferred item is issued. For example individual items often have a ui of “each” while a combination of items that make up a kit will often have a ui of “kit” or “set”. (Example: “Tool Kit, Aircraft Repair” will have a ui of “kit”)

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** N/A

acquisition_cost – acquisition cost

**Description:** Is the cost of an item when it was originally procured by the DOD. This value was the original contract price at the time of procurement and does not represent the current value or commercial market price.

**Variable type:** numeric

**Range:** 0.00 – \infty

total_cost – total cost

**Description:** Is the product of the acquisition cost and quantity of items for each transfer event.

**Variable type:** numeric

**Range:** 0.00 – \infty

ship_date – shipment date

**Description:** The date in which transferred items were either picked up by or shipped to the receiving LEA. This date represents the date in which items left DOD care and may not represent the date in which LEAs received the equipment.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** N/A
### federal_supply_category – Federal Supply Classification group

**Description:** A two digit identifier used to group similar items within the Federal supply system. A classification group listing can be found in the Department of the Army Supply Bulleting H2 SB 708-21 (http://bit.ly/2FNT3fu)

**Variable type:** numeric

**Range:** 10-99

### federal_supply_category_name – Federal Supply Classification group name

**Description:** Federal supply category titles.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** N/A

### federal_supply_class – Federal Supply Classification class

**Description:** A four digit identifier used to further subdivide the Federal supply categories down into more descriptive groupings within the Federal supply system. The first two numbers represent the Federal supply category while the second two represent the class. The numbers also make the first four digits of the nsn. A class listing can be found in the Department of the Army Supply Bulleting H2 SB 708-21 (http://bit.ly/2FNT3fu)

**Variable type:** numeric

**Range:** 1005 – 9999

### federal_supply_class_name – Federal Supply Classification class name

**Description:** Federal supply class titles.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** N/A

### fips2 – modified FIPS code

**Description:** A modification of the county FIPS codes in which the leading zeros were removed from the state FIPS codes for Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, and Connecticut.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** 1001-56045
**recode – equipment classification code**

**Description**: A unique single digit identifier developed by the MPM-Project to streamline analysis of the data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Category Title</th>
<th>Equipment Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>All weapons caliber below 30mm to include; M16, M14, and the associated maintenance equipment and parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
<td>Equipment used to protect the individual soldier to include; protective vests and helmets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communication and Surveillance</td>
<td>Equipment and maintenance material for electronic communications and surveillance such as; UHF/VHF Radios and Nigh Vision Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>All Non-Armored vehicles to include; HMMWVs (humvee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Armored Vehicles</td>
<td>All Armored vehicles to include; MRAPs, Up-armored HMMWVs, and Armored Personnel Vehicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>For all equipment not contained in other categories.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Variable type**: character

**Range**: 1 - 6
Spatial Data

General Description

The spatial data was derived from the standard dataset and aggregates the transfer events at the county level. Aggregated totals for value and quantities of acquisitions were developed from the six categories of military surplus equipment developed by the MPM-Project. Equipment transfers are evaluated based on cost and frequency of acquisitions. Since LEAs receive equipment through the 1033 program at no cost, here cost refers to the value of equipment. Frequency in the spatial data represents the number of items acquired by the LEAs who are located within a county.

Data Format: Shapefile

Projected Coordinate System: Un-Projected

Geographic Coordinate System: WGS 1984

Number of Variables: 21
### Variable Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FID</td>
<td>ESRI unique object identifier</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIPS</td>
<td>FIPS code</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mod_FIPS</td>
<td>modified FIPS code</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>County name</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fname</td>
<td>Full County name</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>state postal abbreviation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total_Pop</td>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AllCatFreq</td>
<td>All category acquisition frequency</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AllCatCost</td>
<td>All category acquisition cost</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat1Freq</td>
<td>Category 1 acquisition frequency</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat1Cost</td>
<td>Category 1 acquisition cost</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat2Freq</td>
<td>Category 2 acquisition frequency</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat2Cost</td>
<td>Category 2 acquisition cost</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat3Freq</td>
<td>Category 3 acquisition frequency</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat3Cost</td>
<td>Category 3 acquisition cost</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat4Freq</td>
<td>Category 4 acquisition frequency</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat4Cost</td>
<td>Category 4 acquisition cost</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat5Freq</td>
<td>Category 5 acquisition frequency</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat5Cost</td>
<td>Category 5 acquisition cost</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat6Freq</td>
<td>Category 6 acquisition frequency</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat6Cost</td>
<td>Category 6 acquisition cost</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### FID – ESRI unique object identifier

**Description:** ESRI produced unique identifier for spatial objects.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** 0.00 – ∞

### FIPS – FIPS code

**Description:** Unique 5 digit code maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau representing individual counties or their equivalent. The first two digits represent the state while the last three digits represent the individual county. (Example: 48 (Texas) + 113 (Dallas County) = 48113)

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** 01001- 56045

### Mod_FIPS – modified FIPS code

**Description:** A modification of the county FIPS codes in which the leading zeros were removed from the state FIPS codes for Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, and Connecticut.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** 1001- 56045

### Name – County name

**Description:** County or census area name as listed in the 2010 U.S. Census.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** N/A

### Fname – Full County name

**Description:** County or census area name to include any associated descriptors such as city or census area, as listed in the 2010 U.S. Census.

**Variable type:** character

**Range:** N/A
ST – state postal abbreviation

*Description*: Standard two character state postal abbreviation.

*Variable type*: character

*Range*: N/A

Total_Pop – Total population

*Description*: Population of the county as reported in the 2010 U.S. Census.

*Variable type*: numeric

*Range*: 82 – 9,818,605

AllCatFreq – All category acquisition frequency

*Description*: The total number items in all categories acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type*: numeric

*Range*: 0 – ∞

AllCatCost – All category acquisition cost

*Description*: The total value of items in all categories acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type*: numeric

*Range*: 0.00 – ∞

Cat1Freq – Category 1 acquisition frequency

*Description*: The number items in Category 1 (Weapons) acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type*: numeric

*Range*: 0 – ∞
Cat1Cost – Category 1 acquisition cost

*Description:* The total value of items in Category 1 (Weapons) acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type:* numeric

*Range:* $0.00 - \infty$

Cat2Freq – Category 2 acquisition frequency

*Description:* The number items in Category 2 (Personal Protective Equipment) acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type:* numeric

*Range:* $0 - \infty$

Cat2Cost – Category 2 acquisition cost

*Description:* The total value of items in Category 2 (Personal Protective Equipment) acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type:* numeric

*Range:* $0.00 - \infty$

Cat3Freq – Category 3 acquisition frequency

*Description:* The number items in Category 3 (Communication and Surveillance) acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type:* numeric

*Range:* $0 - \infty$

Cat3Cost – Category 3 acquisition cost

*Description:* The total value of items in Category 3 (Communication and Surveillance) acquired by LEAs for each county

*Variable type:* numeric

*Range:* $0.00 - \infty$
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Variable type</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat4Freq</td>
<td>The number items in Category 4 (Vehicles) acquired by LEAs for each county</td>
<td>numeric</td>
<td>$0 - \infty$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat4Cost</td>
<td>The total value of items in Category 4 (Vehicles) acquired by LEAs for each county</td>
<td>numeric</td>
<td>$0.00 - \infty$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat5Freq</td>
<td>The number items in Category 5 (Armored Vehicles) acquired by LEAs for each county</td>
<td>numeric</td>
<td>$0 - \infty$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat5Cost</td>
<td>The total value of items in Category 5 (Armored Vehicles) acquired by LEAs for each county</td>
<td>numeric</td>
<td>$0.00 - \infty$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat6Freq</td>
<td>The number items in Category 6 (Miscellaneous) acquired by LEAs for each county</td>
<td>numeric</td>
<td>$0 - \infty$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cat6Cost – Category 6 acquisition cost

**Description**: The total value of items in Category 6 (Miscellaneous) acquired by LEAs for each county

**Variable type**: numeric

**Range**: 0.00 – ∞
Data Limitations and Assumptions

The creation of datasets associated with the participation by LEAs in the 1033 program are hampered by the inconsistent reporting made public by the DOD through the LESO. Currently the data is limited to the years 2006 to 2013 due in part to inconsistent reporting practices of the DLA. Furthermore, the DLA does not track transfers of equipment between LEAs nor do they track returns of equipment to the DOD from LEAs. Without access to this information, it is assumed that equipment is still located within the county listed in the current datasets produced by the DLA.