

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Are cops still paramilitary?

As I've written before, you're only paramilitary when the boss wishes to discipline you. Insubordination shines when you disagree with a supervisor, mouth off or question deployment, general orders, and department regulations.

The rest of the time you are really more of a salesman. Sell that ticket or arrest without getting beefed. Be a team player and writes lots of paper that provide revenue for the city. And carry around all those army surplus toys but keep it shiny, people, it's just for show.

I know that many of you are dismayed to read this, but you must be blind and deaf if the talking heads or all the local and cable news shows have not perforated your eardrums with the increased and heavy-handed militarization of the police.

It starts out with the equipment used in Ferguson, Missouri that upset the sensibilities of criminals, race baiters and rioters. The press saw all that green and shiny metallic equipment and armaments, then those talking heads on the left and the right, who just scream and yell and know absolutely nothing about policing jumped on the bandwagon. They all professed intimidation from those who only wished to protect and serve, and to stop excessive bad behavior of many who burned, looted, and rioted.

The very angry and ignorant liberal TV talk show host Ed Schultz asked on MSNBC if we should disarm the police (after the rioting in Ferguson). "What about" he says "just having them (cops) carry nightsticks and the authority to arrest?"

You first, Mr. Schultz. You first.

In Colorado, a package of bills have been introduced that provides a fine of up to \$15,000 if the police (yes, that's you) try to interfere with a citizen who is trying to record your official duties.

Imagine how that goes during a riot scenario when you have to be somewhat pissed off because some slimeball just threw a chunk of concrete at you.

You first, Colorado legislators.

There are many other examples of why you are not a paramilitary force even when your chief says you are, but what settles it is President Obama's recent order curbing military surplus equipment and firearms to local departments. Ending federal transfers to military and combat gear he figures will ease tensions between police and minority populations. Safe for the criminals and maybe make it easier to maim or kill cops.

He and his ilk have not yet been able to figure it out that this type of equipment is used only after the riots begin and containment and deterrence is mandated.

Some stuff surely may not be necessary — like bayonets and MRAPS (for land mines). But what about Humvees, specialized firearms, some explosions (like flash bangs used in raids), battering rams, riot batons, helmets, and shields? These are all going to be under tighter control according to the president's order. (Even Mr. Talking Head Eddie would let us have nightsticks.)

From now on you have to get approval not from your street commander or police chief, but from the mayor or city council.

OMG, LMAO, and WTF?

And from what I have been reading from some of my local chiefs and happy government nitwits, they are all for it. It seems only the unions see this as a bad idea. But what do you expect, support from our leaders?

So next time your brass tries to tell you that you are a paramilitary unit, kindly and respectfully remind him or her that it is really isn't so anymore.

Just try to be careful of that insubordination.

Vita é bella