Protest & Riots

Some Background History

Empirical Data

- Social Scientists have studied many protests and riots that have happened in the U.S. and Europe
- This research and practical experiences of the police community have lead to new approaches in policing protests and public disorders

Protests/Demonstrations

- All kinds of issues cause protests
  - Wars
  - Animal rights
  - Environmental concerns
  - Economic deprivation
  - Social injustices
  - Globalization
  - Disasters
  - Etc. (you name it and it can cause it.)

Where in the world are we?

- **What:**
- Los Angeles Riots

- **When:**
- April 29 to May 4, 1992

- **Why:**
- Perceived Racial Injustice

- **Toll:**
- 54 dead; 4,000 injured;
- 12,000 arrested; 3,600 fires;
- 1,100 buildings destroyed;
- $1.5 Billion in damages.

Iran

Burma

STOP
DEMOCRACY IS AN ILLUSION
ONE CURRENCY
CAPITALISM ISN'T

G 20

Cronulla Beach 2005 Australia

Ferguson

Protests/ Demonstrations

- In the U.S. people have the right to free speech and the right to lawfully assemble
- In the U.S. and Europe less than 10% of protests involve violence against persons or property

Policing Public Protests

- Two basic approaches to policing public protests
  - Escalated force
    - Confrontational
  - Negotiated management
    - Non-confrontational

Escalated Force Model

- Used to control protests before 1970
- Police used a confrontational approach
- Limited or no meetings between police and protest organizers
- Permits usually not issued for protests
- Force used to stop and disperse protests
- Only riot police used to deal with the protestors
- Many arrests were made

Negotiated Management Model

- Non-confrontational approach
- Emphasizes prevention and accommodation
- Meetings held where the locations, times, routes, etc. are negotiated with organizers
- Closer communication and co-operation between police and organizers
  - Before and during the event

Negotiated Management

- Minimum use of force to control a situation
- Reduced tendency to make arrests
  - Ignore low level violations/crimes
- Retaining a readiness to deal with potential or actual public disorder
  - "**Iron fist in the velvet glove**"
  - "**Two hat" (soft hat & hard hat) approach**

“Iron Fist in the Velvet Glove”

- Crowd only sees the “caring” cop in their regular uniform (**Velvet Glove**)
  - Bike and foot officers
- Riot police are geared up (“kitted up”) and ready to go and staged out of sight (**Iron Fist)**
  - To avoid unnecessarily provoking the crowd

Negotiated Management

- Works well with people willing to meet and cooperate with police
- Does not work with anarchists or radical groups who refuse to negotiate with police
- Does not work for a spontaneous public disorder/riot

Negotiated Management

- Model or approach used by most police agencies in the U.S., U.K., and many other European countries
- Takes a lot of pre-planning, organizing, and patience on the part of law enforcement
- For a large protest it takes a lot of resources which include regular and riot equipped officers

Questions?

U.S. Riots

What were the most destructive riots in U.S. History?

- Anti-Draft Riots
  - During the American Civil War
  - Happened in New York City
  - Armed mobs
    - looted
    - set fires
    - shot blacks, policemen, and federal troops
    - over 1,000 people killed or wounded

Contemporary U.S. Riots

- Types of Recent Riots
  - Celebration riots
  - Commodity riots
  - Communal riots
  - Hybrid – Commodity/Communal
  - Police Riots

Celebration riots

- Most frequent type of riots in U.S.
- Young people partying in the streets
  - Lots of drinking and drug use
- Usually related to sporting event victories
  - Oakland, CA
  - Boston, MA
  - Tucson, AZ
  - Los Angeles, CA
  - East Lansing, MI
  - Denver, CO
  - Chicago, IL
  - Vancouver, BC

Commodity riots

- Most violence occurs against property rather than persons
  - Vandalism
  - Looting
  - Arson

  Examples:
  - Mount Pleasant Riot, Washington, DC, May 1991
  - Cincinnati, Ohio Riot, April 2001
    - Both started after officers shot a suspect

Communal riots

Violence against persons

- Usually involves violence between:
  - Rival racial, ethnic, religious, or language communities
- Many occurred during the 1800s, early 1900s, and again around 1943
- Not very frequent any more in the U.S.
  - Crown Heights riot, New York City, August 1991
    - Jews vs. Blacks
- Occurs today more frequently in Asia, Africa, Europe, & Mid-East

Hybrid – Commodity/Communal

Los Angeles Riot, April 1992

- Started by anger toward government (justice system)
- Several “flashpoints” or “precipitating incidents”
- Commodity aspect
  - Arson, looting, vandalism
- Communal aspect
  - Different racial groups attacking each other

Police Riots

- Extensive violence by police personnel against civilians
- Civilians then abandoned without arrest
- Officers proceed to engage in violence against other civilians
- Examples:
  - 1968 Democratic Convention – Chicago
  - May Day 2007 – Los Angeles
  - Some civil rights marches – 1960s

Questions?

Crowd Behavior

- Many of today's views on crowd behavior are based on stereotypes that grew out of academia over a century ago. Writings by:
  - Gustave LeBon - 1895
  - Robert Park – 1904 and 1930
  - Herbert Blumer - 1939

Crowd Behavior

- Stereotypes
  - The belief that crowds are unified masses whose behaviors can be categorized as
    - Active
    - Expressive
    - Acquisitive
    - Hostile

Crowd Behavior

- Stereotypes – continued
  - Crowd participants were given to spontaneity, irrationality, loss of self-control, and a sense of anonymity
- Other scholars proposed that crowds do what they do because of their:
  - lower class
  - criminal or riff-raff composition

Crowd Behavior

- Empirical data gathered by today's social scientists has found that
  - Crowds are not homogeneous entities – all participants are not the same
  - Crowds are not made up of isolated individuals, but of "companion clusters", which arrive, remain and leave together
  - Crowd participants
    - Are not unanimous in motives
    - Many groups are anonymous to one another (not all)
    - Seldom act in unison and if they do, it does not last long

Crowd Behavior - Continued

- Crowds are not given to unique emotional displays
- Crowds do not cripple individual cognition
- Crowds are not uniquely distinguished by violence or disorderly actions
- Social, political, and economic factors are not consistent predictors of riot intensity or individual participation
- Individual attitudes and personality characteristics are poor indicators of riot participation

The Crowd: A Process – Not An Entity

- The Assembling Process - beginning
- The Temporary Gathering – middle
  - The actual demonstration or march
- The Dispersing Process - end

Riots

- Generally there is some singular, (or more often) a chain of event(s) that lead up to a riot.

A World in Protest

current locations of protest in recent history

- Russia
- Greece
- India
- Chile
- France
- Chile
- Iraq
- Iran
- Syria
- Thailand
- Mexico
- Haiti
- Washington DC
- Ukraine

P.F.P Y URO
FUERA DE
OAXACA
VERTE AL ESTADO

Levels Of Disturbance and Crowd Demeanor

Compliant

Passive resistance

Active resistance

Violent

Lethal

Levels of control

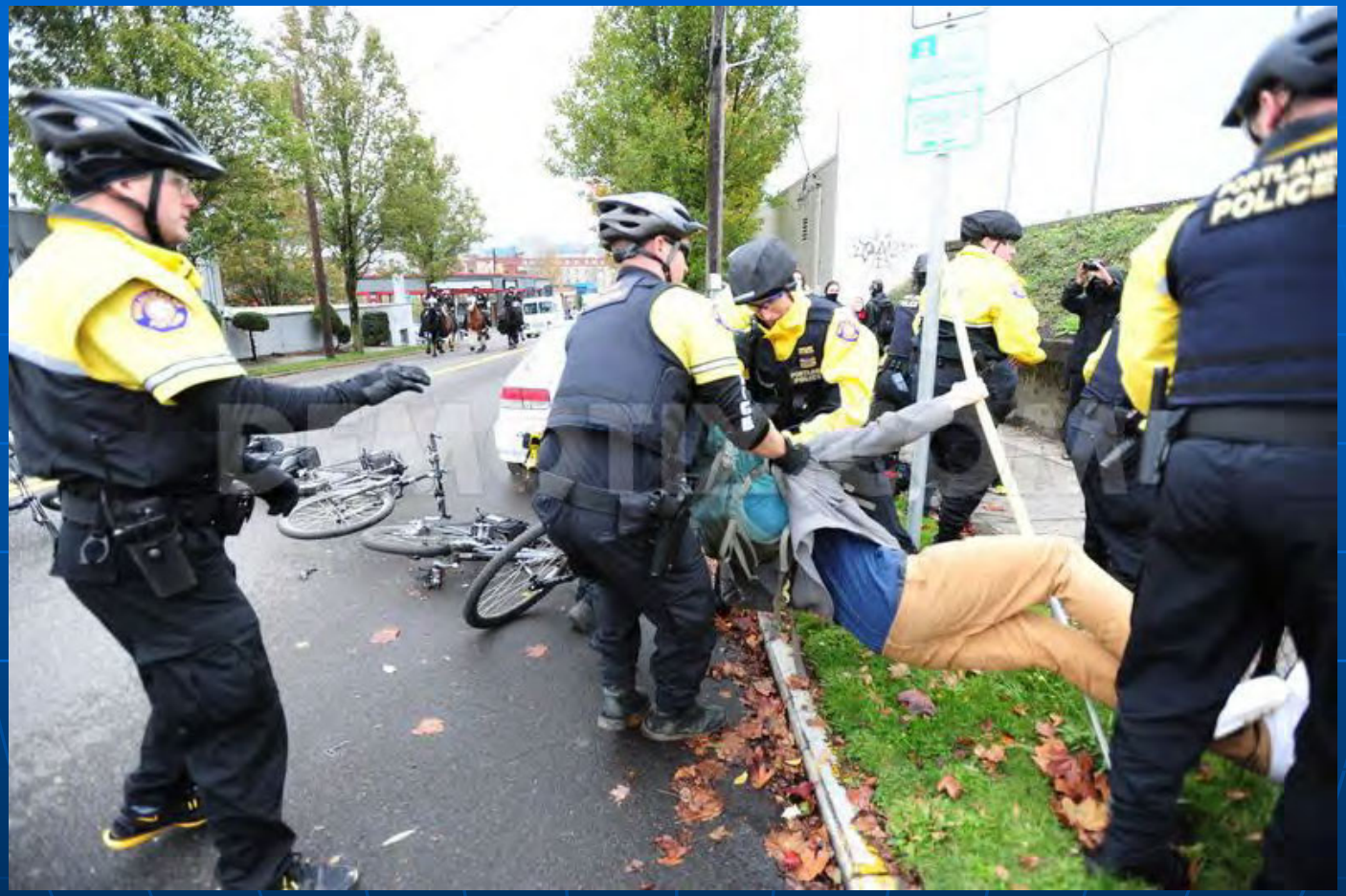
Mere presence

Verbal Requests

- **Physical control**

Pepper spray (1040.00)

Baton (1030.00)



Custody's

Impact Munitions

- FN303
- Pepper ball gun (Not PPB)
- Bean Bag Gun
- Sting Balls
- Sage Gun (Not PPB currently)
- 37mm or 40mmGrenade launcher – rubber bullets

Chemical agents (635.10)

The Players

- From the Right wing
- From the Left wing
- Everyone in between
- Anyone with an agenda

SONY

The Environment

Know why your there and what it is about

- Sporting Event
- May Day – labor march
- Anti-police march
- Disaster
- Racial or political unrest

Social Factors effecting the crowd

Know who the players are and their causes

- Leadership
- Moral beliefs - abortion
- Energy of Crowd
- anonymity
- Panic
  - Danger close at hand
  - Limited escape routes
  - Chemical agents deployed

Control force – social factors

Know your limitations and weaknesses

- Leadership
- Level of training
- Moral beliefs / prejudices
- Energy of Crowd
- Anonymity
- Us vs. Them
- Panic
  - Danger close at hand
  - Limited escape routes

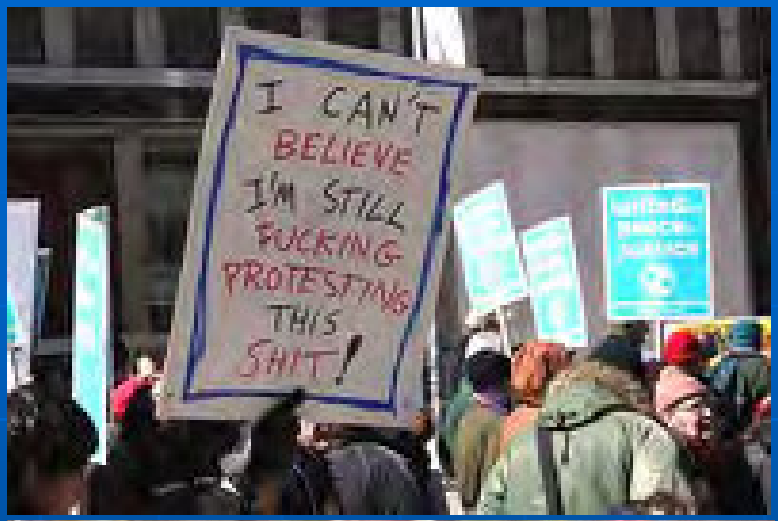
Tactics of the Crowd – Non-violent

Why they do what they do

- Embarrass the police
- Weaken the line - Diversions
- Deplete resources – mass arrests
- Swarming
- Trespassing
- Passive resistance
- Women and children in front

Precursors to violence or change in crowd demeanor

- Masking up
- Thick clothing
- Extra padding
- Phone # on the arm
- Backpacks/bags
- Clumping
- Large signs
- Sleeping dragons, tripods, water balloons, fruit baskets, squirt bottles, marbles, fireworks, projectiles
- Shields



Signs can help determine Attitude and demeanor of crowd

BUSH
ENEMY COMBATANT

Reporters

POLICE

METROPOLITAN GARAGE
MONTHLY PARKING $68
Carl's Jr.
SW

POLICE
POLICE

POLICE

Direct Action Devices

Tripods

Sleeping Dragons

UNPLUG
the
WAR
MACHINE(S)
NATIONAL ROBOTICS ENGINEERING
Carnegie Mellon
Robotics Institute
SHUT
DOWN
NREC
PROFITS
NO TASER ZONE!

Other Devices

- U lock, bicycle locks
- Snow Fencing
- Marbles
- Fireworks
- Hydrofluoric acid
- Water Bottles w/ rocks
- Super soakers - water guns

Tactics of the Crowd – Violent

- Projectiles
- Clubs – signs
- Shields / Helmets
- APR's – gas masks
- Fireworks
- Fluids – Hydrofluoric Acid, urine,
- Armor
- Direct action Devices
- Firearms

Training

Camps

Professionalism / discipline

- Cameras
  - Police
  - Crowd
  - News
- Neutrality
- Team vs. individual
- Discipline / self control
- Manage vs. control

•Cameras

•Solo action not allowed.

Lack of Resources…

Your objectives in this mess

- Protect Targets
- Restore Order
- Looter Suppression
- Crowd Control Divert (channel, route)
  - Block
  - Disperse
  - Contain / Isolate
  - Arrest
- Withdrawal / Do Nothing

Tools of our Trade

Personnel

- Bicycles
- Mobile Field Forces
- Rapid Response Team
- Horses

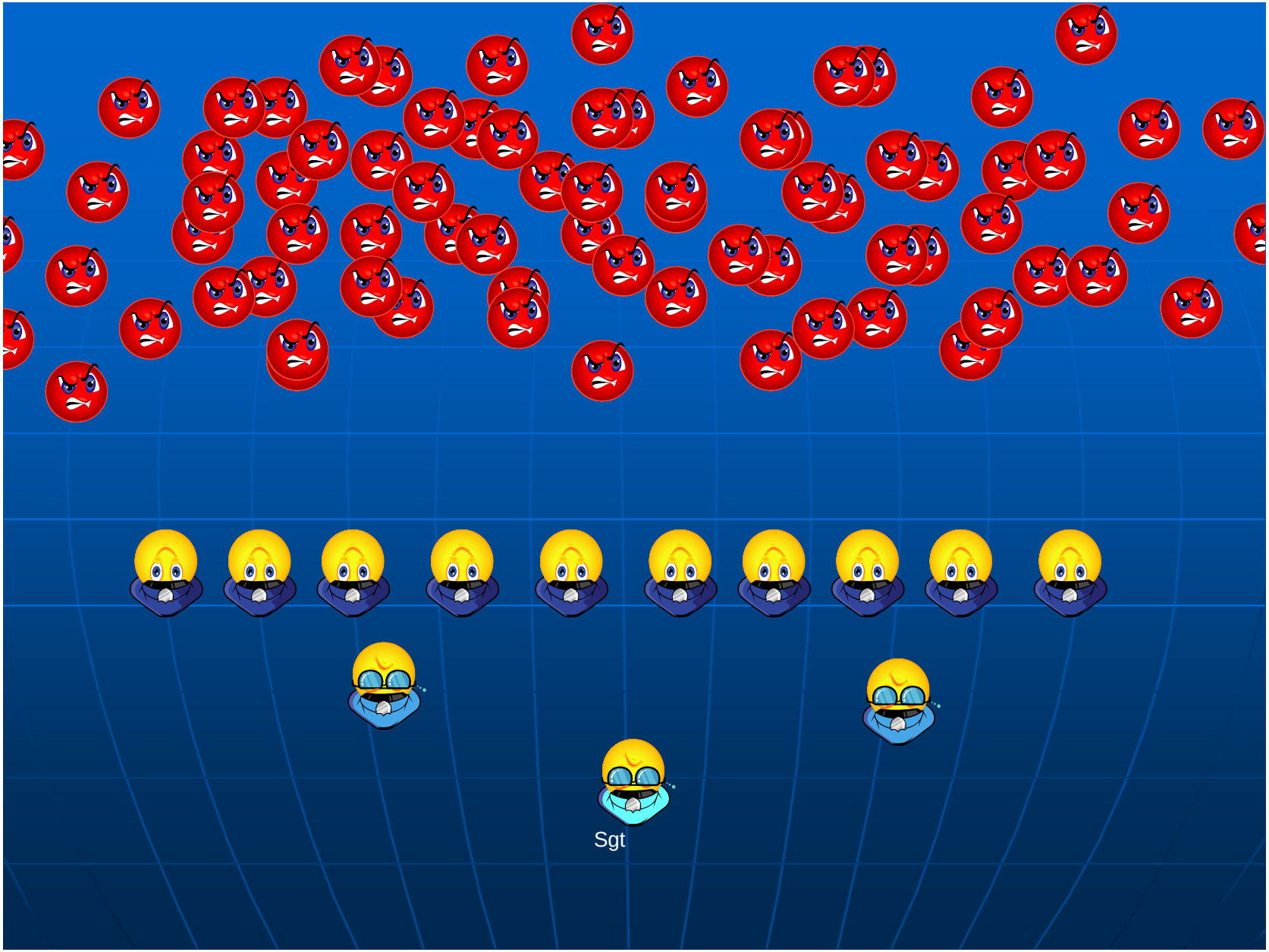
Impact Munitions

- FN303
- Pepper ball gun
- Bean Bag Gun
- Sting Balls
- Sage Gun
- 37mm Grenade launcher – rubber bullets/baton

Chemical Munitions

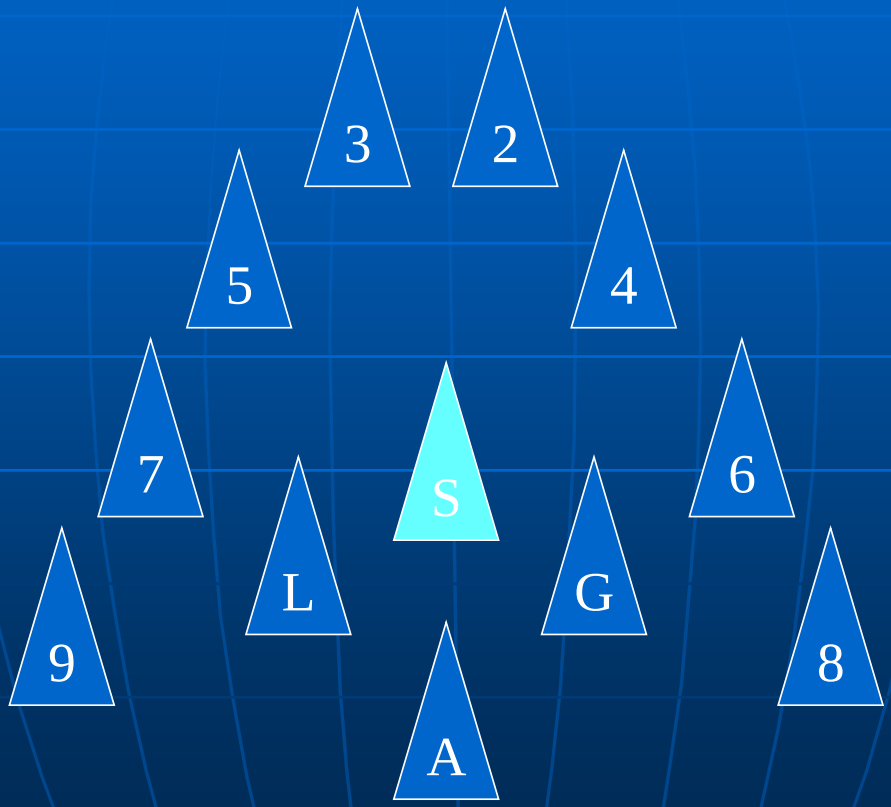
- OC –
  - Pepper Spray
  - Vapor - Grenades
- Smoke – Grenades, Launchable
- CS Gas – Grenades, Launchable
- We do not use CN Gas

Basic Squad Formation


Sgt

Basic Platoon Formation

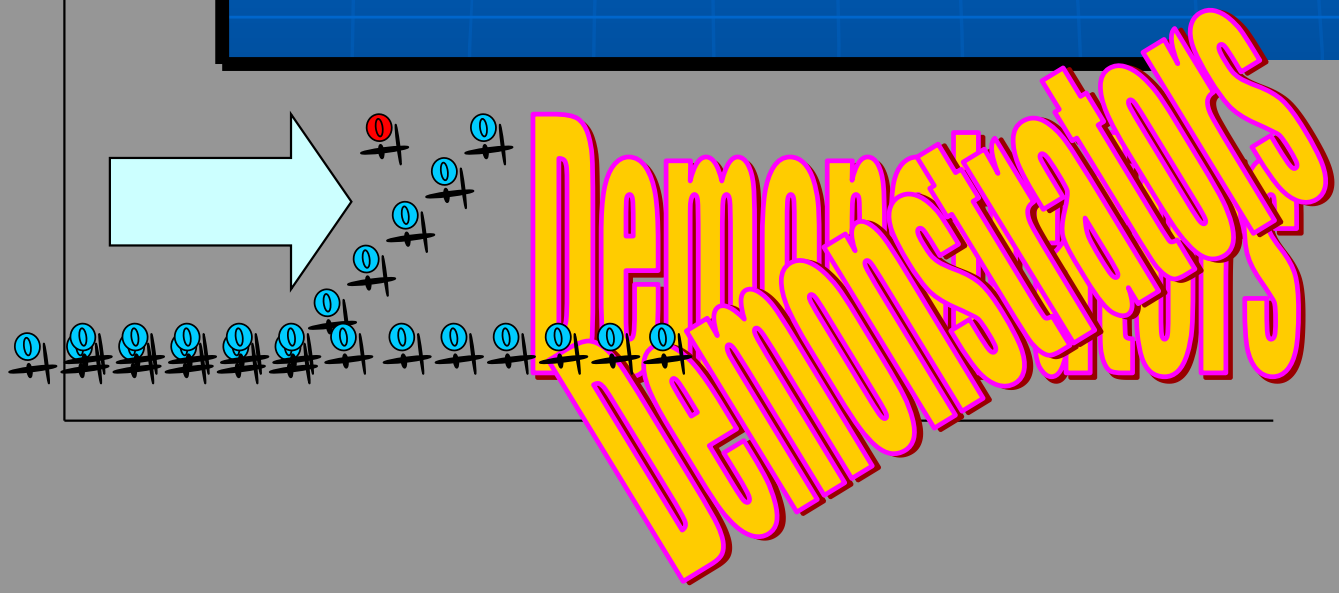
Basic Wedge Formation



Basic Echelon Formation

Management tactics

Echelon



Basic Platoon Formation

Protect Food Distribution Points

Protect Supply ingress points

Provide order for medical triage areas

Control ports

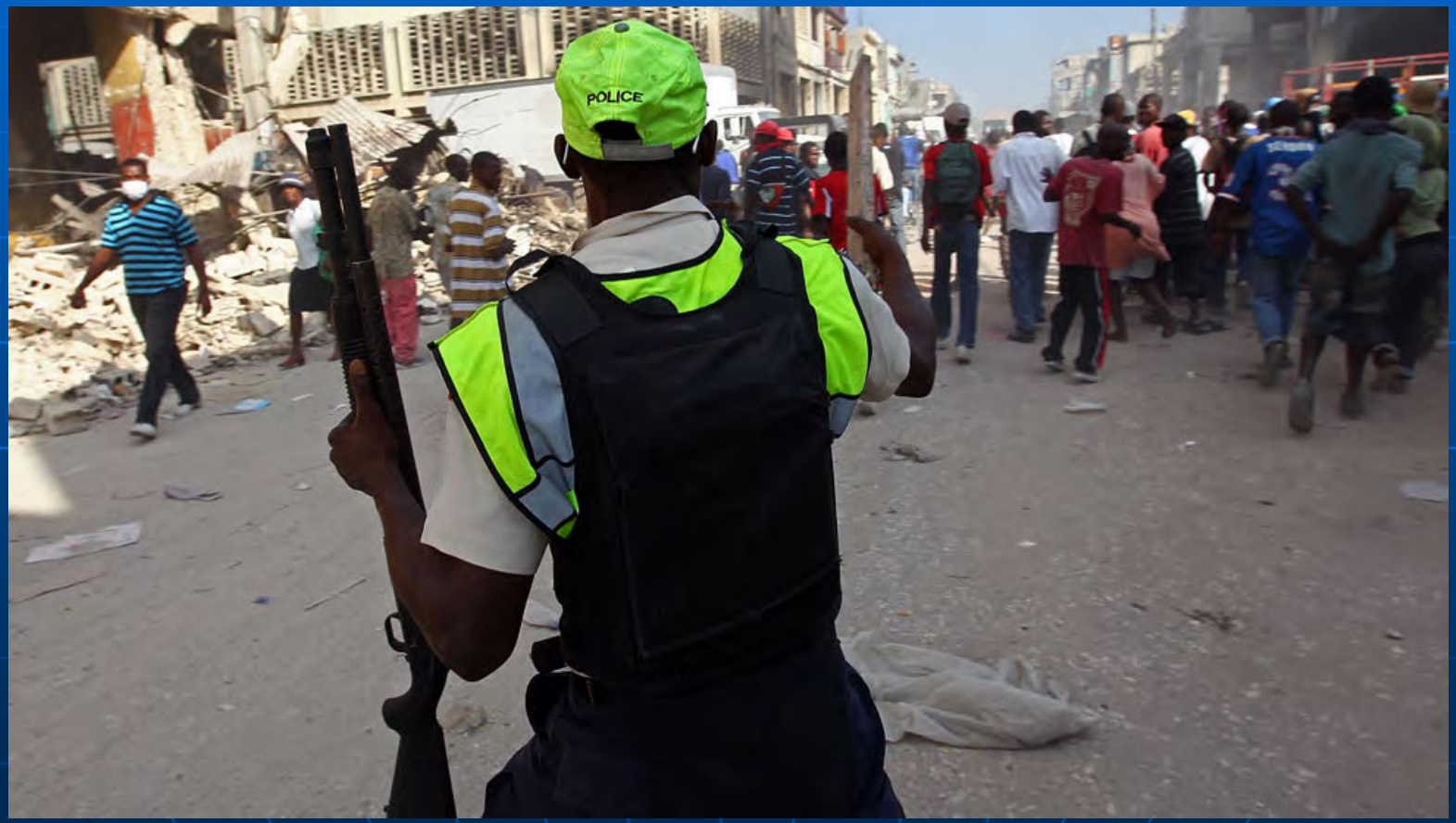
Maintain order in supply areas

Maintain order in Transportation Hubs

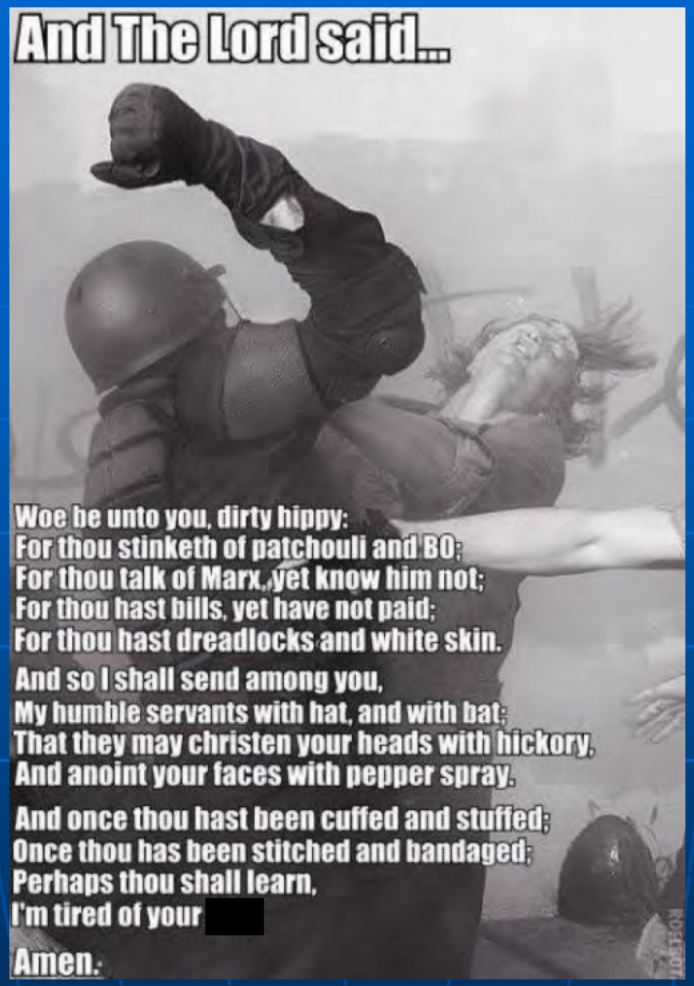
Looter Suppression

Maintain order in refugee camps

Establish civil control



Maintain order in shelters


And The Lord said...
Woe be unto you, dirty hippy:
For thou stinketh of patchouli and BO;
For thou talk of Marx, yet know him not;
For thou hast bills, yet have not paid;
For thou hast dreadlocks and white skin.
And so I shall send among you,
My humble servants with hat, and with bat;
That they may christen your heads with hickory,
And anoint your faces with pepper spray.
And once thou hast been cuffed and stuffed;
Once thou has been stitched and bandaged;
Perhaps thou shall learn,
I'm tired of your [redacted]
Amen.

The End