

**Proposals from Urban Shield Task Force members Lara Kiswani, John Lindsay-Poland, Tash Nguyen (Lily Haskell serving as alternate), Susan Abdallah and Glenn Katon**

Submitted to Urban Shield Task Force August 16, 2017

1. Urban Shield has generated controversy, opposition, and fear in impacted and other communities in the Bay Area. It disproportionately prepares for terrorist incidents by requiring a “nexus to terrorism,” which according to Alameda County’s own Emergency Operations Plan, is less important than seven other disaster scenarios.<sup>1</sup> Several Urban Shield trainees at home and internationally have been involved in human rights violations.<sup>2</sup> (In the case of Rio de Janeiro participants from Brazil, after three years of Urban Shield participation, Rio police killings increased by hundreds per year over the last two years, according to Amnesty International.<sup>3</sup>) It centers disaster preparedness for what should be non-force prevention, response and recovery on SWAT teams. Moreover, Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants require 25% of all funds be used by law enforcement for “terrorism prevention activities,” marginalizing other prevention efforts. For these and other reasons, **the funding source for multi-jurisdictional disaster preparedness exercises coordinated by Alameda County shall not require that the exercise have a “nexus to terrorism.”**
2. The National Preparedness Goal is “a secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”<sup>4</sup> Prevention capabilities are needed, e.g. to prevent fires currently affecting the Bay Area.<sup>5</sup> Alameda County and multi-jurisdictional exercises for emergency preparedness shall dedicate **as many or more resources and time to prevention** of and **recovery** from critical emergencies as it dedicates to **response** to such emergencies.
3. The Alameda County Sheriff’s Office has proven to be incapable of addressing concerns regarding human rights, racism and militarized tactics, including those outlined in guidelines approved by the Board of Supervisors, and should not lead an exercise for the County’s preparation for the most serious disasters. Emergency preparedness exercises shall have co-chairs to plan, lead and coordinate, which may include within the 12-county area: A. EMT agency or Public Health Department, B. city or county emergency management agency, C. community groups representing those most vulnerable to emergencies, D. fire department.
4. Bay Area UASI’s Risk Relevance ratings show core capabilities such as “Health and Human Services,” “Economic and Community Recovery,” “Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction,” “Housing,” “Public Health and Medical Services,” and

“Natural and Cultural Resources” ALL as having low risk relevance, while “Cyber Security,” “On-Scene Security and Protection,” and “Screening, Search and Detection” are rated as having the highest risk relevance. Alameda County should revise Risk Factor Levels for Core Capabilities.<sup>6</sup>

- a. Ratings should prioritize risks to people in the Bay Area, especially those who are vulnerable to harm in emergencies, not to non-human “assets.”
  - b. Review should examine why social needs are rated as having less risk relevance than capabilities related to law enforcement.
  - c. New reviewers should be brought on-board to address these issues.
5. Alameda County shall suspend the Urban Shield vendor show, as unnecessary and provocative.
  6. The exclusion from Urban Shield of international teams from countries with documented rights violations shall be extended to U.S. teams from departments with documented civil and human rights violations.
  7. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors shall make a statement of opposition to using terrorism as the principle framework for disaster preparedness in Alameda County.
  8. In emergency preparedness exercises coordinated by Alameda County, evaluations and scoring of all human conflict scenarios shall reward de-escalation and penalize all fatalities.
  9. No later than September 30, 2017, the Sheriff shall report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on the implementation of the 12 guidelines for Urban Shield approved by the Board in January 2017 (see below). Such report shall be public, and shall include, for each of the 12 guidelines: description of steps taken to implement the guideline; who was responsible for implementing the guideline; definitions used in implementation of the guidelines for key terms, including but not limited to: “human rights,” “racist stereo-typing”, “crowd control”, and “surveillance”; and for the guideline on international human rights violations, a list of all sources of information consulted.
  10. Proposal for a study: The Obama and Trump administrations sought steep cuts in UASI grant funds for FY2017 and FY2018, respectively. The Trump administration has stated that it will cut federal funds to sanctuary jurisdictions, which may include several within BAUASI area. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors shall send a request to jurisdictions within the BAUASI 12-county area to identify non-UASI grants and/or funds from their own resources for disaster preparedness, in order to replace dependence on UASI funds. In addition, the Board will survey the below-named jurisdictions that have not

participated in Urban Shield for a number of years, requesting the following information:

- a. Why have you not participated in Urban Shield? What has the effect been, if any?
- b. What programs have been implemented to address preparedness for critical emergencies?
- c. How have community-based programs responded or grown since the city stopped participating in Urban Shield?
- d. Who participates in them (names of the departments)? Do community members or civilians participate?
- e. What are the contents of the trainings, and who runs them?
- f. What do these trainings emphasize? (ex. natural disaster, mass casualty, terrorist attack, etc)
- g. What are the stated objectives of these trainings?
- h. How do these trainings facilitate relationships between emergency workers and the community?
- i. What is the number of professional development days?
- j. Do you receive training in projects for recovery from critical emergencies?
- k. How do you meet your budget for these trainings? Through the city or county?
- l. What is the general procedure for responding to mass casualty events? Who responds?
- m. (For emergency services) Do you have trainings or events coming up that are open to the public?

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office shall verify which law enforcement tactical teams of the following jurisdictions did not participate in Urban Shield for three or more of the last ten years OR did not apply to participate in 2016: Menlo Park PD; Palo Alto PD; Mountain View PD; Santa Clara County Sheriff; Vallejo PD; Santa Cruz PD; Watsonville PD; Pacifica PD; Napa County city PDs; Sonoma County city PDs; Marin County city PDs, except Novato.

11. Alameda County shall provide public and press access to all exercise materials and plans, and observer access for those who request it at exercise planning meetings, vendor show, and all commands and scenarios in the exercise itself. Observers shall be authorized to film and record all aspects of the exercise.
12. The Green and Grey Commands shall be coordinated by agencies involved in CERT and similar programs, not by law enforcement.

## Alameda County Urban Shield Task Force - Questions

Question 1: Does the Urban Shield Project meet federal guidelines set out in the UASI grant?

Question 2: Is Urban Shield strictly an emergency preparedness program?

Question 3: In the event of an emergency/ attack or natural disaster, will public safety agencies, *the community*, public health and other emergency response departments, be adequately trained and equipped to respond to such disasters without the training offered by Urban Shield?

Question 4: Do the terms, conditions and guidelines of this program meet the demand for the Bay Area Region to be prepared to respond to natural disaster (fire, earthquake, etc.) or a terrorist act?

Question 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?

### **Urban Shield Guidelines Adopted by Alameda County Sheriff and Board of Supervisors in January 2017<sup>7</sup>:**

- **Expand community involvement and awareness**
- **Urban Shield will be free from racist stereo-typing**
- **Work to expand training the medical profession for critical incidents**
- **Urban Shield will not include surveillance training**
- **Continue to examine new technology and equipment**
- **Urban Shield will not include crowd control training**
- **Continue to evaluate existing equipment**
- **Urban Shield will exclude any and all vendors who display derogatory or racist messages in any form**
- **Urban Shield will exclude the sale or transfer of any assault weapons and firearms**
- **Will exclude vendors displaying non-law enforcement related tactical uniforms and equipment**
- **Urban Shield will strive to maintain the finest first responder training possible**
- **That no invitations to participate in Urban Shield be extended to teams from countries with documented human rights violations**

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## Source Notes

<sup>1</sup> *Alameda County Emergency Operations Plan*, p. 13, at <https://www.acgov.org/ready/documents/EmergencyOperationsPlan.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> “Not Making All of Us Safer,” *Berkeleyside*, Dec. 10, 2015: <http://www.berkeleyside.com/2015/12/10/op-ed-not-making-all-of-us-safer-police-militarization-in-berkeley/>; “Oakland Council Gets Earful Over ‘Urban Shield’ War Games,” *East Bay Express*, Sept. 25, 2013: <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/SevenDays/archives/2013/09/25/oakland-council-gets-earful-over-urban-shield-war-games>.

<sup>3</sup> “In 2016, there were 920 killings by police documented in the city, up from 419 in 2012.” <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/05/brazil-spike-in-killings-by-rio-police-as-country-faces-un-review/>. Rio police participated in Urban Shield in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal>

<sup>5</sup> “Oakland Firefighters Say Their Department Is So Badly Managed, Ghost Ship Warehouse Wasn’t Even In Its Inspection Database,” *East Bay Express*, December 7, 2016, <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/oakland-firefighters-say-their-department-is-so-badly-managed-ghost-ship-warehouse-wasnt-even-in-its-inspection-database/Content?oid=5055245>; “Long gap in fire inspections at site of deadly Oakland blaze,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 30, 2017, <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Candle-flame-blamed-as-cause-of-West-Oakland-fire-11040236.php>; “‘Huge failure’: 80 percent of Oakland firefighter warnings of unsafe buildings go unchecked,” *San Jose Mercury News*, July 16, 2017, <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/07/16/huge-failure-80-percent-of-oakland-firefighter-warnings-of-unsafe-buildings-go-unchecked/>.

<sup>6</sup> See Items 7 and 8 in July 2017 BAUASI Approval Authority Meeting Master, at <http://bauasi.org/sites/default/files/resources/071317%20Approval%20Authority%20July%20Meeting%20Master.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> See Sheriff’s Letter, January 6, 2017: [http://www.acgov.org/board/bos\\_calendar/documents/DocsAgendaReg\\_01\\_10\\_17/PUBLIC%20PROTECTION/Regular%20Calendar/Sheriff\\_244881.pdf](http://www.acgov.org/board/bos_calendar/documents/DocsAgendaReg_01_10_17/PUBLIC%20PROTECTION/Regular%20Calendar/Sheriff_244881.pdf), and Board of Supervisors Minutes, Item 34, January 10, 2017: [http://alamedacounty.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=alamedacounty\\_8d9833edaf6e048b88a1cdcfcbb9625fc.pdf&view=1](http://alamedacounty.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=alamedacounty_8d9833edaf6e048b88a1cdcfcbb9625fc.pdf&view=1)