WNC Dialogue  
Stop Urban Shield and Police Militarization 
Monday, July 18

Small Group Share Outs:
- Question: What is weapons testing actually look like? Reaction to hearing that ‘Israel tests weapons on Palestinians’.
  o Weapons manufacturers will sell and try weapons to IDF and that information is used as a form of ‘testing’. Not for simply ‘testing’, but as part of military control in Palestine. US connections to weapons controls.
  o Unique relationship between US/Israeli military relationship – US gives Israel $ to buy US weapons

- What is the motivation to 'give' free weapons to police from military? Possibly to instigate as a business method and to suck up military surplus.
  o Increasingly politically challenging to come up against arms manufacturers – hugely powerful lobbies.

- US exports huge amount of weapons globally. US internal versus global connections to militarization and US imperialism. Normalization internationally in some communities around tanks, etc. Versus outrage in the US
- Questioning alternatives to policing related to public health responses – how to educate people about alternatives
  o Oakland Power Project: Community presentation about the need to decouple emergency medical response from police. Support for people to develop skills to assess capacity to respond without calling the police.
  o Peoples’ Community Medics
  o CR

- Alternatives to calling police experiences?
  o Questions of assessment resource
  o CR training coming up will address that
  o How do we think about changing the ways we interact in our environmental to have alternatives when issues arise – how our housemates might respond, how to support each other.

- Questions about histories of police versus military weapons. Why is there a distinction?
- Hyper-masculinity/hyper-patriotic marketing for weaponry in connection to aggression and violence
- Militaristic language embedded in language, including in some organizing cultures and media
  o Creates culture of fear
  o How weapons don't make us feel safer
- Buy in by carceral health system
- Mental health collusion to incarcerate people, profit benefit and direct monetary tie for carceral health system
- Santa Rita jail expansion
- Medical neglect related deaths in womens prisons connection
- Personal distance from some of these issues
- Recent shootings of police – information in presentation supports conversations with people who claim the necessity of arming police
  - How uncommon it is for police to die
  - Fewer police have died under the Obama presidency than in the last 100 years, despite narrative of increased vulnerability of police
- Gun control narratives:
  - Torn about wanting to support gun control, with the danger of the narrative de-arming communities while police become increasingly armed.
  - Black armed community protesters in Cleveland being targeted for temporary suspension of 2nd amendment.
- Emergency medical health being directed to take instruction from police, rather than to care for people. Training normalization to increasingly call police.
  - How to assess situations for medical providers when considering calling the police – immigration statues, sexual assault
  - Police only get very limited hours of ‘mental health training’