

Criminal Justice: An Overview of the System

Module 4: Law Enforcement

4.2: Structure and Nature of Policing

American Bar Association: A respected, national association of attorneys that is very active in civil rights and other criminal justice issues.

BDU: Military style uniforms also known as fatigues.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF): Conducts criminal investigations, regulates the firearms and explosives industries, and assists other law enforcement agencies.

Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS): A branch of the Department of Homeland Security that has the responsibility of dealing with lawful immigration matters, such as the issuance of green cards.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): Enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): Protects and defends the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, upholds and enforces the criminal laws of the United States, and provides leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners.

James Q. Wilson: An American political scientists that wrote extensively on criminal justice issues, perhaps most famous for developing Broken Windows Theory.

Legalistic Style: A style of policing characterized by a concern for code enforcement and the use of written policies and procedures.

Local Police Department: A law enforcement agency with the primary law enforcement responsibility within a particular municipality.

Order Maintenance: A police responsibility that deals with threats to the public peace and order as opposed to dealing with serious crimes.

Quasi–Military Organization: An organization that has some but not all of the characteristics of the military.

Residual Problems of Society: How Herman Goldstein, the Father of Problem–oriented Policing, described the police role in society.

Secret Service: A branch of the United States Department of Homeland Security tasked with providing protection to the President as well as investigating certain types of financial crimes.

Service Style: A style of policing that is concerned more with helping members of the community than with strict code enforcement.

SWAT: An acronym for Special Weapons and Tactics; a tactical response team trained to deal with unusually dangerous situations.

Sworn Officer: A bona fide law enforcement officer with arrest powers; so-called because such officers are required to take an oath of office that includes an oath to defend the Constitution.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA): Protects the nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.

Tribal Police: Police officers employed by a Native American tribe as opposed to a municipality.

U.S. Marshals Service (USMS): Enforces federal laws, supports other criminal justice agencies, and provides security and transport for the federal courts.

Watchman Style: A style of policing that focuses on order maintenance rather than code enforcement.