Policing: History & Subculture

- The *posse* was an organized group that sought those who committed an offense.
- The *shire reeve* was the leader of the county.
- Night watch – the earliest form of police patrol.
- The British codified police practices in 1285 with the *Statute of Winchester*.
  - Created a watch and ward system in cities and towns;
  - Mandated a draft of eligible males;
  - Institutionalized the use of *hue and cry* making citizens who disregard a call for help a criminal offense;
  - Required citizens to maintain weapons in their home to answer the call to arms.
17th Century England

• In the early 18th century levels of civil disorder and offending often times involved loosely organized offenders.
• The local response was limited.
• A local magistrate, Henry Fielding, responsible for the Bow Street section of London organized a small force of dedicated officers – *The Bow Street Runners* in the early 18th century.
The London Metropolitan Police

- In 1829 Sir Robert Peel, the British Home Secretary, after seven years successfully presented legislation to Parliament creating the first organized, professional police force.
  - 1,000 hand picked men
  - Organized along para-military lines
  - A disproportionate amount of criminal offenses included death as a penalty raising fear among the citizenry.

- The fear was that the police would enforce the law resulting in high levels of punishment.
The Basic Principles

- Basic mission is to prevent crime and disorder.
- Ability to perform police duties is dependant on public approval.
- Police must secure willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of law.
- The use of force by police proportionately diminishes degree of public cooperation.
• The use of physical force to the extent necessary.
• The police are the public, and the public are the police.
• The police should not usurp the power of the judiciary.
• The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder.
The Early American Experience

- The American frontier was a harsh environment. Harsh responses were used to control lawlessness.
  - Vigilantism was personified with the advent of the Lynch mob. Charles Lynch was a farmer in Virginia who organized people to track offenders and punish them.
- 1833 – a part-time force in Philadelphia.
- 1844 – NY Legislature established a full-time preventive police force in NYC.
- Lack of similarity to the Metropolitan Police in London.
  - Localized control at the city level.
  - Early political patronage on selecting personnel was an acceptable practice.
  - Positions were awarded based on personal relationships, not qualifications.
- 1855 – Boston
- 1910 – 1st woman police officer in Los Angeles
Models of Policing

• Political
  – 1840s through the 1920s
• Professional
  – 1930s through the 1970s
• Problem-solving
  – 1970s
• Community policing
  – 1980s to the present
The Start of the 20th Century

- The early police agencies in the United States were breeding grounds for political patronage and corruption.
- Police officers had no employment rights or protection.
- The position was viewed as a menial task not worthy of professional status.
- By the 1920s Prohibition fostered even greater opportunities for graft and corruption.
- The *Wickersham Commission* identified the extent of police corruption and provided several guidelines for the professionalization of forces nationwide.
The Professional Era

• Noted police leaders of the early 20th Century
  – August Vollmer
  – Raymond Fosdick
• Developed a professional model of police along the lines of the scientific methods developed by Frederick Taylor
• Early twentieth century saw the emergence of the scientific theory of administration.
  – Frederick Taylor
• There was an emphasis on production and output.
• Unity of control directed the interaction of employees.
• A paradigm shift from the neighborhood model associated with Peelian policing.
Technological Advancement

• Motor vehicle
• Radio
• Telephone
• All of these contributed to distancing the police from the public.
Moving Toward Community Policing

• By the later part of the 20th century theorists and researchers identified serious flaws in police practices.
  – The Professional Model of Policing created a schism between the police and the public.
  – The *Due Process Revolution* associated with the Warren Court forced the police to re-think past practices and philosophies.
The Culture of Policing

• Policing was under intense scrutiny.
  – The culture
  – Styles of policing

• It was determined that police
  – Were more apt to handle incidents and problems informally;
  – The mission of policing was losing to the personalities;
  – Arrests were being used for purposes not associated with lawful detention
  – Individual police discretion was routinely used
The Kansas City Experiment

• Considered to be the most famous application of social research principles of police management.
  – Conducted in the early 1970s, the study was an examination of the long held belief that random police patrol was effective and efficient.
The Experiment

- A part of the city was divided into 15 patrol areas.
- Five beats were patrolled in a traditional random pattern.
- In another area the patrols were doubled.
- In the third area uniformed officers only responded to calls for service.
- The citizens were not aware of the experiment.
- The data revealed that there were no significant differences of preventable crimes in the three areas.
- Citizens did not seem to notice the change in patrol patterns.
- Citizen fear did not change.
The results

• New patrol strategies were developed.
• Directed Patrol was a significant departure in the police deployment of resources.
  – Data was examined and police services focused on areas most in need of attention.
  – Tendency to be over used thereby diminishing the intended effects.
Law Enforcement Agencies

- Law enforcement is an arm of the Executive Branch of government.
  - President
  - Governor
  - County executive
  - Mayor

- Four levels of law enforcement
  - Federal
  - State
    - Tribal
  - County
  - Local
Federal

- There are several federal agencies distributed among 14 governmental departments and 28 non-departmental entities. Table 5-2, page 162.

- Approximately 140,000 federal LEOs

- Four specific functions:
  - Criminal investigation
  - Execute search warrants
  - Arrests
  - Use of force
State

• Many of these agencies originated in the late 19\textsuperscript{th} and early 20\textsuperscript{th} centuries.

• Some, like the Texas Rangers, were created before the state attained statehood.
  – These agencies were developed along strong paramilitary lines.

• The NJSP were formed in 1921 under a former Army captain, Norman Schwartzkorf.

• Many of these early state agencies were centralized organizations.

• Some southern states, Georgia & South Carolina, have separate highway and investigative divisions.
County and local agencies

- Many counties have sheriff offices. These are constitutional offices tasked with the primary function of protecting courts and maintaining jails.

- Local agencies are found in numbers range from
  - Small (25 or less)
  - Medium (25-100)
  - Large (100 or more)

- NYPD has over 35K sworn officers
- Newark, NJ over 1000K
- Irvington, NJ over 300
What is a sworn officer

• Law enforcement officers at all levels of government are held to a higher standard.
• This higher standard is grounded in the belief that officers take an oath to uphold the law.
• LEOs will swear or affirm that they will uphold the US Constitution and the state constitution were applicable.
• The solemnity of the oath gives pause to the belief in core social and moral values.
Private Security

- Private protective services (PPS) are also a level of enforcement activity that is present in agencies
  - Federal
  - State
  - County
  - Local
- Protective services of various types are provided on a contractual basis.
- PPS is attractive as a force multiplier without the financial burden of maintaining a fulltime workforce.