

The Contemporary Law Enforcement Industry

Chapter 3

Basic Features of American Law Enforcement (LE)

- Local Political Control
 - Inherited from England
 - Primary responsibility for police protection rests with local govt.s
 - Result--a highly fragmented, decentralized system for regulating the different agencies
- Police services provided on 4 different levels
 - City, County, State, Fed
- Result:
 - Very difficult to generalize about American policing

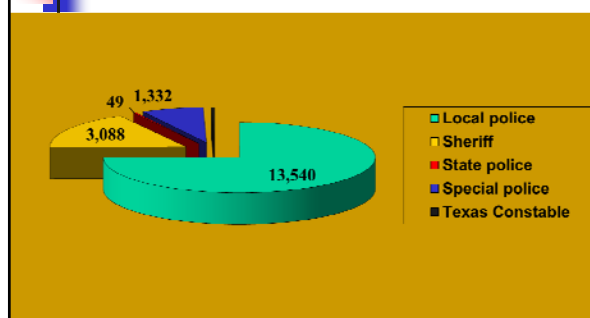
An “Industry” vs. International Perspective

- “Industry” Perspective
 - Provides a consumer perspective on policing
 - Average citizens receive police services from several different agencies
- International Perspective
 - Other countries have less fragmented systems
 - England only has 43 law enforcement agencies
 - Japan has 47
 - National governments provide a substantial part of the local agencies' budgets

Components of the American Law Enforcement Industry

- Government Agencies
 - Local
 - Municipal police
 - County police
 - County sheriffs
 - State
 - State police
 - Bureau of criminal investigation
 - Federal
 - Federal law enforcement agencies
 - Military law enforcement
- Govt. Agencies (cont.)
 - Special district police
 - Public schools
 - Transit police
 - College/university police
 - Native American tribal police
- Private Security
 - Private security firms
 - Security personnel

Employment by state and local law enforcement



Size & Scope of the LE Industry - *Understanding LE Personnel Data*

- The typical police dept. is very small
 - About half have 9 or fewer officers
 - The 172 largest depts. (about 1% of the depts.) employ ~40% of all full-time sworn officers
- Sworn vs. total number of employees
 - Sworn refers to only employees with powers of arrest
- Authorized strength vs. currently employed

Size & Scope of the LE Industry - *Civilianization*

- Process of replacing sworn officers with w/non-sworn personnel for certain positions
 - Free up sworn for duties that require trained personnel
 - Civilians may possess certain expertise
 - Usually less expensive than sworn officers

Size & Scope of the LE Industry – *Police-Population Ratio*

- Standard measure of police protection in a community
- National avg. is 2.3 officer per 1,000
- No clear relationship between police-population ratio & crime rates

Size & Scope of the LE Industry - *The Cost of Police Protection*

- LE is very expensive
 - \$55.4 billion/yr (\$260 on average per citizen)
 - On avg., full-time officer costs community ~\$116,500/yr
 - Personnel costs account for ~85-90% of an agency's annual budget

The Fragmentation Issue

- Lack of coordination between agencies
- Crime displacement
- Duplication of services
- Inconsistent standards
- Alternatives
 - Consolidation
 - Contracting
- However, the problem may not be as serious as some have argued
 - The PSS concluded that small police dept.s were not necessarily less efficient than large dept.s
 - Small dept.s put more officers on the street performing direct police services

Types of Agencies

- Municipal police
 - Represent 71% of all LEAs
 - Handle serious crime & provide emergency services
- County police
 - Municipal police that operate on a county wide basis
 - Constitute 1%
- Sheriffs
 - Responsibilities defined in state constitution
 - Elected position
 - Serve all three components of criminal justice system:
 - Law enforcement
 - Courts
 - Corrections

Other Local Agencies

- The Constable
 - Role defined by state constitution
 - Typically work within county court system
- The Coroner/Medical Examiner
 - Have responsibility to investigate crimes
 - Coroners are not trained physicians & are elected to their position
 - Medical Examiners are appointed & receive special training
 - Investigate 20% of deaths in U.S.
- Special District Police
 - Serve particular government agencies, such as colleges & universities
- Tribal Police
 - 200 agencies to protect Native American tribes

State Law Enforcement Agencies

- State Police
 - Share responsibility with local police
 - Varying degrees of criminal investigation responsibility depending on the state
- Highway Patrol
 - Enforces traffic laws on the main highways
- State Investigative Agencies

Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

- 17 Agencies with 500 personnel or more
- Role of each federal agency specified by federal statute
- Federal Law Enforcement Post 9/11/01
 - Homeland Security Act
 - Department of Homeland Security (DHS) & Department of Justice (DOJ) restructured

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Customs & Border Protection (CBP)
- Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Secret Service (USSS)



Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE)
- U.S. Marshals Service



Qualifications for FBI

- U.S. Citizen
- 23-37 years of age
- Four-year College degree
- Vision not worse than 20/200
- Pass polygraph examination
- Pass drug test
- Pass interview

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The Private Security Industry

- Estimated 90,000 private security organizations employing over 2 million
- 3:1 ratio of private to public police officers in U.S.
- Different from public organizations because:
 - 1) Focus more on crime
 - 2) More alternatives to addressing problems
 - 3) More emphasis on crime prevention
 - 4) Primarily concerned with matters occurring on private property

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Minimum Standards: American Style

- No national police system or standards
- Most important standards set by US Supreme Court
 - Serious limitations
 - Most aspects of policing do not involve constitutional issues
 - Enforcing court decisions is very difficult
- Congress
 - 1964 Civil Rights Act
 - Does not address police personnel issues such as recruiting & training

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Minimum Standards: American Style (cont.)

- State govt.
 - Certification
 - Licensing
- Accreditation
 - CALEA (Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies)

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