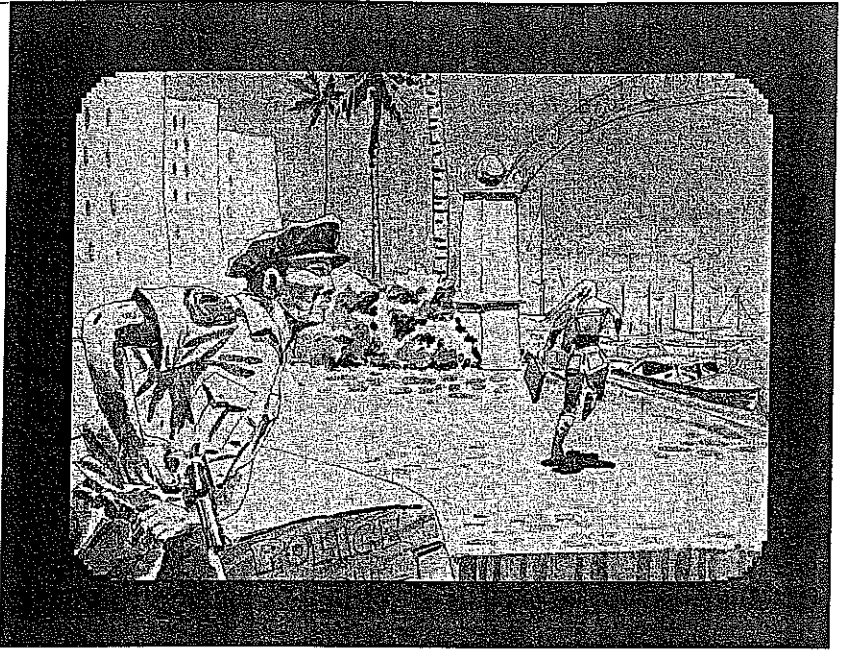


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Chapter 3

The Police and You

Officer Lee was riding in a police car with his partner, Officer Ho. Suddenly, a voice came over the car radio. There had been a robbery at Main and 8th streets. Two people with guns had held up a grocery store. When Officer Lee turned the car down Main Street, the officers saw them running down the street. One of them ran to a nearby pier and jumped onto a motorboat. Officer Ho leaped out of the car to pursue her. Officer Lee radioed the information to the police station.



CHECK vocabulary words in bold.
LOOK UP word meanings in the glossary, beginning on page 92.

What would happen next? This is how many television shows and movies start. You see the police riding around in a car. Then suddenly, there is danger, lots of danger. The music becomes louder. It seems so very exciting.

But is what you see on the screen what police work is really like? The answer is no. Police work is very different from what you see on your favorite shows. In this chapter, you will learn about what a police, or law-enforcement, officer really does at work. You will also explore the problems police have to solve every day.

The police are the first part of the criminal justice system that most people see and know about. The other parts of the system are the courts and something called corrections. (See Chapters 4 and 5 on courts, jails, and prisons.)



CRITICAL THINKING
What would happen if people tried to take the law into their own hands when there was serious trouble in the street?

The Story of Police Work

How long have there been police in this country to protect society? Two hundred years ago, there were no police. However, some cities hired men to keep the peace. They were paid by the **fin**es, or money they collected from people who had broken laws.

Our system of police comes from England. In 1838, the city of Boston set up its first police force. New York started one in 1845. In the West, there was a lot of crime, but very little law enforcement. Volunteer police tried to stop crimes. Then, as cities grew bigger, sheriffs had to be hired to be in charge of keeping the peace.



Officer Ortiz says: "Officers are people too. They may act tough, but they have feelings too. When you are arresting someone, we may have fears about the suspect.

Will he talk back or get angry or violent and force an action? My advice to young people is to help keep things cool. Talk things through and avoid trouble."

1-19-10

Today, there are 250 million people living in United States and almost 40,000 public police agencies. There are also private police agencies that protect private property.

What types of police agencies are there? There are federal, state, and local police agencies. Federal police agencies **enforce**, or make sure people obey federal laws. State police agencies enforce state laws. Local police enforce local laws. The Drug Enforcement Agency works to keep illegal drugs out of this country. The **Immigration** and Naturalization Service (INS) keeps people from coming into the United States illegally. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) **investigates**, or looks into, crimes for the U.S. Justice Department. These are all examples of federal police agencies. Some other federal police agencies work on federal laws that have to do with (1) alcohol, tobacco, and guns; (2) taxes; (3) mail; and (4) **organized crime**. Organized crime is planned and committed on a large scale, like a business.

State police agencies enforce such state laws as traffic regulations on state highways. They also investigate major crimes, using statewide computers to keep track of criminals.

Here is an example of state police at work: Police officers in New York State recently stopped a man because his truck did not have a license plate. When they questioned the driver, they found a body in the back of the truck. They arrested the man, who confessed to killing many people. The state police started an investigation. Soon, they found bodies of more victims in other parts of the state.

Local police include county and city police. These police do most of the law enforcement around the country. Local police have the job of keeping the peace and of law enforcement in their own area. Counties are larger areas that include several cities.

Other Types of Police

The policeman or policewoman on the corner of your street is a public police officer. Everyone's tax money pays for their work. Private police are hired separately. For example, a person can hire a private detective to find a missing person. Neighborhoods can hire guards to keep streets safe. Banks and stores can hire private police to protect them from robbers. Private police also differ from public police because they do not have the legal power to make arrests or to use physical force. However, like you, they can make citizens arrests.

There are police who do not get paid. Many people who want to do their part to fight crime work as auxiliary police or police helpers. This means that they help the police **patrol** the neighborhoods. They wear uniforms, but they often do not carry a weapon.

The Police Officer

The police officer has two main jobs: (1) to keep the peace and (2) to enforce laws. Most of the time, they patrol certain areas of the city. Keeping the peace while on patrol can mean helping a lost child or



CRITICAL THINKING

The TV show, *Miami Vice*, about fighting crime in Florida, is very unreal. It shows police firing at many people to solve crimes. Most police never fire their weapons during their careers. Why are there TV programs like this?

DID YOU KNOW? The late Robert F. Kennedy once said that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on. He served as Attorney General in the administration of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.



EYE OPENER

In 1990, approximately 70,000 police officers were approximately assaulted, and 72 officers lost their lives while working on the job.

8-29-13

1. What did officer Lee hear had happened over the car radio? _____
2. When music becomes louder on TV, what does this indicate? _____
3. What is the first part of the criminal justice system? _____
4. Why is that? _____
5. How were peace keepers paid two hundred years ago? _____

6. Where does our system of police come from? _____
7. What city set up the first police force? _____
8. What caused sheriffs to be hired? _____
9. How many public police agencies are there today in America? _____
10. What do federal police agencies do? _____

11. Who enforces state laws? _____
12. What agency keeps people from coming into the U.S. illegally? _____
13. What does the FBI do? _____
14. How is organized crime committed? _____
15. How do state police agencies keep track of criminals? _____
16. What does local police include? _____
17. What is the job of local police? _____

18. How are public police officers paid, with what? _____
19. How are private police different from public police? _____

20. What are auxiliary police? _____

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Critical Thinking

(pages: 10 & 11)

1. When people take the law into their own hands, what can happen?
2. Why should people not get angry and talk back to police officers when they are being questioned?
3. Why do you think police shows on TV have police shooting their weapons a lot instead of doing paper work, interviews and investigations?
4. What types of police agencies are there and what do they enforce?

- over -

5. Which police agency are you most apt to be in contact with?

6. It has been said "every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on". What does this mean to you?

7. What do auxiliary police do and why do people do this?