

Developing Law Enforcement & Public Safety Knowledge and Skills for the 21st Century

Law Enforcement in the 21st century is much more complex than years past. The demand on law enforcement officers has become a greater paradox than ever before. Officers are expected to be technologically advanced, robotically perfect, and professional. At the same time, the public desires compassionate and relatable guardians of the neighborhood. There is currently a seemingly significant rift between the public and police. In an effort to develop skills for policing in the 21st century, we as law enforcement leaders must appeal to both spectrums of performance. We can accomplish this by building positive social relationships through community partnerships while also using technology to our advantage to more effectively prevent and solve crimes.

Under the header Community Partnerships I've provided a video titled, "Taking Pride in Your Community." This video begins by discussing the considerations and benefits for building relationships through the development of collaborative community programs. The three elements of community oriented policing are discussed next, the differences between servant leadership and transformational leadership are explained, and crime prevention techniques are shared. Ultimately, the lesson to be learned is that more effective policing is achieved with community investment and participation in policing efforts.

In the section titled Technology, you will review three sets of works which discuss the use of different technologies to more effectively protect the community and to help solve crimes. As technology advances, questions are raised regarding fairness of use and privacy rights of the public. There is ongoing controversy between the benefit of serving the public and solving crime through the gathering of intelligence and evidence, particularly by way of digital media. The first work is a policy and procedures recommendation for the use of body worn cameras. This memorandum discusses when officers should or should not activate and record their contacts, when footage may be reviewed as well as who should be allowed to review it, how long digital evidence should be retained, and finally a consideration on how to handle the discovery of officer misconduct.

Next is a memorandum written to identify the proper use of drones as an investigative tool without obtaining a warrant. This memorandum explains various case laws that allow for the use of aerial surveillance, particularly for helicopters, and how these same laws are applicable to the use of drones. This memo also argues the efficiency and fiscal responsibility achieved by the use of drone technology.

Lastly, you are presented with an article regarding data analysis. This report reviews the efficacy of information-led policing techniques in the reduction of crime. Information-Led Policing (ILP) is about making informed decisions to deter future crime as well as for identifying and arresting suspects in order to solve current cases. This review discusses ILP tactics and the importance of information sharing for more focused and targeted policing efforts and the appropriate allocation of resources.

The use of advanced technology comes with great responsibility and the demand for accountability. As our ability to record and obtain digital evidence against subjects becomes easier, community members grow increasingly nervous regarding their privacy rights. The fear of the ever surveilling government is a growing concern. Remaining disciplined and transparent regarding our collection and use of such information is necessary to maintain public trust. Through the professionalism of law enforcement actions in conjunction with the shared interest and partnership with the community, law enforcement can more effectively protect and serve their communities.