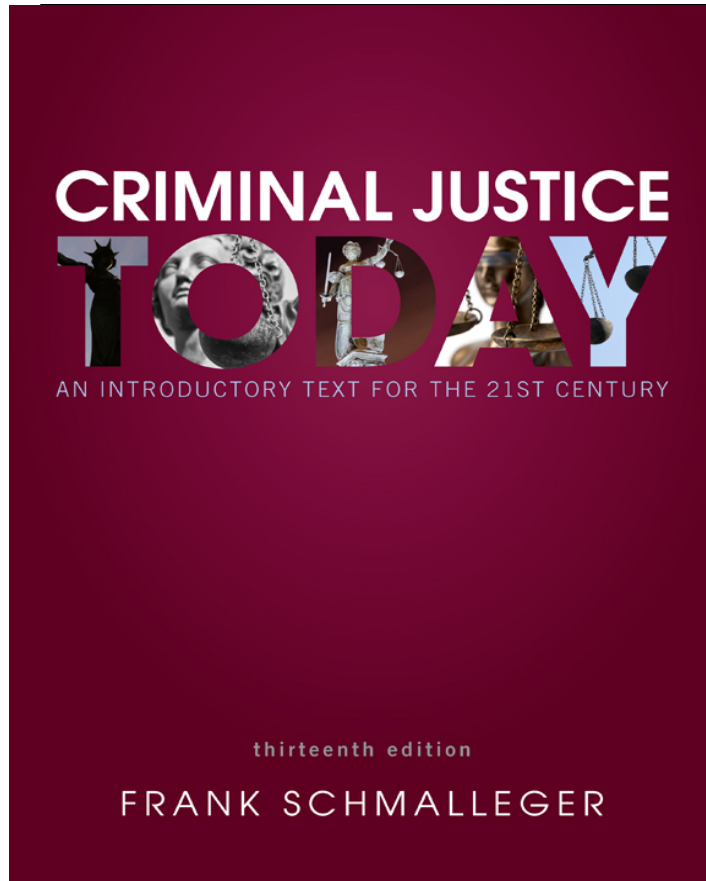


Criminal Justice Today



CHAPTER 6

Policing: Purpose and Organization

The Police Mission

- Enforce the law
- Investigate crimes and apprehend offenders
- Prevent crime
- Preserve the peace
- Provide enforcement services to the community

Enforcing the Law

- Police agencies are the primary enforcers of federal, state, and local criminal laws
- They answer calls for service, control traffic, write tickets
- Respect for the law begins with the personal and public behavior of law enforcement officers

Apprehending Offenders

- Some offenders are apprehended during the commission of a crime or immediately afterward
- Many are caught only as the result of extensive police work involving painstaking investigation

Crime Prevention

- A proactive approach-the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of a crime risk and initiation of action to remove or reduce it
- The goal is to lower the potential rewards of criminal activity and lessen the public's fear of crime

Crime Prevention Techniques

- Techniques include:
 - Access control
 - Barriers
 - Video and other types of surveillance
 - Theft-deterrence devices
 - Lighting
 - Landscaping

Crime Prevention Techniques

- Programs include organized efforts to focus resources on school-based crime, gang activity, drug abuse, violence, domestic abuse, vehicle theft, property theft, and burglary

Predicting Crime

- Police planners use tools to help predict where crime will occur
- CompStat is a process of crime analysis and police management using crime mapping
- CrimeStat identifies crime hot spots, spatial distribution of incidents, and distance analysis

Preserving the Peace

- This is a virtually limitless police activity which involves not only activities that violate the law but quality of life offenses such as excessive noise, graffiti, abandoned cars, and vandalism
- Broken-windows theory is based on the notion that urban decay in a neighborhood signals the laws are not being enforced

Providing Services

- Most calls for service are placed through the 911 system, which is for emergencies
- Some areas have started a 311 system for non-emergency calls

Five Core Operational Strategies

1. Preventive patrol
2. Routine incident response
3. Emergency response
4. Criminal investigation
5. Problem solving

Preventive Patrol

- The dominant operational policing strategy since the time of Sir Robert Peel
- Interactive
- Expected by the public
- Deter crimes, interrupt crimes in progress, position officers for quick response, increase the public's feelings of safety and security

Routine Incident Response

- Officers collect information and typically file a written report
- The objective is to restore order, document information, or provide an immediate service
- Response time is the time it takes for police officers to respond to calls for service and is directly linked to citizen satisfaction

Emergency Response

- Critical incidents in which human life may be in jeopardy
- Takes priority over all other police work
- Training can include first aid, hostage rescue, and the physical capture of suspects

Criminal Investigation

- The process of discovering, collecting, preparing, identifying, and presenting evidence to determine what happened and who is responsible
- First responders are the first investigators on a scene and provide critical information to detectives through the preliminary investigation

Problem Solving/Support Services

- Problem-oriented policing seeks to reduce chronic offending in a community and use programs such as SARA and CAPRA
- Support services include activities such as dispatch, training, human resource, property and evidence control, and record keeping, which are all vital to effective law enforcement

Organizational Structure of a Police Department

- Structured on divisions and authority
- Chain of command
- Roles
 - Line
 - Field activities
 - Supervisory activities
 - Staff
 - Administration
 - Training

Policing Styles

- Watchman
 - Order and maintenance
- Legalistic
 - Enforce according to the letter of the law
- Service
 - Helpers, soldiers in a war on crime

Police-Community Relations

- The increased social disorganization during the 1960s and 1970s prompted the goal of understanding these new problems
- Three main strategies:
 1. Strategic
 2. Problem-solving
 3. Community

Post-9/11 Policing

- Increased time and resources preparing for possible terrorist attacks
- Intelligence gathering
- Information sharing across jurisdictions and between agencies
- Intelligence-led policing
- Fusion centers
- Racial profiling

Police Discretion

- The exercise of choice by law enforcement officers
 - Decision to investigate or apprehend
 - The disposition of suspects
 - The carrying out of official duties
 - The application of sanctions

Definition of Profession

- Organized undertaking characterized by a body of specialized knowledge acquired through extensive education and by a well-considered set of internal standards and ethical guidelines that hold members of profession accountable to one another and to society

Ethnic and Gender Issues in Policing

- Female officers
 - Increasing in number
 - Minority women are underrepresented
 - Departments aggressively recruit and retain females
 - Consent decrees mandating the hiring and promotion of women and minorities significantly affected the gains women have made in law enforcement