

**THE HISTORY OF LAW  
ENFORCEMENT IN THE UNITED  
STATES**

**CHAPTER 2**

# Learning Objectives

- Discuss the origins and heritage of American law enforcement
- Explain the history of civilian law enforcement
- Review the history of military law enforcement
- Describe the maturation of federal, state, local, and tribal agencies

# Introduction

- The United States has a rich history composed of countless events that combined to provide our nation a well-trained and dedicated law enforcement profession
- Modern policing now spans the entirety of the nation, and encompasses both civilian and military settings.
- The humble beginnings of American law enforcement have matured into global influences during modern times.

# Introduction

- Throughout its history, the United States has experienced societal change that drastically influenced its law enforcement organizations and activities.
- To better understand the profession of today, it is important to examine the historical foundations of the discipline.

# **The British Heritage, Colonial America And The First Generation Of Law Enforcement In The United States**

- Much of the historical foundations for law enforcement in the United States are drawn from the British.
- The origin of the sheriff
- The constable
- Day and night watchers
- Corruption
- Sir Robert Peel

# **Boston, Philadelphia, New York And The Birth Of Urban Policing**

- Boston's Night Watchmen
- Philadelphia's 24-hour policing
- New York City earned the distinction of organizing the first modern police department designed along the lines of the Peel's London police
- Uniforms and weapons
- Transportation

# **Boston, Philadelphia, New York And The Birth Of Urban Policing**

- John A. Kennedy and New York City Police
  - New technology
  - The Broadway Squad
- St. Louis' Street Service Bureau
- Countless cities began to create their own police departments
  - Corruption and the Lexow Commission

# State Level Law Enforcement

- A slow process
- The militia of “Kentucky”
- Two distinct patterns of state enforcement:
  - The rural model – Texas Rangers
  - The urban model – Pennsylvania State Police
- The history of the Texas Rangers
- Massachusetts State Constabulary
- California, Connecticut soon followed
- Pennsylvania’s true urban state police force

# State Level Law Enforcement

- New Jersey State Police and the Lindbergh kidnapping
- The effect of World War II
- States began to create agencies targeted to specific needs
- Highway safety

# Federal Enforcement

- No provisions existed for the enforcement of federal laws
- The first criminal statute enacted by Congress on April 30, 1790, defined treason and made provision for its punishment.
- The United States Marshals
- Revenue Marine Service
- The Secret Service

# Federal Enforcement

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Over the next several decades, federal enforcement would expand with the creation of a wide range of agencies with law enforcement, regulatory or administrative support responsibilities such as the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, Federal Bureau of Prohibition, the Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Border Patrol, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Transportation Security Administration

# Private Security And Enforcement

- Private security or private enforcement did not begin in the United States
- Boston's private guard service
- Hays' Independent Police
- Pinkerton National Detective Agency
- William J. Burns Detective Agency

# Private Security And Enforcement

- The diversity of private security
  - Contract
  - In-house
- Today, the United States has more than 10,000 private security companies that bring in revenue of more than \$15 billion each year.

# Breaking Barriers

- Sexual and ethnic barriers
- Marie Owens and Lola Baldwin
- Alice Stebbins Wells
  - International Association of Policewomen
- By 1915, 16 cities in the United States employed at least one policewoman on a full-time basis
  - \$800 and \$1200 per year
- In 1920, 56 cities had 164 police women

# Breaking Barriers

- World War I and women in policing
  - Deputy Police Commissioner Mrs. Ellen O'Grady
  - 1919, Indianapolis created a Bureau of Policewomen
- New York City and women in policing
- Women were more social workers than enforcement officers

# **Early Advancements In Science, Investigations And Technology**

- Early in the century, some departments began acquiring automobiles, motorcycles and bicycles for limited patrol and emergency response needs.
- Many sources suggest the first use of an automobile in police service in the United States occurred in Akron, Ohio in 1899

# Early Advancements In Science, Investigations And Technology

- Communications
  - Radio communications
  - Police department radio broadcasts

# Law Enforcement In The First Half Of The Twentieth Century

- Challenges of urbanization, rising crime and an increased demand for social services
- Limited services for small towns
- The effect of the political spoils system
- National Expansion
- Professionalism
  - Washington, D.C., Police Chief Richard H. Sylvester
  - Berkeley, California, Police Chief August Vollmer

# Law Enforcement In The First Half Of The Twentieth Century

- Prohibition of alcohol
- Smedley Darlington Butler
  - Director of Public Safety for Philadelphia
- New York Police Department
  - Lewis J. Valentine
- Boston Police Strike
  - Officers demanded better pay
- The period of gangsters and “Tommy guns”

# Law Enforcement In The First Half Of The Twentieth Century

- The most notable and remembered examination of crime and the justice system of this period was the National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement.
  - The Wickersham Commission examined the important national justice issues
  - This study was an expose' of conditions of the entire criminal justice system

# **Law Enforcement In The Second Half Of The Twentieth Century**

- Law enforcement in the second half of the twentieth century was shaped by countless events, the Red Scare of the McCarthy Era of the 1950s, the Civil Rights Movement, the national unrest resulting from the conflict in Vietnam, the drug revolution, urban unrest of the 1980s, cyber and financial crimes and finally the impact of terrorism.

# Law Enforcement In The Second Half Of The Twentieth Century

- J. Edgar Hoover
- Orlando Winfield Wilson
- William Henry Parker III
- President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice
  - In 1968, Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act
  - The Act created the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA)

# Law Enforcement In The Second Half Of The Twentieth Century

- LEAA intended to function in five ways:
  - to support state-wide planning in the field of criminal justice through the creation of state planning agencies
  - to supply the states and localities with block grants of federal funds to improve their criminal justice systems
  - to make discretionary grants to special programs in the field of criminal justice
  - to develop new devices, techniques, and approaches in law enforcement through the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the organization's research arm
  - to supply money for the training and education of criminal justice personnel

# Law Enforcement In The Second Half Of The Twentieth Century

- Critics of the LEAA
- The establishment of minimum training standards for officers
  - POST
  - SWAT
- Project Sky Knight
- In 1983, the Los Angeles Police Department created the Anti-Terrorist Division and the Los Angeles Task Force on Terrorism

# Law Enforcement In The Second Half Of The Twentieth Century

- Experimentation in policing styles led to experiments in preventive patrol, directed patrol, aggressive patrol, team policing and community policing.
  - The Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment
- The Civil Rights Movement and Vietnam
- Technology, diversity, science, training, education and the challenges of global crime redefined law enforcement and public safety.
- Demands for services strained budgets, explosion in the inmate population, violence in Mexico, and the Global War on Terrorism all introduce new challenges.

# Law Enforcement And The U.S. Military

- Military policing began during the American Revolution.
- The Marechaussee Corps
  - General George Washington
  - Captain Bartholomew Von Heer
- Manifest Destiny
- The War Between the States
  - The Union police force
- General McClellan
  - The “special pass”

# Law Enforcement And The U.S. Military

- The Office of the Provost Marshal General of the Army
- Manpower requirements of military policing
- The establishment of the Military Police Corps
- The Criminal Investigation Division (CID)
- The Military Police Corps
- The Military Police Service School
- The endangerments of subversion and hostile aliens
- The Zone of Interior (ZI).

# Law Enforcement And The U.S. Military

- Two unintended results of World War II impacted American law enforcement:
  - Law enforcement profession experienced an influx of war veterans that had served as military police during the war or became interested in law enforcement as a career after their military discharge
  - Many thousands of former service personnel used the GI Bill to attend college after the war and then decided to enter the law enforcement profession upon graduation.

# Law Enforcement And The U.S. Military

- The effect of the Korean War
  - The United Nations and the military police
- Vietnam
- Endeavors of the military police between Vietnam and the Gulf War
- Gulf War
  - Female soldiers
- The events of September 11, 2001

# Landmark Cases

- Miranda v. Arizona
- Terry v. Ohio
- Chimel v. California
- Tennessee v. Garner

# Post 9/11: The Explosion Of Homeland Security

- The roles of first responders have been redefined
- Homeland security is a paramount concern of the United States
- The War on Terror necessitates the involvement of both civilian and military police forces
- Opportunities for employment and advancement have never been better
- The importance of collaboration

# Summary and Questions