

CHAPTER SUMMARY

For more information on these concepts, look back to the Learning Objective icons throughout the chapter.



List the three primary purposes of police patrol.

(a) The deterrence of crime, (b) the maintenance of public order, and (c) the provision of services that are not related to crime.



Indicate some investigation strategies that are considered aggressive.

Using undercover officers is considered an aggressive (and often dangerous) investigative technique. The use of informants is also aggressive but involves danger for those who inform.



Describe how forensic experts use DNA fingerprinting to solve crimes.

Law enforcement agents gather trace evidence such as blood, semen, skin, or hair from the crime scene. Because these items are rich in DNA, which provides a unique genetic blueprint for every living organism, crime labs can create a DNA profile of the suspect and test it against other such profiles stored in databases. If the profiles match, then law enforcement agents have found a strong suspect for the crime.



Explain why differential response strategies enable police departments to respond more efficiently to 911 calls.

A differential response strategy allows a police department to distinguish among calls for service so that officers may respond to important calls more quickly. Therefore, a “hot” crime, such as a burglary in progress, will receive more immediate attention than a “cold” crime, such as a missing automobile that disappeared several days earlier.



Explain why reactive arrest strategies might be incompatible with problem-oriented policing.

Problem-oriented policing requires that law

enforcement try to shift the patterns of criminal behavior rather than react to it by making arrests. That is, instead of simply apprehending offenders after they have offended, problem-oriented policing relies on police officers analyzing the root causes of crime in a particular area and working toward removing those negative influences from the environment.



Determine when police officers are justified in using deadly force.

Police officers must make a reasonable judgment in determining when to use force that will place the suspect in threat of injury or death. That is, given the circumstances, the officer must reasonably assume that the use of such force is necessary to avoid serious injury or death to the officer or someone else.



Explain why police officers are allowed discretionary powers.

The general acceptance of police discretion in the criminal justice system is based on factors such as (a) the general trustworthiness of police officers, (b) police training and experience, (c) police knowledge of criminal behavior, and (d) the need for police officers to make quick decisions to protect themselves against physical harm.



Explain what an ethical dilemma is, and name four categories of ethical dilemmas that a police officer typically may face.

An ethical dilemma is a situation in which police officers (a) do not know the right course of action, (b) have difficulty doing what they consider to be right, and/or (c) find the wrong choice very tempting. The four types of ethical dilemmas involve (a) discretion, (b) duty, (c) honesty, and (d) loyalty.

QUESTIONS FOR CRITICAL ANALYSIS

1. In speaking with a domestic terrorism suspect, a paid FBI informant said, “Allah has more work for you to do,” adding, “Revelation is going to come in your dreams that you have to do this thing.” The “thing” was to shoot down American military airplanes with handheld missiles. If you were defending the terrorism suspect in court, how would you use this evidence? Why would your efforts be likely to fail?
2. What might be some of the drawbacks of relying on text messaging as part of Next Generation 911?
3. Criminologists John and Emily Beck suggest that crime reduction strategies should treat crime as if it were a form of pollution. How does this comparison make sense in the context of predictive policing and crime mapping?