

Unit 2: Law Enforcement: Levels and Functions

Objectives

- 2: Discuss the major law enforcement arms of the Federal, State, and Local governments.
- 2.1: Describe the differences in the responsibilities of Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies.
- 2.2: Describe how Homeland Security has changed the focus and structure of Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies.

Content Covered

Policing America: Methods, Issues, and Challenges:

- Chapter 2, pp. 41–63

Key Concepts That Must Be Covered in Class

The following key concepts must be covered in class in order to achieve the course objectives.

1. Federal Agencies including The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
2. State Police
3. Local Agencies

In-Class Assessment

1. Quiz: Questions based on the objectives, key terms, and concepts covered in Unit 1 and Unit 2 reading assignments.

2. Lecture:

- Introduction
- Federal Agencies
 - The Department of Homeland Security
 - The Department of Justice
 - Other Federal Agencies
- State and Local Agencies
 - General Information
 - State Police
 - Local (Municipal Police and County Sheriff) Agencies
- Summary

3. Exercise:

Assigned in Unit I, Project I requires students to search the Internet and the ITT Tech Virtual Library to ascertain the pros and cons of consolidating smaller police agencies into bigger units. This discussion encourages students to defend their stand on whether smaller police agencies should be merged into bigger ones. Divide the students into small groups of three to five students. Explain that each group will consolidate and summarize from its Project I submission a list of pros and cons of the merger. Based on its list, ask each group to present its opinion on the following:

- Will the merger result in cost savings, or will it impose a fairly significant expense on the country?
- Will the merged forces be able to respond to emergencies more quickly wherever the emergencies occur, or will the merger lead to a chaotic situation?
- Will the merger eliminate or increase duplicative tasks such as training, evidence control, and various administrative functions?
- Given the number of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies being discussed in this class, will consolidation lead to efficiency or inefficiency?

Homework

The following homework is designed to cover the course objectives for this unit.

1. Project I: Refer to “Appendix A” and submit Project I.
2. Writing Assignment: Write a one-page paper contrasting the roles and functions of municipal and county police departments. For example, in general, county sheriffs handle civil law matters such as evictions. Give other examples to support the differences.