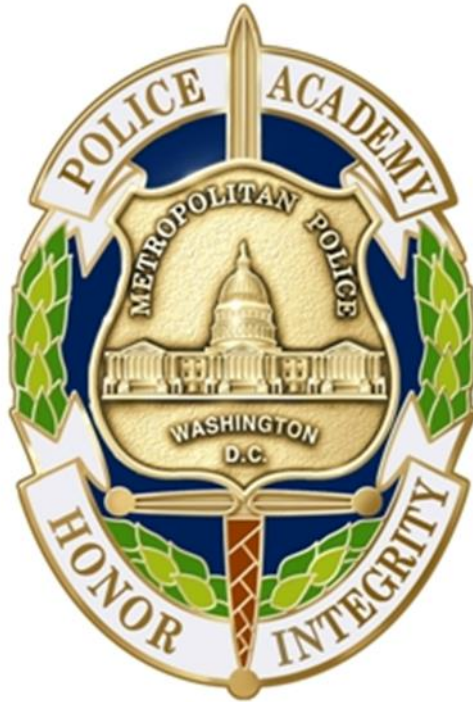


# Metropolitan Police Academy



## 1.4 History of Policing

### 1.4.1 Acquire a basic overview of the emergence of formalized systems of law in the Ancient World

There could be no enforcement officers without the development of formal systems of law. For any human society to function, there must be at least some commonly recognized rules of behavior. For the earliest societies of humans, which were organized into small family or tribal groups, these rules could be simple and did not need to be written down. They could be passed down orally and through the example of behaviors of respected members of the group. However, as societies grew larger and more complex, eventually leading to the development of cities, tribal customs and the will of leaders were no longer sufficient to govern the functioning of society. More complex systems of rules had to be devised to govern the interactions between individuals within the community as well as the state. As rules developed into formal systems of law, it became necessary to write them down so citizens could know and reference them.

Probably the most famous of these early systems of law was the Code of Hammurabi. Hammurabi became the king of Babylon in approximately 1792 BC. He created a set of laws to govern his kingdom and had them inscribed on a public monument so that everyone could see them. His code was known as the *lex talionis*, which translates to “Law of the Talon.” Hammurabi’s code is most famous for the adage “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,” which mandates harsh, yet equal punishment for causing harm to others. Many people believe that this is the entire code; however, Code of Hammurabi contains 282 laws that govern a wide range of subjects. Although most famous for setting punishments for various infractions, it also governs personal property, real estate, contracts, labor, and family law.

As legal codes became more and more complex, societies had to contemplate just how these laws were to be enforced. In ancient Greece and Rome, only people who had been wronged could initiate a legal proceeding against an offender. This meant that the victims of crime were responsible for apprehending the criminals, either by themselves or with the aid of their families, and bringing them before judges for trial. Such a system became insufficient for the Roman Empire, which began to use soldiers to keep order in the city of Rome. Augustus Caesar, who succeeded Julius Caesar as emperor, stationed 1,000 elite soldiers inside Rome in a unit called the Praetorian Guard. Rome had a strong tradition against positioning armed soldiers in the city, to appease the citizens. As such, Augustus had the Praetorians wear civilian attire.

Rome was constantly plagued by large-scale riots involving unruly citizens and uprisings involving slaves. These disturbances often caused fires which did massive damage to the city. Eventually, Augustus created a new group, known as the Vigiles, to put an end to the disorder. The Vigiles were tasked with putting out fires, suppressing riots, and arresting thieves and burglars. Augustus divided the city into wards, and groups of Vigiles were assigned to each ward. Perhaps most important for the evolution of law enforcement, the Vigiles were not soldiers—they were chosen from the ranks of free Roman citizens.

A later Roman emperor named Justinian reformed Roman Law into what was known as *corpus juris civilis*, or “the body of civil law.” These laws included fundamental concepts of our modern justice system, such as requiring proof of guilt, the right to a fair trial, and the opportunity to face one’s accuser.

## 1.4.2 Recognize the precursors of modern concepts over the course of the development of jurisprudence in medieval England

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the next important developments for modern policing occurred as society began to rebuild itself in medieval England. Although other nations also developed systems of law enforcement, the English legal system was carried over to the Thirteen Colonies and later adopted by the United States as the basis of the new country's legal system.

Around the year 872, Anglo-Saxons lived in England under King Alfred. Originally, Anglo-Saxons lived in small villages called tuns, which is the genesis for the word "town." In the tuns, there were no specific individuals tasked with law enforcement; all residents of each tun were responsible for calling attention to law breakers. This was known as "raising the hue and cry" and literally meant yelling out to call attention to the criminal. Everyone who could hear these shouts was obligated to stop what they were doing and join in the chase of the criminal until he/she was captured, escaped, or reached the next tun (and then the duty to raise the hue and cry was passed on).

As the Anglo-Saxon civilization grew, the small tuns eventually developed into larger and larger settlements which eventually became known as shires. As society became more complex, Anglo-Saxon kings began to exert more administrative authority over society. The head of an Anglo-Saxon village was called the reeve. The king began to appoint officials known as Shire-reeves who were the main royal officers in the shires. The shire-reeves were responsible for collecting taxes, attending to the king's business, and enforcing matters of law enforcement. The modern word "sheriff" comes from shire-reeve, and in many American counties a sheriff is the top elected law enforcement officer responsible for enforcing court orders. Medieval English shire-reeves did not have to enforce the law by themselves. They were granted the power of *posse comitatus* which allowed them to order any subject of the king to assist them in carrying out his duty.

In the year 1066, England was conquered by the Normans, a group of invaders from Northern France. The Normans had a highly developed government while the kings in England had a greatly developed law enforcement. King Henry I developed the *Legis Henrici*, the "Law of Henry," which divided crimes into felonies (more serious) and misdemeanors (less serious). This division of crime is not the only feature of Henry's laws that is still used today. Henry decreed that certain crimes—murder, arson, and making fake coins—were breaches of the king's peace and should be punished by the state. The Law of Henry contains a forerunner to the modern view of certain offenses where society is considered the victim, such as in many drug crimes. Finally, King Henry appointed judges who would travel constantly among a set number of cities to hear and decide cases. The paths these judges travelled was called a judicial circuit. This name carried over to America where until the settlement of the West, judges would travel by horse or railroad from town to town to hear cases. Today, although courts themselves do not move, the federal appeals court system is divided into regions known as "appellate circuits."

King Henry II continued his ancestor's development of law and law enforcement. The judges of King Henry began to appoint bodies of twelve men, which were called juries. Jurors were asked to name all the people they knew of who had committed a crime, which is the ancestor of our modern indictment process. Additionally, the jurors were ordered by the judge to listen as he held a trial and then give him a verdict, a decision as to which side had made the better case.

King Edward I ordered that each town provide a number of armed men from among the citizens to maintain a night watch, to keep order after the fall of darkness. To ensure that there were sufficient citizens available to the task, he made a law that all citizens must arm themselves as best as they could.

Edward appointed royal officials known as constables to patrol amongst the citizens, inspect their weapons, and ensure their compliance with the law.

As time went on, the kings of England became more and more powerful, and they came into conflict with nobles and oppressed the common citizens. King Charles I used the Court of the Star Chamber to punish opponents of his rule. Trials held in this court were political show trials, with the verdict decided in advance and always against the enemy of the king who was the subject of the trial. Prisoners tried in this court were subject to torture, mutilation, massive fines, and/or imprisonment. Eventually, the tyranny of King Charles led to a revolution by the military and his execution by Oliver Cromwell in 1649.

After a short time, the English Parliament asked Charles's son to rule them. Charles II became king in 1660, but not without any strings attached. The memory of the tyranny of the Star Chamber was so strong that Charles II passed a law called the Habeas Corpus Act, which required that all prisoners be brought before a judge who would either decide that the prisoner should be tried (and a trial date set) or released immediately.

This principal is fundamental to our own legal system. Today, defense attorneys can file writs of habeas corpus before trial on behalf of people arrested by the police. These writs can challenge the legality of an arrest, the amount of a prisoner's bail, whether a prisoner can be extradited to another jurisdiction, or even the authority of the court to hear the case.

### **1.4.3 Acquire a basic knowledge of law enforcement in Colonial America**

King Charles II died in 1684 and during this time there were an increasing number of English colonies in North America. These colonies became known as the Thirteen Colonies but eventually rebelled and became the United States at the end of the Revolutionary War. The colonists considered themselves English citizens up until the end of the Revolutionary War, and thus established English law enforcement systems in the New World.

The northern colonies tended to be more urban, with the population concentrated in cities. This led the northern colonies to predominantly adopt the watch and constable system. Southern colonies tended to be more rural and agricultural, with much of their population spread out on farms and plantations. This led the southern colonies to rely on the sheriff model of law enforcement. As the country grew in both total area and population, the colonies came to rely on a mixture of both sheriffs and watches/constables.

Colonial law enforcement provided nowhere close to the same level of service that is expected today. Watchmen and sheriffs only responded to complaints that were made directly to them, and it could be very difficult to track down a law enforcement officer when there were only a handful for an entire city. While moving throughout their jurisdiction, individual officers had no way to communicate with their coworkers for help. Finally, colonial law enforcement officers were paid per task completed as compared to an annual salary today. Many civil administrative responsibilities, such as collecting taxes, paid more than apprehending criminals. This led watchmen to focus more on those administrative tasks than solving crimes.

Even though law enforcement was very different than today, it has always been a dangerous profession. The first known line of duty death of an American law enforcement officer was in New York in 1791. Sheriff Cornelius Hogeboom was serving a writ of ejectment, trying to move squatters off a parcel of land, when he was ambushed, shot, and killed by a group of men disguised as Indians.

#### **1.4.4 Identify the importance of Sir Robert Peel to modern law enforcement**

As time passed and America continued to grow, the law enforcement system continued to rely on sheriffs and watches to enforce the law, despite their growing ineffectiveness. Back in England, Sir Robert Peel was about to create the first modern police department. Peel was the Home Secretary in the English government and had been working for over thirty years to improve order and safety. Social unrest and rising crime in England had almost completely overwhelmed the traditional law enforcement system. Peel believed that what was needed to restore order to society was a new system of law enforcement that relied on a visible presence to prevent crime, rather than responding after crime occurred. In 1829, Parliament authorized Peel to create the London Metropolitan Police.

This was the first police department that would be recognized as such today. Peel's department was a paramilitary organization with uniformed officers, a rank structure, and chain of command. What truly set the London Metropolitan Police apart from the earlier version of law enforcement efforts was Peel's strategy of having uniformed officers continuously patrol set areas, or beats. The objective of a visible police presence was to deter and prevent crime.

All new recruits to the London Metropolitan Police were guided by Peel's Nine Principles:

1. The basic mission of the police is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties depends on public approval of their actions.
3. Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntarily obeying the law.
4. The greater degree of respect that can be gained reduces the amount of force that needs to be used.
5. Police must demonstrate constant and absolute impartiality in service to the law.
6. Police use physical force only once persuasion, advice, and warning have been insufficient.
7. The police are the public, and the public are the police.
8. Police should never appear to be punishing wrongdoers themselves.
9. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime, not a visible response to crime that has already happened.

These principles were revolutionary in 1829 yet have guided the development of law enforcement both in America and England ever since. As you continue through your training, remember and refer back to these principles. Although many of the technical aspects of policing have changed greatly, you will find that much of current police leadership, ethics, and decision-making can be traced directly back to these principles. Peel's second principle means that we police with the consent of the people, and in recent years this has become an important philosophical point in policing controversies.

#### **1.4.5 Acquire a basic knowledge of policing in "The Political Era" (1830-1900)**

Many of the same pressures that led to the collapse of traditional law enforcement in England were also found in America. America's major cities experienced explosive population growth in the early 1800s, fueled by industrialization as more people began to work in urban factories than on farms and by massive

immigration. These changes and pressures on society led to waves of repeated riots in major cities all across the country in the 1830s.

American cities eventually began to form police departments based on the London model. Boston established a small department of nine officers in 1838; New York established its own police department in 1845, and Philadelphia did the same in 1854. The Metropolitan Police Department was founded in Washington, DC on August 6, 1861. The first police officers did not wear uniforms, but wore special badges on their coats and hats. Initially, American police were unarmed, but by the end of the 1800s departments routinely issued pistols to their officers due to the levels of violence they faced.

There was one major difference between Peel's police force and early American departments: political corruption. In London, the Metropolitan Police was formed and its commissioners named by an act of Parliament (which is similar to Congress). In America, the departments were formed and their chiefs were named by the mayors of the cities, which led to the political party in power having almost total control over the departments. It was not uncommon at that time for a new mayor to come in and not only name a new chief, but also fire most of the officers and replace them with men loyal to his party.

The political machine known as Tammany Hall in New York has come to exemplify the corruption problems during this era. Tammany Hall mobilized and organized voters to win local elections, then used government to provide services to explicitly reward political supporters at the expense of opponents. In return, the politicians who ran Tammany Hall would get rich off bribes and kickbacks.

In the early days of American policing, there were no minimum standards to be hired as an officer. All that was needed was that the applicant make a \$300 payment to Tammany Hall. Policing was seen as a very desirable job despite all of this. Being an officer in New York paid \$900/year, while a factory worker was paid \$450. Officers made additional money by taking bribes to not enforce the law. Promotions were bought, not earned or tested for: in New York a payment of \$1,600 could buy a sergeant's rank and \$12,000 bought a captain's job.

Patrol work was extremely inefficient at this time. The beats that officers had to walk were very long and very few officers were available. Sergeants had to patrol on foot as well, which meant that they could not effectively supervise their officers. Prior to the invention of the telephone, there was no way for the station or supervisors to communicate with officers once they left to walk their beats. This also made it difficult for citizens to report crimes as they had to either walk to a station or find an officer patrolling within several square blocks to make a report. Even after a report was filed, the lack of communication meant that officers may not be dispatched to investigate for several hours.

Police departments were also tasked with providing help and welfare to society. It was not uncommon for police stations to provide housing for the homeless. Officers also had to clean streets, inspect food markets, and distribute supplies and food to the poor.

At the end of the 1800s, some people began to call for reforms of the police. One of the most famous was Theodore Roosevelt, who became Police Commissioner in New York City in 1895 and would later become President of the United States. Roosevelt fought against Tammany Hall and police corruption. Roosevelt brought media attention to his fight, and personally went around the streets to catch officers sleeping, drinking, and away from their posts. Despite his work, Roosevelt was unable to create major reforms and he resigned in 1897. Roosevelt's efforts were similar to other early attempts at reform in that they focused on trying to remove bad individuals instead of instituting better training, management practices, and standards within an entire department.

### **1.4.6 Acquire basic knowledge of policing in “The Professional Era” (1900-1969)**

Although the manner policing worked in the 1800s sounds terrible, it was not necessarily unusual compared to the rest of the way local government worked at the time. This led to a broader reform movement known as Progressivism that was prominent from 1900 to 1917. Progressives wanted to reform government and regulate businesses. Progressive police chiefs wanted to remove corrupt political influences from police departments and, instead, professionalize them.

Chief August Vollmer was the most important of these reformers. Vollmer was chief of the Berkeley Police Department in California from 1905 to 1932. In 1916, Vollmer designed the first college courses regarding police science and began to push for police officers to have college degrees. President Herbert Hoover appointed Vollmer to head the Wickersham Commission, which issued two reports that laid out the problems and corruption in law enforcement along with proposed recommendations to fix them.

The reform agenda of progressive chiefs like Vollmer was centered on five main ideas:

1. The police should be impartial public servants.
2. The influence of politics should be eliminated.
3. Qualified individuals (such as those with experience in policing or running large organizations) should be hired to head departments, not political favorites.
4. Personnel standards, including minimum qualifications and increased training, needed to be implemented.
5. Modern management principles needed to be used to run departments, which would allow qualified executives to direct operations.

These reforms also resulted in the first specialized units to address specific problems and needs, as well as instituting the hiring of the first female police officers.

In addition to philosophical reforms, policing began to incorporate the rapid advances in technology in the 1900s. In 1910, the first police car was used in Akron, Ohio, followed by the first police wagon in 1912 in Cincinnati. By 1913, departments in the northeast were making extensive use of police motorcycles, and in the 1920s police cars were becoming common sights in cities across the country. The use of motorized vehicles allowed officers to cover much larger patrol areas and to respond to assignments faster than by walking.

As discussed earlier, the difficulty in communicating with officers who were out on their beats was a major factor that limited the effectiveness of police service. Police departments began to make use of the telephone shortly after its invention in 1877, primarily by mounting telephones inside locked “call boxes” that officers would pass on their beats. Officers would use the fixed telephones to periodically check in with their station house, but communication had to wait until the officers decided to call. For the Metropolitan Police Department, officers were required to make hourly check-ins with the Communications Division via the call boxes located on their beats. The check-ins were recorded in the Patrol Signal System books which were used to track who was at work and ensure that those officers maintained contact with the stations. In the 1930s, the use of two-way radios in police cars became common. This allowed the rapid dispatch of officers to requests for service and supervisors to maintain constant contact with officers. The combination of the two-way radio and the telephone eventually led to the modern 911 system of dispatching assignments that is used today.

Technological advances greatly improved the ability of police departments to fulfill their responsibilities to the public and helped make effective and professional management popular. However, technology often comes with drawbacks and unintended consequences. One of the unintended consequences of the adoption of police vehicles, for example, was that it created a barrier between officers and citizens. When most officers had to patrol their beats by walking, they talked with the people they encountered almost constantly. When most officers began to ride around inside of cars, this reduced the opportunity for informal contact and contributed, in part, to a feeling of police officers being separate from the communities they served.

The combination of the telephone and police radio made it very easy for citizens to request police service, and for police departments to have officers respond to such requests in a timely fashion. Departments encouraged citizens to call and fostered the belief that officers would provide some sort of solution for whatever situation they had been summoned to address. This, in turn, created a feedback loop where citizens called more, so police workloads increased, which led to departments growing in size and complexity, and citizen call volume increasing once more, and the cycle repeating again. The nature of calls also changed due to the fact that it was now easier than ever to summon an officer to one's house. Officers began to respond to an increasing number of domestic calls such as addictions, physical abuse, and familial dysfunction.

The 1930s also saw the rise of another important figure in the advancement of policing as a modern and respected profession. His name was O.W. Wilson and he became chief of the Wichita Police Department in Kansas in 1928. He later became the police chief in Chicago in 1960. Wilson was a firm believer in August Vollmer's drive to reform policing and he applied many of Vollmer's beliefs when he became head of his own department. Wilson applied academic analysis to running a police department, and wrote the first textbooks on police management which are still studied by police officials today. Wilson pioneered the use of statistics on crimes and calls for service to determine how many officers should be assigned to each beat in the city. Wilson also discovered that one-man police cars were more efficient than two-man units. Wilson believed that fast response times were one of the most important ways to measure the effectiveness of a department, and therefore officers on foot patrol should mostly be replaced by one-man vehicle units.

The 1960s thrust American police into the spotlight like never before. Various tensions had been building for years across the country which erupted into violent riots, while television news made police response to the riots more public than ever before. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court handed down decisions that are now viewed as the bedrocks of our legal system, but given the turbulent times were seen as extremely controversial when issued. In 1961, the Court ruled in *Mapp v. Ohio* that police cannot use illegally gathered evidence at trial. Previously, this rule only applied to federal agents, not local police officers. In 1966, the Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that suspects have to be specifically told they are entitled to an attorney before they are questioned. At the time, many people said that these decisions were tying the hands of the police.

The 1960s were the height of the Civil Rights Movement in America, and while federal troops and local officers protected African Americans, local police forces were often used by pro-segregation politicians to attempt to disrupt and frustrate the movement. Use of force incidents by police were flashpoints for riots in cities across the country during the 1960s. A riot in Harlem in 1964, for example, began when an off-duty officer shot to death a black teenager that he stated was in possession of a knife. The Watts riots in Los Angeles in 1965 stemmed from a traffic stop. Throughout the 1960s there were riots in Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles, Boston, San Diego, Detroit, Washington, DC, Baltimore, Chicago, and many other



cities. During these riots, some radical groups engaged in organized violence against the police with fatalities on both sides.

As the Vietnam War grew in intensity, so did anti-war protests. Students took over campus buildings at Columbia University in 1968, which required 2,000 police officers to respond and arrest almost 700 students to restore order. When protestors attempted to disrupt the Democratic National Convention in 1968, the National Guard and Chicago Police were sent in to restore order. Some claimed that the police response to the protests was so violent, it was a riot itself. President Lyndon Johnson formed the Kerner Commission to examine the causes of the riots. The Commission's report suggested that changes be made to police operations and complaint processes, and that more minorities be hired. It noted that the cities where riots had occurred were home to some of the largest and most professional departments in the country at the time.

### **1.4.7 Acquire a basic knowledge of policing in “The Modern Era” (1970-present)**

The upside to the controversies regarding law enforcement in the 1960s was an explosive growth in research on police science and practices. In 1973, the American Bar Association published a report that was among the first to emphasize the police officer's role as peacekeeper in addition to being crime fighter. The Rand Corporation, a national think tank, discovered that most crimes are solved based on the information gathered by the first officer to arrive on a scene. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, or CALEA, published the first standards for law enforcement agencies to be accredited, in 1983.

As police departments began to assimilate this research, the type of individual hired as police officer began to change. African Americans were hired in much greater numbers, and major departments such as those in Detroit, Washington, DC, and Atlanta became majority black. College students were increasingly hired, and by 1988 the majority of police officers had at least some college education. Women officers had initially been isolated to work in juvenile units, but began to be placed in regular patrol units. In 1964, Gertrude Schimmel was the first woman to be promoted to the rank of sergeant in the NYPD, and later became the first female captain, in 1971.

Police management continued to evolve beyond what O.W. Wilson had pioneered. Most important among these improvements was a national emphasis on police training. Prior to the 1970s, many smaller departments did not require any academy training. In the aftermath of the riots in the 1960s and an increased attention to police affairs, all states enacted laws that required police officers to be academy trained by 1979. In major cities, training increased from 300 to 1,000 hours by 1990, and began to tackle unbiased policing, domestic violence, and ethics.

Departments began to collect their findings on best practices and codify reforms in Standard Operating Procedures and General Orders that provided written expectations of officer behavior.

Major reforms have occurred over the years in terms of police command and management, but there have been no revolutionary changes in tactics. Aggressive patrol and investigation after crime has occurred were still the favored means of accomplishing the police mission. But, at the end of the 1980s, two similar programs began to evolve which looked at policing in a different light. “Community Policing” and “Problem Oriented Policing” positioned police officers not solely as crime fighters, but as problem solvers and community partners. James Wilson and George Kelling invented the “broken window” theory which states that when nobody fixes a broken window it sends a signal to the community that nobody cares about the property, which in turn invites disorder and crime. In contrast, community policing has

police officers form partnerships with individuals, organizations, and agencies within the community to get the window fixed. When officers work with the community to fix little problems, such as broken windows, graffiti, and defective streetlights, it can head off major problems like drug dealing and homicides.

COMPSTAT was invented in 1993 in New York City but has spread to major police departments across the country. Originating in a computer program called “Compare Stats,” COMPSTAT was implemented by Mayor Rudy Guiliani and Commissioner William Bratton. It was revolutionary because it integrated detailed crime analysis with police management. Crime statistics were collected every day in real-time and fed into the COMPSTAT computer system. At weekly meetings, precinct commanders were interviewed about the stats for their districts; if crime was decreasing, they were encouraged to share successful strategies if crime was increasing, they were expected to outline a strategy to combat it. What really set COMPSTAT apart was not just its ability to hold police managers accountable for the performance of their employee officers, but also the emphasis the program placed on trying to identify crime trends as they were just beginning and disseminating that information to precinct commanders so they could collaborate to prevent a crime wave. MPD holds similar meetings today.

**When you get assigned to a Patrol Service Area upon graduation, your PSA lieutenant will periodically attend these meetings to analyze crime data in the PSA. Information about these statistics will be passed along to you, often with a comprehensive plan to disrupt any emerging trends. You may occasionally be called to attend these meetings, as the department often recognizes outstanding work performed by its officers at these meetings, as well.**

While police departments have been integrating these new advances, there has still been simmering racial and ethnic conflict. MPD, as well as other departments across the country, continues to struggle with scandals and misconduct. However, in addition to internal departmental investigations, there is increased civilian oversight and federal control available through the Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ, in addition to investigating individual incidents, also seeks to root out entrenched corruption and misconduct. It has the power to conduct civil rights and “pattern and practice” investigations.

The 1994 Violent Crime Control Act allows the Department of Justice to file civil lawsuits against police departments where there is evidence that agency-wide illegal or improper practices exist. An important factor in these suits is that the conduct must extend far beyond a single rogue officer. Many of these lawsuits do not result in trials. Instead, the department involved agrees to a consent decree which is an enforceable agreement that requires the adoption of certain reforms, subject to DOJ monitoring. Each decree mandates specific reforms related to the particular situation involving the department. Common reforms include requiring use of force reporting, data collection about traffic stops, employee intervention programs, canine policies, and citizen complaint boards.

One of the first major police departments to be subject to a pattern and practice suit was the Philadelphia Police Department (in 1997). Other departments sued by the DOJ include the Los Angeles Police Department (in 1999, after the Rampart scandals), the City of Oakland Police Department in California (in 2003), the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department (in 2001), and the Newark Police Department in New Jersey (in 2016). Pattern and practice suits, with the resulting consent decrees, have proven to be among the most effective tools at carrying out widespread reform of an entire department in the modern era.

The terror attacks of September 11, 2001 provide a clear example of what modern policing can be at its best. In the moments after hijacked airliners struck the Twin Towers in New York City, police, firefighters, and other first responders rushed into the chaos to help as many as they could. While twenty-three police

officers, thirty-seven Port Authority officers, and 343 firefighters were killed that day, their heroism and sacrifice demonstrate how far policing has come from the early days.

In the years since 2001, policing has had to adapt to the threat of terrorism. Terrorism in America prior to 2001 primarily involved the acts of anti-government radicals, but that changed in the early 21st century. International groups have embraced terrorism to wage asymmetric conflict against nation states throughout the globe. This new dynamic has placed terror prevention at the forefront of modern policing duties, especially here in the nation's capital.

Another major change police departments have been contending with in recent years is the increase in active shooter events. Active shooter situations initially came to public attention when they were known as "school shootings." They are becoming increasingly common not only in schools but also in places of business and at tourist attractions. Washington, DC saw such incidents at the U.S. Holocaust Museum and at the Washington Navy Yard. As active shooter incidents happen more often across the country, law enforcement has had to adapt its tactics. The old standard was to set up a perimeter to contain the incident and send Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) units in to engage the threat. Research shows, however, that containing and waiting for SWAT to arrive leads to unacceptably high casualty counts, so now patrol officers are trained to respond and engage active shooters themselves.

### **Summary**

This lesson covered almost 4,000 years of policing history. As you've seen, police work has been constantly changing and evolving, and it will continue to do so over the course of your career. While the nature of some of the events that have sparked many of the current controversies in law enforcement are new, law enforcement has been struggling with challenges almost since it existed in its earliest forms. Given some of the rapid periods of change covered in this lesson, you should spend some time contemplating the changes, both for the better and the worse, which you might see over the course of your twenty-five-year career.