

organized crime are on the rise. In particular the drug trade remains a major problem, representing more than 36 percent of organized crime in Germany.

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THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGY IN POLICING

Objective: to explore the role of a police psychologist in the United States

The task of psychological support in the police is to create favorable conditions for the operational and official activities of the police, which would neutralize the effects of negative professional factors, comprehensive provision of mental health of employees, development of the ability to successfully counteract stresses, conflicts, emotional burnout and other factors of professional risk. The National Police of Ukraine is a new law enforcement agency in which the experience of psychological support is currently practically absent. [2]

Most police work is concerned with human behaviour such as the interrogation of witnesses, and the handling of hostage situations where psychology is of particular relevance. Over recent years, psychologists (Bonifacio, 1991; Chandler, 1990; Horncastle, 1985) have become involved in studying police work, and Volckens (1992) is aware of an emerging field of "police psychology". It has appeared that psychological theories, methods, and research findings should be relevant and useful to policing. Despite this, most psychological studies are nevertheless subjected to harsh criticisms for their inconclusiveness while its theories are impractical. In view of the controversy, this article attempts to examine various aspects of psychology which bear upon the core policing tasks. Before answering the question of whether psychology is useful to the police, it is worth defining what is meant by "usefulness".[3]

What Does a Police Psychologist Do?

A police psychologist performs a range of duties; however, every police psychologist's primary purpose is to shed light on the inner workings of the human mind in situations when it is not apparent. They apply psychological principles when working with people inside and outside police departments, gather evidence and data to inform recommendations, clarify witness testimonies, advise officers during interrogations, and, in general, offer insight into the hidden compartments of the human brain when called upon to do so.

To perform their jobs at an optimal level, police psychologists need a variety of specialized skills and knowledge, including:

- Thorough grasp of basic psychological principles
- Understanding of the functions of police departments and public safety administrations
- Working conditions and stressors unique to law enforcement careers
- Normal and pathological responses to stress and trauma
- Confidentiality of officers, victims, witnesses, and others
- Discretion with sensitive information and identities
- Excellent observation and analytical skills
- Patience and compassion without judgment, especially when dealing with criminals or situations of misconduct
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- A healthy dose of skepticism, which is necessary when working with those who are not always being completely honest
- A strong sense of ethics and morality
- Good organization and record-keeping skills
- Timeliness — necessary to complete continuing education hours and licensing and certification requirements.[1]

Police Psychology Roles: Public Safety & Law Enforcement

Police psychologists have a wide range of duties, but they're most commonly hired to perform one of four tasks: assessments, fitness for duty evaluations, clinical interventions, and operational support.

Police psychologists have been used for decades to screen candidates who apply for jobs as police or public safety officers. Obviously, police departments must apply very high standards when hiring new personnel, but in actual practice, this is easier said than done. Since the mid-20th century, law enforcement departments have availed themselves of psychologists to assess the suitability of potential candidates. Police psychologists recommend those candidates who appear to be a satisfactory psychological match and rule out those who are inappropriate – or who may even be dangerous in the position.

Evaluations for fitness for duty take place in a wide range of workplace settings, such as construction or medicine, but in no situation are these evaluations more important than in law enforcement. Officers who take time off, suffer a physical or mental setback, or who perform poorly must be examined to determine whether they are able to resume their duties. Sometimes, they are not mentally or physically sound, possibly because they are incapable of going back to work after a distressing incident, or because they are experiencing difficulties in another area of their lives that compromises their ability to behave safely and professionally.

Police psychologists also are frequently called in for clinical interventions. Because traumatizing events are much more likely to occur in police work than in other jobs, police psychologists stay busy, offering short-term behavioral treatments to help traumatized police officers cope with their experiences. They also may intervene to help shell-shocked victims or vulnerable witnesses assist in investigations, and they frequently assist family members of both officers and victims in learning how to respond to stressors in a healthy manner.

Lastly, police psychologists are called upon to provide operational support. For instance, they often assist with the paperwork involved in the staffing, interviewing, hiring, evaluating, and training process of law enforcement officers.[1]

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THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF VIRTUE AND THE PREVENTION OF VICE

Nowadays, there are police units that focus on adhering to strict religious rules that are established and controlled by the state. The most