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Police of the United States

Law enforcement in the United States

There are 17,985 U.S. police agencies in the United States which include college campus police, sheriff departments, local police, and federal agencies.



Types of police

Policing in the United States is conducted by "close to 18,000 federal, state, local and city departments, all with their own rules". Every state has its own nomenclature for agencies, and their powers, responsibilities and funding vary from state to state.



Federal



State



County

Federal police

Federal police possess full federal authority as given to them under United States Code (U.S.C.), and federal law enforcement agencies, who are authorized to enforce various laws at the federal level.



State police

Most [states](#) operate statewide [government agencies](#) that provide law enforcement duties, including [investigations](#) and state patrols. They may be called [state police](#) or [highway patrol](#), and are normally part of the state [Department of Public Safety](#). they perform functions outside the jurisdiction of the county sheriff such as enforcing traffic laws on state highways and interstate expressways, overseeing the security of the state capitol complex, protecting the governor, training new officers for local police forces too small to operate an academy and providing technological and scientific services.



County police

Also known as parishes and boroughs, county law enforcement is provided by sheriffs' departments or offices and county police. County police tend to exist only in metropolitan counties and have countywide jurisdiction.



County police

county sheriff

- takes care of serving papers and providing security to the courts.

county police

- is in charge of typical police duties such as, patrol and investigations

County police

county sheriff



county police



Sheriffs' offices

Sheriffs are not police and have many different responsibilities

Sheriffs are elected officials where the head of police is appointed

Sheriffs are responsible for all three parts of the criminal justice system.





Police functions

Textbooks and scholars have identified three primary police agency functions. The following is cited from *The American System of Criminal Justice*, by George F. Cole and Christopher E. Smith, 2004, 10th edition, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning:

Order maintenance.



Law enforcement.



Service.



Goals of Policing

- Prevent crime and protect life
- Uphold and enforce the law
- Combat public fear of crime
- Promote community safety
- Control traffic
- Encourage respect for the law
- Protect civil rights and liberties

Entry qualifications

Be a United States citizen

Must have a high school diploma

Be in good medical, physical, and psychological condition

Maintain a clean criminal record without either serious or repeated misdemeanor or any felony convictions

Must have a valid driver's license with a clean driving record

Be of high moral character

Not have a history of prior narcotic or repeated marijuana use or alcoholism



Police uniforms of the United States

- Police officers wear uniforms **to deter crime by establishing a visible presence** while on patrol, **to make themselves easily identifiable to non-police officers** or their colleagues who require assistance, and to quickly identify each other at crime scenes for ease of coordination.



Current designs

Badges

Badges are typically engraved with a unique identification number matched to the officer to whom it is issued.



Patches

Most police uniforms feature shoulder sleeve insignia in the form of cloth patches embroidered with the agency's name, logo or a heraldic device. These patches are displayed either on both shoulders, or one.



Uniforms



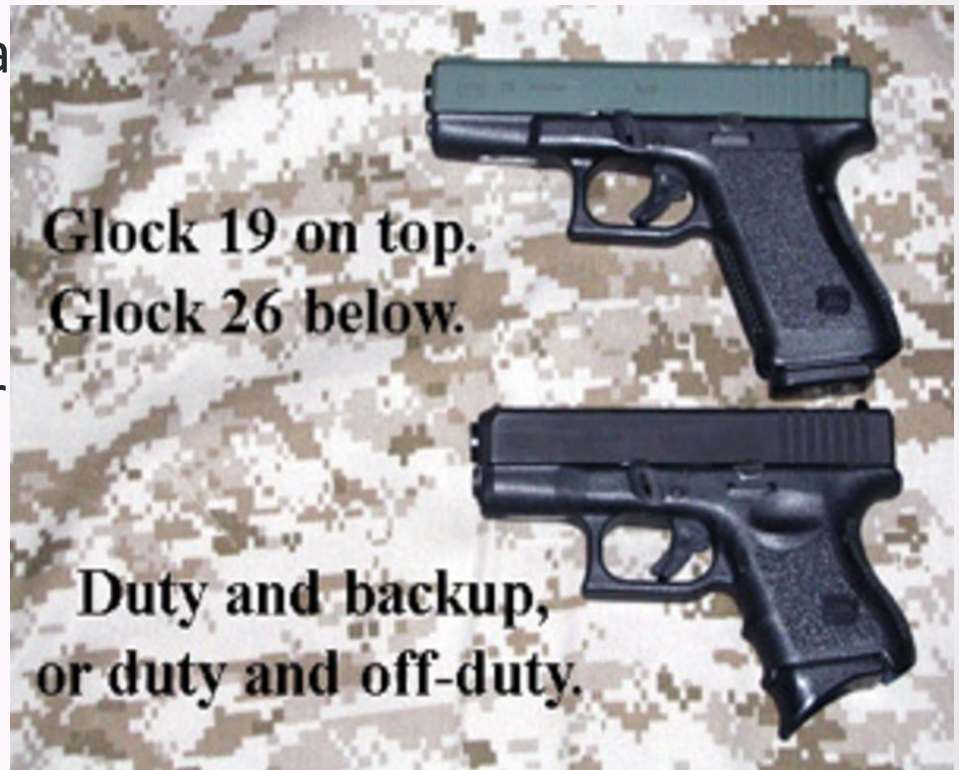
Headgear

Municipal police forces typically wear peaked hats or, in tactical uniforms, baseball caps. County sheriff's offices often issues their deputies with campaign hats or Stetsons for cover. Some departments permit the usage of the hijab for female Muslim police officers.



Police equipment

- Firearms- Police in the United States usually carry a handgun on duty. Some police departments allow qualified officers to carry shotguns and/or semiautomatic rifles in their vehicles for additional firepower, typically to be used if a suspect is involved in an active shooter situation, or a hostage/barricade incident.





- **Less lethal weapons-**

Police also often carry an impact weapon - a baton, also known as a nightstick. The common nightstick and the side handle baton have been replaced in many locations by expandable batons such as the Monadnock Auto-Lock Expandable Baton or ASP baton. One advantage of the collapsible baton is that the wearer can comfortably sit in a patrol vehicle while still wearing the baton on their duty belt. The side handle night stick usually has to be removed before entering the vehicle.



Police equipment

- **Body armor**

Uniformed police officers are often issued body armor, typically in the form of a lightweight Level IIA, II or IIIA vest that can be worn under service shirts.



Police equipment

- Body-worn camera

Multiple states have pending body-worn camera legislation that require its law enforcement to be equipped with body-worn cameras when the officers are on duty.



Police equipment

- Drone Use in Police Work
Police have always been looking for new and more advanced ways to make the job of police work safer and more effective. In recent years police have recruited unmanned surveillance devices, such as small throwable robotics and flying drones, to do recon in dangerous locations.





Thank you for listening