



The modern police departments in the USA came into existence in the years following World War I. Since 1920 municipal police agencies have increasingly grown in personnel and responsibilities.



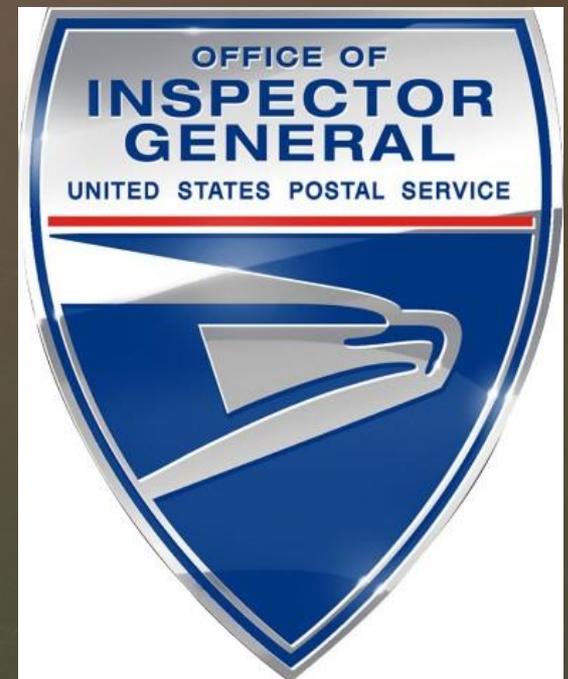
Special training and more selective recruitment practices have been developed to go hand in hand with the use of such technological developments as the automobile, the individual police radio, and the computer. The great part of police work does not involve crime-fighting situations but rather consists of both service and peace-keeping activities.



Service functions include directing traffic and enforcing traffic regulations, answering accident calls, aiding the sick, helping find a lost child or rescue a lost pet, recovering stolen property, and reporting fires. These are all services performed to assist the public.



There are five main types of police agencies operating in the USA:  
- police agencies of the Federal government (Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Park Service, Border Patrol, US Postal Inspector and so on);





Municipal police departments are the heart of the entire police system. They have their own organization with several different divisions, each with specific functions. In most departments there are four major divisions:



Besides there are such special police forces as parks police, bridge and tunnel administration police forces, and police organizations for special tasks. All in all there are about 40,000 separate police agencies in the United States of America.



The federal police agencies are financed from the Federal Fund. Other police forces are financed from the respective authorities' funds. Policemen have weapons, such as revolvers, clubs and gas pistols.

