Test Bank for Police Community Relations and the Administration of Justice 9th Hunter

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Chapter 2 Police Role Concept in a Changing Society

Key Concepts

Crime Control Role	Generalization	Role Concept
Crime-fighting Model	Objectivity	Role Conflict
Deletion	Order Maintenance Role	Service Role
Distortion	Perception	Subjectivity

Chapter Outline

1. Great Expectations
2. Perceptions
    A. Seeing and Perceiving
    B. Perception is Personal
3. Role Concept
4. The Police Officer's Roles
    A. Crime Control
    B. Order Maintenance
    C. Service
    D. Other Roles
5. Police Role Concept
6. Formation of Role Concepts
    A. The Sources of Role Concepts
    B. Lack of Information
    C. How Police Respond
7. The Media and Role Concepts
8. Factors and Conditions of Change
    A. Reassessing the Dimensions
    B. A World of Infinite Choices
9. The Paradoxes of Police Practice
    A. Community Relations: Residue from the Past
10. Toward a Realistic Role Concept
    A. The Police Officer's Working Personality and Reality
    B. Service versus Crime Fighting
11. Toward a Congruent Role
12. Elements of Change
13. Criteria for Change
14. Policing in a Changing Society
15. Reality Check
16. Conclusions

Summary

Law enforcement often becomes the object of animosity by the citizens against the establishment. The perform roles that are inconsistent with each other (ex. service vs. law

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enforcement) and at the same time are inconsistent with democratic values (ex. freedom vs. order). Because of these perceptions, police and community relations will continue to be of an adversarial nature in certain cultures within our society. Methods must be implemented to help alleviate tensions, and to increase cooperation between society and police.

Police agencies generally reflect the community. If there are problems with the community, there will more than likely be problems within the agency. The reverse of this statement is true as well. Police agencies should continue to lead in areas such as relieving racial tensions between law enforcement and minority groups.

The police should make every effort to understand the needs and goals of the community. There also needs to be an understanding as to what role the police officer should play within a community, and what role should not be carried out by law enforcement. Both police and society need to be aware of the dual role of the law enforcement officer: That of services provided by the officer and the enforcement of law for the protection of society.

Progress is coming whether we want it to or not. How we face it as a community and as a law enforcement agency will be determined by our flexibility. We must remember that this progress is not a set and determined goal, but a process that will always continue.

The media can mediate some of these societal changes that tend to reshape police roles and the changing nature of the communities the police serve.

Student Checklist

1. Define the terms *perception* and *role concept*.
2. How does a citizen's perception of police affect the way the citizen acts towards a police officer?
3. Describe the processes of generalization, distortion, and deletion.
4. Name several factors and conditions of change in our society.
5. Identify some of the paradoxes and dilemmas our changing society creates for the police officer.

Discussion Topics

1. What is the perception of the police in your community?
2. What life experiences or history have shaped that perception?
3. If these perceptions are negative, what can you do to change them? If positive, what more can be done on the part of the police to make circumstances even better?

Essay Section

1. In the Reality Check section of the chapter, explain how you would have handled the situation.
2. Explain and describe a police agency that reflects a community in a negative way.
3. Explain and describe a police agency that positively reflects its community.

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