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Inaugural Issue - Overview of the Series

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Eastern Kentucky University
College of Law Enforcement
"A Program of Distinction"



Kentucky Justice & Safety Research Bulletin

Justice & Safety Research Center

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Inaugural Issue - Overview of the Series

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This bulletin is the first in a series devoted to important justice and safety issues in Kentucky. The bulletin series is a major scholarly product of Eastern Kentucky University's (EKU's) Program of Distinction in Justice and Safety, established in 1998 within EKU's College of Law Enforcement. This inaugural issue of the *Bulletin* describes (a) the bulletin series, including topics to be addressed in forthcoming issues; (b) EKU's College of Law Enforcement; and (c) the new Justice and Safety Program of Distinction.

Programs of Distinction at Kentucky's regional state universities were authorized by the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (House Bill 1). The goal of this act was to assure that each of Kentucky's comprehensive universities had at least one nationally recognized program of distinction. EKU nominated the College of Law Enforcement's justice and safety proposal for Program of Distinction consideration in

early 1998, and the Council on Postsecondary Education approved EKU's proposal in July 1998.

THE KENTUCKY JUSTICE & SAFETY RESEARCH BULLETIN SERIES

There are at least three reasons why it is timely and important to inaugurate a research bulletin series in 1999 devoted to the concepts of justice and safety. First, the series will help continue centuries of debate and inquiry that have surrounded these concepts. Although overlapping and complementary in some respects, justice and safety often compete as well. Indeed, conflict between the two has been a central and lasting feature of democracy in the United States. Both our history and the contemporary era are replete with efforts to achieve and maintain a balance between

The points of view expressed in this bulletin series are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Council on Postsecondary Education, Eastern Kentucky University, or the College of Law Enforcement.

safety, order, and security on the one hand and democratic freedoms and fairness on the other.

Never have the competing demands of justice and safety been more apparent than today. Movements to preserve and expand human rights are flourishing at the same time that we seem to be pursuing a "culture" of high-tech surveillance designed to insure safety and protection.¹ Undoubtedly, justice and safety are themes that deserve complex, multidimensional thinking. They continue to be intellectually stimulating subjects precisely because they comprise an arena of social conflict, one laden with very basic philosophical and moral issues.²

While justice and safety are matters of abstract intellectual intrigue, they are also very concrete, practical matters with tremendous implications for the basic human values of life, liberty, and property. This point leads to a second rationale for the bulletin series. Concerns over justice and safety are widespread and emotional among citizens of the United States, including the Commonwealth of Kentucky. From problems of violent crime, drugs, gangs, and prison crowding to the well-being of farm laborers, industrial workers, and motorists, the range of justice and safety issues is as diverse as the issues themselves are pervasive.

These issues are associated with a multitude of emotions, varying from anger and fear to sympathy and compassion. But the popular sentiments surrounding justice and safety topics are frequently at odds with the facts. For example, there is ample evidence from multiple sources that rates of violent and property crimes have diminished in recent years.³ However, expressions of fear of crime and calls for more severe punishment for offenders would lead one to conclude the exact opposite.

This raises the final rationale. Debate and decision-making about public policy issues such as justice and safety should be informed by up-to-date and valid information. Whenever possible, such information should take the form of ongoing feedback that is used to help refine and improve law, policy, and practice.⁴ New initiatives can hardly be expected to succeed when implemented as "one shot" efforts founded upon insufficient or misleading information and later subjected to little or no follow-up analysis. All too often, though, this is what occurs.

The Commonwealth took one important step toward improving this situation in 1998 with the creation of the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council, a body that will engage in statewide criminal justice research and planning. Establishment of such a council had been strongly recommended by Governor Paul Patton's Criminal Justice

Response Team, which studied crime and justice in Kentucky during 1997.

Likewise, the *Kentucky Justice & Safety Research Bulletin* will provide carefully evaluated information on justice and safety issues to enhance public discussion and the formation of public policy. The overriding purpose of the *Bulletin* is to provide ideas, findings, and debates that blend the academic and applied aspects of justice and safety. Evidence and reasoning will be brought to bear on specific topics in support of properly qualified conclusions. This goal is pursued in order to contribute relevant, timely, valid, and balanced information about concerns that are widespread across the Commonwealth, the nation, and indeed the world.

FORTHCOMING BULLETIN TITLES

Tentative titles scheduled to appear from February through June 1999 in the *Kentucky Justice & Safety Research Bulletin* series appear below. The range and diversity of justice and safety issues to be addressed in the series are apparent from this listing. The titles also reveal that while the Commonwealth is the primary focus of the series, attention extends to the regional, national, and international arenas.

- "Violent Crime in Kentucky"
- "The Appalachia HIDTA: Drug Enforcement in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia"
- "Kentucky's Response to the Lautenberg Act: Curbing Domestic Violence among Police Officers"
- "SWAT in the Commonwealth: The State of High-Risk Policing in Kentucky and the Nation"
- "The Effects of Getting Tough on Juvenile Crime"

EKU's COLLEGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The College of Law Enforcement at ECU began as the Law Enforcement Program in 1966. The program experienced tremendous growth as it sought to meet the demand for post-secondary education opportunities among working law enforcement professionals and individuals seeking future employment in policing. In 1974 the College of Law Enforcement was created and the scope of the academic program was expanded and enhanced by the addition of related disciplines (i.e., Correctional Services, Fire Science and Traffic Safety) in the public and private sectors. In 1985 the Department of Loss Prevention and Safety was established by merging the Departments of Fire Prevention and Control, Security, and Traffic Safety. Since then, programs in

emergency medical care and in insurance and risk management have also been added to the Department of Loss Prevention and Safety. Thus, while the name "College of Law Enforcement" signifies police studies to many, the focus of the college today goes far beyond its original definition and mission.

Currently the college has an undergraduate and graduate enrollment of 1600 students, 39 faculty members, and 15 academic support staff. Each of the three academic departments offers degree programs at the undergraduate level, and two master's degrees are offered, as follows:

- A.A. and B.S. in Correctional and Juvenile Justice Studies
- A.A. and B.S. in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology
- A.A. and B.S. in Police Administration
- A.S. in Emergency Medical Care
- B.S. in Assets Protection
- B.S. in Insurance and Risk Management
- M.S. in Criminal Justice
- M.S. in Loss Prevention and Safety

The faculty of the College of Law Enforcement are nationally known and respected. Faculty members have won awards from a variety of regional and national associations, serve as editors of leading academic and professional journals in their fields, and hold offices in major national organizations. Many are counted among the top experts in their respective areas of specialization. Competitive grants and contracts have been awarded to them by a host of state and national agencies. Collectively, the college faculty have published hundreds of books, book chapters, and articles in the scholarly and professional literature. A partial list of books recently authored or edited by college faculty is presented below:

- *Agency Operations and Sales Management, 3rd edition* (The Insurance Institute of America, 1992)
- *Altered States of Mind: Critical Observations of the Drug War* (Garland Press, 1993)
- *Americans With Disabilities Act: A Manager's Guide* (Van Norstrand Reinhold, 1993)
- *Choosing Crime: The Criminal Calculus of Property Offenders* (Nelson-Hall, 1992)
- *Comparative Criminal Justice: Traditional and Non-traditional Systems of Law and Control* (Waveland Press, 1996)
- *Controversial Issues in Corrections* (Allyn and Bacon, 1998)
- *Criminal Organizations: Vice, Racketeering, and Politics in an American City* (Waveland Press, 1994)

- *Critical Issues in Police Civil Liability, 2nd edition* (Waveland Press, 1997)
- *Drugs, Crime and Criminal Justice* (Waveland Press, 1997)
- *Drugs in Society, 3rd edition* (Anderson Publishing, 1998)
- *Environmental Crime and Criminality* (Garland Press, 1996)
- *Fire and Emergency Law Casebook* (Del Mar Publishing, 1996)
- *Fire Law* (Van Norstrand Reinhold, 1995)
- *Food Safety Law* (Van Norstrand Reinhold, 1997)
- *Foundations of Insurance Production* (Insurance Institute of America, 1996)
- *Forces of Deviance: Understanding the Dark Side of Policing* (Waveland Press, 1994)
- *Innovative Trends and Specialized Strategies in Community-Based Corrections* (Garland Press, 1994)
- *Introduction to Accounting, 2nd edition* (The American Institute for Property and Liability Underwriters, 1992)
- *Introduction to Police Administration, 4th edition* (Anderson Publishing, 1999)
- *Juvenile Justice: A Social, Historical, and Legal Perspective* (Aspen Publishing, 1999)
- *Law-Related Education and Juvenile Justice* (Charles C Thomas, 1997)
- *Managing Police Organizations* (Anderson Publishing, 1996)
- *Managing Police Personnel* (Anderson Publishing, 1996)
- *Organized Crime* (Prentice-Hall, 1997)
- *Police Operations: Analysis and Evaluation* (Anderson Publishing, 1996)
- *Policing in America, 2nd edition* (Anderson Publishing, 1996)
- *Policing Perspectives: An Anthology* (Roxbury Publishing, 1999)
- *Political Crime in Contemporary America: A Critical Approach* (Garland Press, 1993)
- *Principles of Reinsurance, 2nd edition* (Insurance Institute of America, 1995)
- *Principles of Security: An Introduction, 2nd edition* (Anderson Publishing, 1994)
- *Prisons Around the World: Studies in International Penology* (William C. Brown, 1992)
- *The Constitutional History and Law of Sierra Leone (1961-1995)* (University Press of America, 1997)
- *The Mythology of Crime and Criminal Justice, 2nd edition* (Waveland Press, 1996)
- *The Police and Society: Touchstone Readings* (Waveland Press, 1995)

- *What Works in Policing?* (Anderson Publishing, 1992)
- *Workplace Violence: The Continuum from Threat to Death* (Anderson Publishing, 1997)

The capabilities and prominence of the three academic departments within the college have grown significantly over the past thirty years. Research and service efforts have multiplied as well, particularly over the last decade. The strength of the college lies in both its traditional academic units and in such service units and activities as those listed below:

- Domestic Violence Training and Technical Assistance Project
- Families and Children Training Project
- Graduated Licensing Program
- Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Assistance Project
- Juvenile Justice Training Center Project
- Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children
- Kentucky School Safety Center
- Kentucky Traffic School Program
- Law Enforcement Technology Dissemination and Training Project
- Motorcycle Safety and Rider Education Program
- Regional Community Policing Institute
- Social Insurance Training Project
- United States Air Force Crime Prevention Course
- United States Air Force Police Administration Course

The College of Law Enforcement's Training Resource Center (TRC), which currently employs more than 135 training and education professionals as well as some forty graduate and undergraduate students, deserves special mention as one of the nation's largest and most diverse university-based training and service programs. The TRC's annual budget of over \$10 million is supported entirely with grants and contracts from state and federal agencies, professional organizations, and the private sector. The center operates many collaborative projects that involve a variety of disciplines at ECU. It also serves as the administrative hub for an eight-university family and children services training consortium. ECU contracts with the other seven Kentucky state universities for the operation of satellite training centers on their respective campuses.

The Program of Distinction award made possible the addition of two other centers to the college's organizational structure in the fall of 1998. These include the Justice and Safety Research Center and the Justice and Safety Technical

Assistance Center, both of which are described in greater detail in the next section.

EKU's College of Law Enforcement has a rich tradition of excellence in teaching, service, and applied research. The graduates of the college are actively involved in professional service throughout the Commonwealth and the nation, and many have gone on to advanced studies at the law school, master's degree, and doctoral levels. These graduates have positively influenced many aspects of the justice and safety profession, including criminal and juvenile justice, police, courts, corrections, education, emergency medical care, fire protection, traffic safety, occupational safety, asset protection, as well as insurance and risk management. The college is unique, not only in the Commonwealth, but across the nation. There is no other university-based academic and service program in the areas of justice and safety with the breadth and technical capability of ECU's College of Law Enforcement.

An observation is in order about what the College of Law Enforcement is *not*. Because Kentucky's Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) — commonly referred to as "the police academy" — is located on the ECU campus within the Robert R. Martin Law Enforcement Complex, many people confuse the missions of the college and the DOCJT. Ironically, the high degree of cooperation and collaboration that exists between the college and the DOCJT adds to the confusion. In fact, while the state's DOCJT is in the training business, the College of Law Enforcement's mission is the same as the rest of the university's — higher education, including teaching, research, and service. The college's faculty teach college courses, conduct basic and applied research, and provide a variety of services to the justice and safety fields. The college and the DOCJT *do* collaborate on several levels. Indeed, these two organizations have formed a national model for collaboration that is envied by other states. But the College of Law Enforcement and its faculty are primarily engaged in higher education, not police training.

A PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION

EKU's Justice and Safety Program of Distinction proposal was approved by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in July 1998. The Program of Distinction is significantly enhancing the quality and impact of ECU's College of Law Enforcement in each of its three core missions: teaching, research, and service. These components are interdependent, and any academic unit that claims national prominence must excel in all three. Providing quality

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education to students, helping produce a systematic and coherent body of knowledge, and directly aiding organizations and communities are integral segments of the modern academic triangle.

Improvement of teaching and education within the college is being accomplished through several interrelated efforts, including but not limited to:

- Increased financial support for graduate and undergraduate students
- Enhanced efforts in the areas of student recruitment, student organizations, and alumni relations
- Enhancement of computer laboratory facilities
- Enhancement of distance learning delivery systems including technology and support services
- Enhancement of instructional technology, especially in technical areas such as fire and safety engineering
- Enhancement of classroom instruction through applied research which generates new and refined knowledge for dissemination to students
- Improvement of instructional performance through faculty development initiatives
- Provision of additional and more meaningful student opportunities for assistantships, practicums, field experiences, and other forms of active learning

The service and applied research components of the Program of Distinction are meant to improve the quality of justice and safety (a) across the entire Commonwealth and (b) in several specific communities. These efforts focus on the whole gamut of justice and safety issues including: occupational safety, juvenile violence, domestic violence, street crime, fire protection, emergency services, traffic safety, environmental compliance, police services, juvenile justice, corrections, and the administration of justice; specific emphases are placed on school safety, delinquency prevention, workplace safety, and community policing. These specific emphases are supported by four "fellows" — faculty members who devote three-quarters of their work time to these issues.

The overall service and applied research missions are being accomplished primarily through the three complementary initiatives described below. From an administrative standpoint, the first two initiatives fall under the Justice and Safety Research Center, whereas the third initiative is under the Justice and Safety Technical Assistance Center. The *Kentucky Justice & Safety Research Bulletin* is a component of the first initiative.

1. *State-Level Research and Dissemination* - Faculty and students are conducting state-level applied research and service of two general types: (1) assistance to state agencies such as the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Kentucky State Police, the Fire Commission, and the Department of Criminal Justice Training; and (2) data collection, analysis, and dissemination pertaining to statewide justice and safety issues. These efforts build upon work undertaken in 1997 by the Governor's Criminal Justice Response Team and will provide valuable information to the new Kentucky Criminal Justice Council. The college will also assist the executive and legislative branches of state government with future policy analysis and formation related to justice and safety.
2. *Applied Research Projects* - Faculty members and students are undertaking applied research projects related to justice and safety issues (including school safety, delinquency prevention, workplace safety, and community policing), as the need and demand arises, in cooperation with state agencies, local agencies, and small businesses. The Program of Distinction is enabling the college to proactively and systematically solicit such opportunities, in addition to reacting to requests from the field.
3. *Targeted Assistance to Local Communities* - Teams of faculty and students are working in selected local communities across Kentucky to (a) carefully assess justice and safety needs, (b) collaborate with local and state officials and the private sector to respond to identified needs, and (c) evaluate the effectiveness of implemented responses. This tailored research and service assistance incorporates all of the diverse talents and perspectives found in the college, including expertise in corrections, juvenile justice, fire safety, emergency medicine, traffic safety, assets protection, risk management, police administration, criminal law, and criminal justice. In addition, other expertise available at EKU in such areas as allied health, social work, local government, substance abuse, and school administration is utilized as needed. Furthermore, expertise available at other Kentucky universities is being utilized, especially in assisting local communities outside of EKU's traditional service area.

Through this new Program of Distinction, the College of Law Enforcement at EKU is increasing the quantity and quality of its teaching, service, and research efforts so that (a) justice and safety students leave EKU better educated and better

prepared for the workplace, (b) people and institutions (both public and private) in the Commonwealth are better served by research and service provided by the college, and (c) the College of Law Enforcement is recognized even more widely, including nationally and internationally, as a unique and effective justice and safety higher education program.

CONCLUSION

Future issues in this bulletin series will focus on specific justice and safety topics; the purpose of this inaugural issue has been to introduce the series, ECU's College of Law Enforcement, and its Program of Distinction. With this inaugural issue we have made a commitment to provide timely, relevant, and accurate information for use by policy makers and interested citizens. Please let us know whether future issues of the *Bulletin* satisfy this commitment, and how we can best serve the Commonwealth in the pursuit of justice and safety for all Kentuckians.

NOTES

1. W.G. Staples, *The Culture of Surveillance: Discipline and Social Control in the United States* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997).
2. For a similar point in reference to legal punishment see D. Garland, *Punishment and Modern Society: A Study in Social Theory* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1990).
3. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (see: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/).
4. See P.H. Rossi and H.E. Freeman, *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach* (Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1993) and G.D. Gottfredson, "A theory-ridden approach to program evaluation: A method for stimulating researcher-implementer collaboration," *American Psychologist*, Vol. 39, 1984, pp.1101-1112.

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Please feel free to copy and distribute this *Bulletin* as needed.

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Notes

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"A Program of Distinction"**

Eastern Kentucky University's College of Law Enforcement has 1,600 majors and 39 faculty positions in three academic departments: Correctional and Juvenile Justice Studies, Police Studies, and Loss Prevention and Safety. One of the leading programs in the nation, the college also offers two master's degrees and houses a training center, a technical assistance center, and a research center.

The College of Law Enforcement was recently awarded a "Program of Distinction" in Justice and Safety by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This designation both recognizes the college's accomplishments in the past and challenges the college to further develop its teaching, service, and research contributions to Kentucky, the nation, and the world. This bulletin series is one tangible product of the Program of Distinction and evidence of the significant role played by the college in both education and practice in the justice and safety fields.

To learn more about the College, please visit www.len.eku.edu.

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