

The paper reports on an evaluation of the introduction of Police Scotland's extended use of Conductive Energy Devices (CEDs) (Tasers) and revised Armed Officer Operational Deployment Model. Police Scotland had identified that the deployment of CEDs may reduce the risk of injury and enhance the safety of officers, the public and perpetrators against the backdrop of the increased risk of knife attacks. In 2018, they trained and equipped selected local uniformed officers in the use of CEDs: to be known as Specially Trained Officers (STOs). During the initial phase STOs will equate to approximately 2.9% of overall Police Scotland establishment. Training commenced in May 2018, and they were deployed operationally from early June 2018. In addition, in response to national threats around terrorism and in line with other UK forces, Police Scotland has recently made the decision to widen the deployment model for armed officers in Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs). The revised deployment model commenced in late spring/early summer 2018. This paper will explore the perceptions of officers, members of stakeholder groups and community representatives in three designated areas within Scotland, pre- and post-deployment of the STO rollout and armed policing changes.

Panel number: 11.18 - Presentation 11.18.1

Police subculture and officers' mental health

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Abstract:

Police subculture includes a set of ideas, customs, information and rules which define a "good police work". Most common elements of the subculture are solidarity, cohesion, isolation, conservatism, pragmatism, suspicion, authority, machismo and cynicism. Although these elements are very useful for everyday police work and performance, they interfere with officers' care of their own mental health. Namely, policemen are less prone to recognize the problems and seek help. As such, police subculture aggravates work of mental health experts, especially the ones in the police system – especially due to issues regarding anonymity. This is a challenge for the police psychologists so we need a great competence to approach officers. Therefore with great knowledge of the police subculture, its norms and elements, with proper acceptance of specifics of the entire police world and with great experience in the area of mental health care for the policeman, as well as great patience - it is possible to implement and conduct even the most up-to-date psychological approaches to the officers' mental health care. Police College Mental Health Centre in Croatia brought new, proactive and very successful approach to police officers' mental health. We implement most recent treatment methods and scientifically verify their effectiveness.

Panel number: 11.18 - Presentation 11.18.2

When 'us vs. them' goes one step further: Double alienation in An Garda Síochána

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Abstract:

In policing literature, the 'us versus them' paradigm is well documented, whereby 'us' is the police and 'them' is the public. But what happens when frontline officers are separated both from society and from those within their own organisation? This research looks down a new pathway of what it means to be doubly alienated in an atmosphere that already makes sociability difficult. In Ireland, there has been little research to date on An Garda Síochána, Ireland's national police force, and nothing that has addressed the cross roads these officers find themselves in under these circumstances. The organisation espouses a culture of conform or face the consequences. In these particular circumstances, officers must then either compromise their integrity or become pariahs in the organisation. This qualitative exploration analyses documents to understand under what conditions officers must make these decisions and how they are received by the public and the organisation when they do.