

criminal activity and preventing the successful commission of crimes in progress. Other duties may include the service and enforcement of warrants, writs, and other orders of the courts.

Law enforcement agencies are also involved in providing first response to emergencies and other threats to public safety; the protection of certain public facilities and infrastructure; the maintenance of public order; the protection of public officials; and the operation of some correctional facilities (usually at the local level).

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the principal government investigation agency in the United States of America. It looks into matters concerning violation of Federal Law within the national territory. At the same time, it is also entitled the task of conducting national security investigations.

Other Federal agencies which can be included in the category of law enforcement agencies in the United States of America include the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) - which looks into the matters involving illegal drugs, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives - which investigates the violations of Federal firearms and explosives laws as well as alcohol and tobacco tax regulations. Other law enforcement agencies which come under the purview of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, etc. These agencies along with courts and prisons form the criminal justice system of the United States.

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## **PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY IN FRANCE**

Policing overview: In France, the State is responsible for protecting persons and property, maintaining public order and enforcing the law. The French police consists of three centralized forces —three of which have the same mission but different jurisdictions at a national scope: National Police (Police Nationale), National Gendarmerie (Gendarmerie Nationale), Municipal Police (Police municipale), Criminal Justice System at a local scope.

The National Police is a civilian force under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior and primarily responsible for urban areas.

The role of the National Police is generally to ensure that the laws are observed and enforced. Efforts are also directed at the prevention of delinquency. In that context, the National Police:

- conducts security operations (e.g. patrols, traffic control, identity checks);
- under the supervision of the judiciary, conducts criminal enquiries, serves search warrants, etc., as well as maintaining specific “judiciary police” services for criminal enquiries.

Police personnel are recruited on the basis of competitive examination. Training is given in specialized schools. The officer’s rank often depends upon his/her educational level, whether secondary or post-secondary. Once selected, police recruits attend the Saint-Cyr School at Mont d'Or for ten months, while inspectors attend the Canet-Cluse School for six months and peace agents attend the Superior School for six months.

France has mechanisms of internal and external evaluation that ensure proper police conduct. Ethical police conduct is further enforced by the Code of National Police and related investigatory bodies.

The French Gendarmerie (Gendarmerie Nationale or GN) is a police force under the administrative control of the Ministry of Interior.

The French Gendarmerie is a military institution created to ensure public safety. It guarantees the protection of individuals and their properties, informs, warns and rescues. In addition to ensuring the maintenance of law and order and the enforcement of legislation, it may also contribute to the military defense of the nation. Its missions include the policing of French countryside areas and small towns, usually with populations less than 20,000. Thus, although this comprises only 50% of the population, it is responsible for about 90% of the territory. This territorial Gendarmerie conducts crime investigations under the same laws and regulations as the members of the active Directorates of the National Police.

The Academy of National Gendarmerie Officers (Ecole des Officiers de la Gendarmerie Nationale or EOGN) is the officer’s training centre located in Melun which provides Officer’s basic training as well as retraining. After having been chosen through selective examination based on university standards, students must complete a two-year course (including Law, International Relations, Crime, Public Order, Human Resources Management, Relations with Medias, Human Rights, Foreign Languages, Crisis Management) in order to become a Gendarme Officer.

Non-commissioned officers are trained or retrained in one of the 6 academies that are to be found in the whole territory. The Gendarmerie promotion system offers large avenues for non-commissioned officers to become officers: At least 50% of the officers are former non-commissioned officers.

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