

have made international travel and trade easier - cheap, fast travel, communications by mobile phone and computers - all these have made international crime much easier too.

Governments all over the world recognize the threat of transnational organized crime and are beginning to understand that the only way to combat it effectively is if law enforcement becomes transnational too. Law enforcers must learn to work together across national borders and share information, but this isn't always easy. INTERPOL, the international police organization, has existed since 1923 and we believe it has a particularly important role to play in co-ordinating a global approach to fighting crime in the future. EUROPOL is a European organization which began in 1994 and helps to co-ordinate law enforcement in certain areas in Europe, particularly anything related to drug trafficking. In November 2000, the United Nations adopted a special 'Convention against Transnational Organized Crime' and created a special committee to deal with it.

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## **POLICE CAREERS TRAINING IN CANADA**

Many Canadian police departments hire and train candidates directly without any extra or special training or pre-requisite police fundamental programs.

First candidates should decide which police force they wish to work for: national, provincial or municipal. Second candidates should meet with the official recruiting officers and obtain the exact steps necessary to qualify for the force and be hired.

The police occupation includes: bodyguard, Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) investigation officer, canine team member, coast guard officer, community relations officer, community services officer, constable, crime prevention constable, desk officer, detective, diving supervisor, dog master, drug investigator, evidence technician, harbor police officer, headquarters duty officer, highway patrol officer, identification officer, investigator, military police officer, morality officer, motorcycle patrol, mounted police constable, patrol officer, peace officer, plain clothes officer, police corporal, police diver, police salvage diver, police sergeant, Ports Canada police officer, railway police constable, railway police officer, RCMP officer, recruitment and training constable, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer, safety patrol officer, school liaison officer, school safety officer, scuba diver, secret service, security constable, security officer enforcement, military security officer, staff sergeant, station duty officer, station officer, traffic patrol officer and others.

Police officers in Canada perform some or all of the following duties:

- Patrol assigned areas to maintain public safety and order and to enforce laws and regulations;
- Investigate crimes and accidents, secure evidence, interview witnesses, compile notes and reports and provide testimony in courts of law;
- Arrest criminal aspects;
- Provide emergency assistance to victims of accidents, crimes and natural disasters;
- Participate in crime prevention, public information and safety programs;
- Supervise and co-ordinate the work of other police officers.

To be a police officer in Canada you must have a high school diploma and complete a three- to six-month training program. You may be required to complete a college diploma or university degree in law or security or in social sciences.

You must meet physical strength, agility, fitness, and vision requirements as well as some psychological or language, communications or academic tests.

To be a detective or sergeant, you need experience as a constable and to have completed specialized courses.

With additional training and experience, you may move up the ranks to become a commissioned police officer.

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## **LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Law enforcement in the United States is one of three major components of the criminal justice system of the United States, along with courts and corrections. Although each component operates semi-independently, the three collectively form a chain leading from investigation of suspected criminal activity to administration of criminal punishment. Also, courts are vested with the power to make legal determinations regarding the conduct of the other two components.

As in most nations of the world, even in the United States the term “law enforcement” specifically refers to those agencies which detect, dissuade and investigate criminal acts, and apprehend the offenders.

Law enforcement operates primarily through governmental police agencies. The law-enforcement purposes of these agencies are the investigation of suspected criminal activity, referral of the results of investigations to the courts, and the temporary detention of suspected criminals pending judicial action. Law enforcement agencies, to varying degrees at different levels of government and in different agencies, are also commonly charged with the responsibilities of deterring