

A new series of updates to Congress on RAND's research on public safety and justice

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HOT TOPICS

Individual Responses to CBRN Attacks

While the likelihood of terrorist attacks involving chemical, radiological, nuclear, and biological (CBRN) weapons is highly uncertain, such attacks can create circumstances in which individuals would need to be concerned with protecting their safety and health and, perhaps, even their lives. The effects of such weapons are unfamiliar to most persons, and instinctive responses could lead potential victims into greater danger rather than safety. Sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, RAND researchers have taken an empirical approach to develop a strategy for individuals to follow in the immediate aftermath of such attacks. The strategy defines overarching goals and contains advice on reaching these goals. Recommended response and preparatory actions are designed to be appropriate for a wide variety of attacks and are defined in terms of simple, easily implemented steps.

Research Brief: [An Individual's Strategy for Responding to Chemical, Radiological, Nuclear, and Biological Terrorist Attacks](#)

Training the 21st-Century Police Officer

Finding patterns or practices of police misconduct that deprive citizens of their constitutional rights, the U.S. Department of Justice has, in the last decade, compelled many large police departments around the country to revise their policies, procedures, and training practices. As part of one such consent decree with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), RAND conducted an evaluation of the LAPD's training in use of force, search and seizure, arrest procedures, community policing, and diversity awareness. The problems identified and recommendations made in RAND's report provide guidance for improving police departments across the country. The overarching recommendation is to adopt a redefined concept of police professionalism incorporating tenets of corporateness, responsibility, and expertise to guide its training. Specific recommendations include establishing a "lessons learned" program; restructuring training groups to allow centralization of planning, management, and quality control; integrating elements of community-oriented policing and diversity awareness training models throughout training; and developing training on use of force, search and seizure, and arrest procedures that meets current standards of excellence.

Research Brief: [Making the LAPD a Model for Training Police Officers in the 21st Century](#)

Reducing Domestic Violence at Military Bases

Following the murders of military spouses at Fort Bragg last year, RAND sponsored a study of the challenges to implementing recommendations made by the congressionally mandated Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. One recommendation was that military installations and civilian communities work together to prevent and reduce domestic violence involving military service members. In two recent publications from this study, RAND researchers review recent attempts to develop military-civilian collaborations to prevent domestic violence, and discuss strategies for overcoming many obstacles to producing effective collaborations between military installations and their neighboring civilian communities.

Read more: [Approaches to Making Military-Civilian Domestic Violence Collaborations Work: Lessons Learned from Two Case Studies](#)

[Formalizing Collaboration: Establishing Domestic Violence Memorandums of Understanding Between Military Installations and Civilian Communities](#)

PROJECTS UNDER WAY

- **Federal death penalty:** RAND and UCLA researchers are studying whether or not defendant or victim race and ethnicity are related to decisions to seek the death penalty in federal capital cases.
- **Afghan heroin:** RAND is modeling the global heroin market to better understand the consequences of changes in Afghanistan's heroin production and the efficacy of various efforts to control the supply of heroin.

FORTHCOMING REPORTS

- **How best to detect and monitor racially biased policing.** New tools and techniques developed in collaboration with the Oakland, California, police and community.
- **How democratic nations** have organized themselves against terrorism, and how their police and security services can work together to defeat terrorist threats.

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