

Further education is often necessary to advance the career or work in a specialized area of crime and law enforcement. Some of the benefits of earning a degree include: an opportunity to move up the ranks faster, the ability to move to a specific career path quickly, and other career options if police work isn't available.

All police officers hope for the promotion, moving up the ranks. Police officers with a college degree tend to have a better chance of being hired and promoted than those without a degree. These are all ways to take on more responsibility and, therefore, earn a higher salary.

Qualifications for police and sheriff's patrol officers are honesty, integrity, responsibility, and sound judgment. Enjoying working with people as well as meeting the public are also important qualifications.

Patrol officers must meet requirements set by the local or state authorities. Once hired, they follow their motto: "To serve and to protect people".

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### **DEVELOPING A PROACTIVE PATROL OFFICER**

The special course in Patrol Tactics for Developing a Proactive Patrol Officer exists in the US. The Patrol Tactics teaches officers to develop and trust instincts, to identify illegal activity, to investigate and perform searches working within constitutional guidelines and legal restrictions leading to solid criminal cases and arrests. The report writing component teaches documenting all pertinent facts needed to support case and withstand defense scrutiny. Segments on safety practices teach to find hidden compartments and using in-car video for their benefit round out the day.

Each patrol officer should know how to find concealed compartments in vehicles and homes. Criminals use hidden compartments in vehicles and homes to hide their illegal drugs, guns and money from the police. Every officer has stopped a vehicle with a hidden compartment but never knew it. The officers should know what to look for to spot these hidden compartments and find the illegal items. Firstly, they should recognize the tell-tale signs that a vehicle had been altered to create a hidden compartment. Secondly, they should listen for the things the people say to

indicate they are operating a vehicle with a hidden compartment. Thirdly, they should know where to look on the vehicle and in residences to find these hidden compartments.

Such course is a good help for every officer that works on the road and every detective that serves search warrants. The officers should also know the physical indicators and verbal clues used by individuals concealing illicit contraband. The course allows the officers to see the mechanics of these compartments through the use of lecture, video and hands on inspection of actual concealed compartments in vehicles, furniture and household items. It is designed to familiarize the officers with many types of concealment and it covers both commercially available items as well as custom manufactured compartments.

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### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS AS A GUARANTEE OF SUCCESSFUL PATROL ACTIVITY**

The experts affirm patrol police activity has communicative and humanistic nature. The ability to communicate is a necessary element of patrol service in many countries abroad. Much attention is paid to the problem of police and population interaction in Great Britain and the United States. More than two hundred cities in the United States programs are being carried out for the police patrol service. They are aimed to provide active police cooperation with the population. Program “Stop, Go and Talk” in Dallas says that a policeman should stop his car for 30 minutes while patrolling the zone and talk with the members of the public: explain to the teenagers the operation of patrol car radio; attend citizens’ meetings as well as community and medical centers.

More than fifty per cent of US police work is a routine day-to-day activity aimed at protecting public order and security, detecting, and preventing offenses. Such a system involves a policeman permanent presence in the service area preferably on foot to establish close interaction with the population in order to prevent crimes. Such programs give the opportunity to share concerns, respect and trust the police. There such things which can never be said on the phone but only in one-on-one conversation. Thus, the police become a body of social assistance to the