Course Learning Outcomes for Unit VII

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

5. Assess the role of homeland security in the 21st century American criminal justice system.
   5.1 Determine the impact terrorism had on the post 9/11 American criminal justice system.
   5.2 Define the concept of intelligence-led policing and why it is an important element for law enforcement agencies.

Reading Assignment

Chapter 6: Policing: Issues and Challenges

Only read pages 1–30 of the document linked below:


Unit Lesson

Terrorism plays a crucial role as it relates to the American criminal justice system. In this post 9/11 world, the threat of terrorism is real and becoming commonplace. For our criminal justice system, this is a significant concern that carries with it a variety of challenges. The 9/11 attacks were the catalyst for many changes within the government with regard to securing the homeland and countering terrorism.

This unit will cover the role of homeland security within the American criminal justice system. Homeland security is evident in all levels of government and law enforcement agencies since 9/11, and many changes have taken place in order to combat terrorism. Although federal government agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and others are responsible for securing the homeland, state and local agencies play a major role as well. Some of the most notable changes in the wake of 9/11 include:

- intelligence,
- increased collaboration among agencies,
- community policing, and
- training.

Intelligence-led policing is essential to the anti-terrorism efforts within the criminal justice network. According to Schmalleger (2016), intelligence-led policing—also referred to as intelligence-driven policing—directly uses criminal intelligence to guide policing. Criminal intelligence includes information from sources such as newspapers, financial records, law enforcement operations, surveillance, and other means. This type of intelligence is used by law enforcement and is intended to offer critical information into terrorism-related threats and other criminal enterprises. As you can imagine, with the current threat of international and domestic terrorism, local and state law enforcement agencies are among the leaders fostering these efforts.

Intelligence can be worthless unless it is shared with others in the criminal justice and homeland security networks. We realized this after 9/11 when there were several investigations and leads underway within the FBI, CIA, and others regarding Al Qaeda and its terror plot. Post 9/11, there are now interagency cooperation and intelligence sharing initiatives to include:
• dramatic increase in the Joint Terrorism Task Forces,
• advent of the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan,
• regional Intelligence Centers known as Fusion Centers, and
• police intelligence units.

The Joint Terrorism Task Force is comprised of law enforcement officers from all levels of government, and they are charged with the investigation and prevention of terrorism. The FBI has also created Regional Terrorism Task Forces and directs that such task forces provide necessary mechanisms and structure to focus counterterrorism resources toward more localized problems within the U.S. (Schmalleger, 2016).

Community policing is also critical as it relates to the role homeland security plays within the criminal justice system. Homeland security via community policing is essential to public safety not only on the local level, but also nationwide.

Community policing approaches have been adapted to address terrorism and homeland security, in addition to more common crimes such as gangs or drugs. These same community policing efforts that have aided our criminal justice system in reducing such general crimes and social disorder are now being used to address terrorism and homegrown violent extremism. One now sees the prominence of:

• partnerships among law enforcement and the community,
• increased interaction with residents and community leaders,
• increased information sharing, and
• investigation into reports of unusual or suspicious behavior.

These are all elements that are also directed toward anti-terrorism and countering violent extremism. Such domestic terror plots are able to be stopped before going operational because of these efforts where criminal justice professionals can use the community to help identify, prevent and aid in eliminating radical ideologies or behavior prior to it turning to violence.

Homeland security in post-9/11 America also influences the way criminal justice professionals are now trained. All areas of the criminal justice system—to include the courts, police, and corrections—now have job duties with some link to homeland security. An evident shift in training has taken place in recent years that prepares those in the criminal justice professional for terrorism related events. Such training is related to

• response to a terrorist attack,
• situational awareness training,
• active shooter training,
• understanding the terrorist and radicalization process, and
• legal aspects related to terrorism-related criminal cases.

It is evident that every aspect of the American criminal justice system now has a link to homeland security in some way. It is commonplace to train law enforcement officers on terrorist tactics and response and correctional officers on active shooter training, and to offer courses in understanding the mind of the terrorist in an effort to help understand the threat.

In this post-9/11 world, the criminal justice system is faced with many challenges. The police must not only enforce laws and fight crime while maintaining order in a fair and just manner, but they must also be prepared for a terror attack by an international group or a lone-wolf extremist. The courts must find that delicate balance between carrying out a fair criminal justice process and ensuring those suspected or convicted of homeland security and terrorism related acts are dealt with appropriately without the degradation of civil rights. Also, the correctional system is playing a role as it relates to homeland security as they are charged with ensuring the American public is safe from harm by those convicted of such heinous acts.

Due to 9/11, the prominence of terrorism has changed the criminal justice system forever. The criminal justice system has experienced an irreversible shift to a counterterrorism paradigm to deal with the reality that terrorism and securing the homeland are the top priority in this new global climate.
Reference


**Learning Activities (Non-Graded)**

Complete question 4 at the end of chapter 6.

Non-graded Learning Activities are provided to aid students in their course of study. You do not have to submit them. If you have questions, contact your instructor for further guidance and information.