

## Self Check Answers Chapter 4

### 4.1 Self Check

1. What is the police role?  
The police role encompasses many various duties. For example, it includes assisting motorists and community policing as well as pursuing and arresting suspects.
2. Why is it important for an officer to have a clear understanding of the police role?  
It is important so that officers do not perform police activities incorrectly or with the wrong understanding of their rights and responsibilities. Since police are authorized to use force, including deadly force in certain circumstances, the incorrect application of the police role can potentially have deadly consequences. As mentioned in the FYI on page 124, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals suggested that officers be promoted based on their understanding of the police role and their performance of those duties.

### 4.2 Self Check

1. Name the different functional roles of police.  
Police and police researchers agree that the police role includes these functions:
  - Crime prevention
  - Order maintenance
  - Law enforcement
  - Criminal apprehension
  - Public service
  - Traffic control
2. What are the factors for and against police playing a greater public service role?  
When police perform social services, they help improve the community's quality of life, which helps reduce crime and at the same time improves the public's sense of security. It also provides them with opportunities to create helpful and positive police-community interactions. On the other hand, when too much time is spent on social services, other police duties may be neglected, or police staff may be stretched too thin to provide any services adequately.

### 4.3 Self Check

1. What is the legal basis for much of what police do?  
The legal basis is the criminal codes for the officer's jurisdiction, as well as procedural laws that govern how police legally perform certain functions such as arrest, search, and seizure.
2. What factors require police to perform functions other than law enforcement?  
The main factor is round-the-clock availability of police. Because police are available when other government agencies are not, they are often asked to perform many social services functions that would be handled by others during regular business hours.

### 4.4 Self Check

1. What are the four factors that shape the police role?  
The four factors that shape the police officer's role are
  1. Role expectations
  2. Role acquisition
  3. Organizational goals
  4. Multiple-role phenomenon
2. What are the differences between role conflict and role strain?  
Role conflict occurs when an officer encounters two sets of expectations that are inconsistent with each other. Role strain is experienced in situations where an officer's role is limited by what he or she is authorized to do. One of the key differences between the two is that role conflict can be resolved and role strain cannot.

#### 4.5 Self Check

1. Describe the three police types defined by James Q. Wilson.

The three police types are

1. The watchman style, which emphasizes order maintenance
  2. The legalistic style, which emphasizes law enforcement
  3. The service style, which emphasizes problem solving
2. What are the four categories of police officers identified by John Broderick?  
These four categories are
    1. Enforcers
    2. Idealists
    3. Optimists
    4. Realists

#### 4.6 Self Check

1. What is the general goal of community policing?

The general goal is a higher quality of life in the community. This is achieved through several means, including but not limited to: improving police-community relations, encouraging the public to help in crime solving, and using informal problem-solving approaches to deal with minor crime and nuisance issues.

2. Describe the philosophy behind holistic policing.

Holistic policing is community policing taken to its logical conclusion: it is policing that focuses on providing a wider and more thorough array of social services to defeat the social problems that cause crime.