

About the Police Executive Research Forum

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), founded in 1977, exists to improve the delivery of police services and the effectiveness of crime control. We are an independent, private, non-profit 501 (c) (3) membership organization dedicated to exercising strong national leadership and public debate on police and criminal justice issues. We perform police research and policy development and provide vital management and leadership service to law enforcement agencies. Because of our long-standing progressive leadership in policing issues, PERF is the nation's foremost provider of police management services and technical assistance.

PERF projects have covered a wide range of police and criminal justice topics. This experience has not only demonstrated PERF's competence in successfully conducting in-depth research and analytical studies but also has attested to PERF's capability to report meaningful findings to the law enforcement community. PERF's research and operational analysis projects have covered subjects including:

- community policing;
- response time analysis;
- differential police response strategies;
- police resource allocation;
- police handling of mentally disabled people;
- criminal investigations;
- police response to spouse and elder abuse;
- violent crime in public schools;
- police response to homeless people;
- policing repeat offenders;
- directed patrol;
- policing narcotics wholesalers;
- police information systems;
- strategic management of police agencies; and,
- police performance measurement.

PERF took the lead in surfacing the issue of racial profiling in law enforcement. We sponsored open and forthright debate about the issue, helped research its extent in several jurisdictions and developed policy and practice guidelines to prevent racial profiling and biased policing.

We have been in the forefront of debate and research on law enforcement use of conducted energy devices (Tasers™). We have surveyed law enforcement agencies about their use, examine data about their impact, and developed guidelines for their use.

Most recently PERF has taken the lead in bringing to national awareness significant increases in violent crime in many localities. On August 30, 2006 PERF convened the "National Violent Crime Summit", with representatives from more than 50 jurisdictions comprised of 170 mayors, police chiefs and public officials. The results of the summit have been chronicled in PERF's October 2006 publication "A Gathering Storm – Violent Crime in America" which has received widespread attention by local, state and national policy makers and the media

PERF'S founding principles include promoting the improvement of police service by upgrading and continuing to professionalize police executive management; fostering research and growth of knowledge of police science and administration; and supporting the continuing development and implementation of standards to improve police performance. PERF has a 30 year history of measuring all aspects of police agency performance, striving to find the best policing practices and then to disseminate that knowledge to police agencies in the United States and around the world.

One of the Police Executive Research Forum's primary purposes is to provide vital management and leadership services to police agencies. PERF uniquely offers management services that are interrelated with the best research knowledge about policing. As our research discovers, confirms, and documents the best policing practices, our management services staff integrates them in our organizational reviews. Conversely, as we discover field issues and practices that concern police agencies and their citizens, this information helps to shape PERF's research agenda.

PERF's Management Services Division offers a full range of management services to member and non-member police organizations of all sizes, including:

- Comprehensive management surveys, performance audits, and organizational studies;
- Resource allocation studies, workload assessments, and beat planning;
- Productivity analysis and improvement recommendations;
- On-site assistance in implementing recommendations;
- Education and training development, delivery, and review;
- Technology and automation needs assessments, RFP development, and assistance with vendor selection;
- Organizational climate review and organizational development planning;
- Human resource management reviews;
- Core process identification and process mapping; and,
- Strategic planning assistance.

PERF's management services staff has conducted scores of comprehensive management studies of law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Our clients have included police chiefs and sheriffs, city and county executives, and elected officials. We are noted for conducting independent examinations that focus on such topics as law enforcement leadership styles, effective organizational structures, best practice operations and tactics and staffing assessments. Our studies relate findings to individual agency missions, professional values, and the expectations of the public.

Our study of the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office is an example of our studies, conducted independently and without preconceived ideas of any "right" answers. We used industry best practice tools to assess the staffing needs of the agency and came to our conclusions based on our best professional judgment.