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PUBLIC SECURITY. POLICING TACTICS IN THE FACE OF NEW THREATS

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ABSTRACT:

THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE EVOLUTION OF THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOW LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE ADAPTING THEIR TACTICS TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES. IN LIGHT OF SOCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND GEOPOLITICAL CHANGES, THE RESEARCH ADDRESSES INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES AND ADAPTATIONS NEEDED IN ADDRESSING NEW FORMS OF CRIME AND EMERGING RISKS. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CYBER THREATS, CHANGING CRIME DYNAMICS, AND THE NEEDS FOR ROBUST PUBLIC SAFETY PROVIDES A HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE ON HOW LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES CAN OPTIMIZE RESOURCES AND METHODS TO ENSURE A SAFE AND RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT IN COMMUNITIES. BY SYNTHESIZING THE LATEST RESEARCH AND SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES, THIS ARTICLE CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY IN A CHANGING WORLD.

KEY WORDS: SECURITY, POLICE TACTICS, THREATS, GLOBALISATION, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, CRIME, COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

In an era marked by rapid change and increased complexity, preparing police forces for new threats becomes essential to maintaining public safety.

The rationale for choosing this topic is based on the importance of adapting the security system to the complex challenges of contemporary society. These threats, generated by technological evolution, globalisation and social change, require a critical review of the methods and tactics used by police forces.

By exploring this topic, this article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of how police forces can adapt and respond effectively to new types of public safety crime.

It will also highlight the need for innovation and modernisation of police tactics in light of the significant changes in the environment.

In this research, we will explore key issues such as the adaptation of police structures to evolving cyber threats, terrorism, organised crime and other imminent risks.

We also aim to highlight the innovations needed in training, technology and collaboration between police forces, given the complexity of new challenges. By examining

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this theme in detail, we aim to provide a detailed perspective on the policing strategies and tactics needed to ensure robust public security in the face of current and future threats.

The importance of adapting the security system to the complex challenges of contemporary society

Adapting the security system to the complex challenges of contemporary society is essential to maintain a safe and functioning environment. The importance of this process derives from the diversity and dynamics of the threats we face today.

Rapid changes in technology bring both benefits and risks. Security systems need to be tuned to meet new cyber challenges, surveillance technologies and other innovations that can affect the security of society (technological evolution). [1]

Globalisation has transformed threats into interconnected problems. Combating terrorism, cross-border crime and pandemics requires international cooperation and coordination (global threats). Criminal organisations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and adapting to law enforcement methods. Security systems are bound to evolve to keep pace with these complex networks.

Transformations in society, migration and demographic changes can influence the types of threats a society faces. Security systems need to be sensitive to these changes and adjust strategies accordingly.

Improving the security system must take into account the protection of individual rights and privacy of citizens. A delicate balance between security and respect for civil liberties is crucial. The ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies, such as natural disasters or terrorist attacks, requires a flexible and scenario-ready system.

Continuous training and education of security personnel is vital to adapt to new tactics and to meet changing challenges. By continuously transforming to these challenges, security systems can provide more effective and sustainable protection in the face of the complex risks of contemporary society.

EVOLUTION OF THREATS TO PUBLIC SECURITY

As society has evolved, threats to public security have become more diverse and highly complex, encompassing issues such as terrorism, organised crime, cybercrime and other related phenomena.

Globalisation has facilitated the interconnection of countries, but it has also increased potential risks, with threats that can cross national borders and influence public security worldwide.

1.1 *The main threats* to public security today are *terrorism, organised crime* and *cyber attacks* [2].

The terrorist phenomenon has diversified from traditional terrorist groups to actors in civilised states, increasingly using modern attacks. The use of technology and online radicalisation are notable aspects of the evolution of terrorism.

Organised criminal groups have adopted sophisticated methods, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering and corruption, with a direct impact on public security.

Technological development has generated a new type of threat, including cyber attacks, identity theft and vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, with major consequences for public security [3]. Rapid transformations in society and technological advances have created opportunities for crime, including those with cyber expertise.

High migration flows have contributed to an increase in various threats, including cross-border crime and terrorism. Economic and social inequalities fuel discontent and tensions, contributing to threats to public security [4]. Police and law enforcement are being forced to evolve to meet new threats, investing in training and equipment to counter different types of crime. Transnational threats require effective international cooperation through information sharing and joint actions between states.

Preventive approaches and intervention at the level of radicalisation are crucial tools in preventing violent extremism and terrorism. Keeping pace with technological innovation and developing cyber capabilities will remain priorities in efforts to secure public space. Strengthening collaboration between states, international organisations and the private sector will be key to jointly addressing global threats.

Evolving threats to public safety require flexibility, cooperation and innovation within law enforcement institutions to ensure a safe and stable environment for citizens.

Traditional crimes such as theft, robbery and burglary have undergone adjustments in methodology and planning, adapting to new security and investigative technologies. Organised criminal groups have taken advantage of globalisation to expand their operations, with an increasing focus on drug trafficking, human trafficking and money laundering. The development of technology has led to a dramatic increase in cybercrime, including attacks on personal data, online fraud and institutional cyber security breaches. Terrorists use the online environment for radicalisation and recruitment, influencing individuals to engage in terrorist activities, including lone attacks. Transnational crime has increased in areas such as human and drug trafficking, with extensive networks operating in multiple markets. The increased use of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies have spawned new modes of crime such as cyber theft and digital ransomware [5].

The evolution of technology has brought with it a new form of domestic violence, with assaults and stalking taking place online [6]. Police and law enforcement agencies have adopted advanced technologies, including data analytics and artificial intelligence, to combat new forms of crime. The pandemic has influenced the types of crime, with an increase in online fraud, health scams and exploitation of the pandemic for criminal purposes. Institutions should implement prevention and education programmes to raise awareness of the new threats.

The evolution of threats to public security reflects the adaptation of criminals to technological and social changes, requiring a holistic approach and effective collaboration between institutions and communities to counter emerging threats.

1.2 The impact of globalisation and technology on crime

Globalisation has facilitated the operations of organised criminal groups, allowing them to operate in international markets and take advantage of divergences between national judicial systems. Open borders and increased flows of goods and people have increased cross-border trafficking, including drugs, people smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

The globalisation of financial markets has provided criminals with expanded opportunities for money laundering, with complex international transfers and the use of offshore banking systems. Technological advances have led to a significant increase in cybercrime, including cyber attacks, phishing and identity theft, affecting both private entities and public institutions. The use of cryptocurrencies has provided a more anonymous environment for criminal activities, including digital ransomware and illegal payments on the dark web [7].

Advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies have changed the way criminals plan and execute crimes and how law enforcement responds to them.

The use of encrypted messaging applications has increased, allowing criminals to communicate covertly and plan illegal activities without being easily detected.

Transnational crime and cybercrime have increased the complexity of investigations, requiring international collaboration and advanced technical expertise. Globalisation and technology have exposed society to new vulnerabilities, including cyber threats to critical infrastructure and cross-border trafficking of illicit substances.

Developments in crime require continuous adaptation of legislation to keep pace with new challenges, including a clear definition of cybercrime and related sanctions.

To counter transnational threats, international cooperation between states, organisations and law enforcement institutions becomes crucial.

The impact of globalisation and technology on crime poses a complex challenge to public security, requiring innovative approaches and international coordination to counter imminent threats.

THE NEED TO CHANGE POLICE TACTICS IN THE FACE OF NEW THREATS TO PUBLIC SECURITY

In an evolving context of threats to public security, police face complex challenges and adapting tactics is imperative to respond effectively to new realities. By changing police tactics, emerging threats can be better identified and countered.

New forms of crime, including cybercrime and transnational terrorism, are characterised by complexity and diversity. Changing tactics are essential to respond to these diverse threats, which are not limited to a traditional framework. Cybercrime and the use of technology for illicit purposes require continuous adaptability to technological change. Law enforcement tactics must keep pace with technological developments to effectively prevent and investigate such crimes. New investigative methods, such as big data analysis and the use of artificial intelligence, require a more sophisticated approach. Changing tactics include adopting advanced forensic techniques to bring criminals to justice.

The terrorist threat is constantly evolving and police tactics must focus on preventing and countering it through international cooperation and early intervention strategies. In an effort to build trust and keep communities safe, changing tactics involve closer collaboration between police and local communities. Open communication and partnerships with residents become a priority [8].

Policing tactics need to extend beyond strictly legal problem-solving and address the social causes of crime, such as poverty, marginalisation and systemic dysfunction. Changing tactics requires significant investment in education and continuous training for police forces. Staff must be trained to understand and manage new types of threats.

The need for change in policing tactics reflects the complex dynamics of threats to public safety. Through adaptation and innovation, police can respond more effectively to contemporary challenges and provide a safe and secure environment for the communities they serve.

2.1 Assessing traditional tactics in the context of new public security threats

A careful evaluation of the old tactics used by police forces becomes essential in the face of significant changes in the public security threat landscape. New realities require a reassessment of the effectiveness of traditional methods, given the complexity and evolution of threats. Here are some relevant issues:

Traditional tactics, such as physical surveillance and interception of communications, may become ineffective in the face of organised crime networks using advanced technologies and encrypted communications. Updated approaches are needed to counter these threats. Changes in threat types, such as terrorist attacks, call for a review of response tactics. Training and dedicated resources to manage crisis situations must take into account the unpredictable nature of these events.

Traditional investigative methods can struggle in the face of cybercrime and other advanced forms of crime. The use of modern technology and cyber specialists is needed for an effective approach.

In the context of globalisation and cross-border threats, traditional stand-alone tactics may be limited. Closer collaboration between law enforcement institutions, nationally and internationally, becomes essential.

In the face of changing dynamics of protests and social movements, traditional tactics may be outdated. It is important to develop balanced approaches that respect people's civil rights and maintain public order. Traditional tactics may not be sufficient to tackle the social causes of crime, such as poverty and discrimination. A holistic approach and collaboration with social institutions becomes necessary.

In concrete terms, the assessment of traditional tactics in the context of new threats to public security shows the need for transformation. The integration of advanced technology, the development of specialised human resources and adaptability to contemporary challenges are crucial for maintaining the effectiveness of police forces in providing public security.

Traditional tactics are often outdated by modern technologies used by criminals and are not adapted quickly enough to cybercrime, making it difficult to track and catch criminals involved in online activities. Traditional surveillance and interception systems can be vulnerable to sophisticated encryption and detection avoidance methods.

In the context of rapidly changing crime patterns, traditional tactics may not fit effectively with new forms of crime, such as information technology or economic crime [9].

Traditional approaches may face difficulties in dealing with unpredictable crises, such as terrorist attacks, where specialised intervention tactics and adequate resources are crucial. Traditional tactics may not provide sufficient tools to effectively manage protests and street demonstrations, and have difficulty maintaining a balance between law enforcement and respect for civil rights.

Adapting to new technologies and using them in policing tactics is essential to maintain an edge over criminals. The use of data analytics, artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies can improve effectiveness.

Police tactics need to be flexible and adaptable, able to cope with rapidly changing crime patterns. This requires continuous updating of approaches and methods of intervention.

Investment in continuous training of staff to adapt to imminent threats is crucial. Specialists in areas such as cyber and organised crime need to be an integral part of police forces.

Adapting police tactics must also include addressing the social causes of crime. Working with social institutions and local communities can help prevent crime. Closer cooperation between national and international police forces is essential to tackle cross-border threats. Sharing information and resources can strengthen the global approach [10].

Adapting and innovating police tactics is imperative to respond to the complex and dynamic challenges of today's society. These changes are crucial to maintaining the effectiveness and relevance of police forces in providing public safety.

2.2 The need for innovation and modernisation of police tactics is essential in the context of significant changes in the environment

Rapid advances in technology, such as artificial intelligence, data analytics and surveillance technologies, provide new and more effective tools for preventing and combating crime. Adapting to these modern technologies is essential for the operational effectiveness of police forces (technological evolution).

In an environment where cybercrime is becoming increasingly sophisticated, police need to update their tactics to investigate and counter these threats. Cyber security expertise and collaboration with cyber specialists is becoming crucial.

Cross-border threats such as international terrorism and global drug trafficking require an international approach and cooperation between different police forces. Changing tactics to align with these challenges is imperative.

In the light of recent events, such as large-scale protest movements, police forces need to develop adaptable tactics to manage situations of civil disorder and maintain the balance between law enforcement and respect for civil rights (protest management).

With increasing security threats from radicalisation and extremism, the police must have specialised tactics to prevent these phenomena and intervene effectively when they occur.

Modernization of police tactics should also include a responsible approach to surveillance techniques and other investigative methods to protect civil rights and citizens' privacy [11].

An innovative approach also involves developing tactics that promote collaboration and trust among communities. Positive interaction between police and citizens can significantly contribute to crime prevention.

By adopting innovative and modern tactics, police forces respond more effectively and responsibly to significant environmental challenges, while ensuring safety and respect for citizens' rights.

CASE STUDIES DEVELOPED AS FICTITIOUS SCENARIOS

3.1 Case Study: Emerging threats in the technological age

Background: In recent years, technology has become a significant factor in the evolution of threats to public security. This case study explores how an emerging threat, namely cybercrime, has affected public safety in a metropolitan city.

Description of the Situation: City X, with an advanced urban infrastructure and digitised economy, has faced an alarming increase in cybercrime over the past two years. Organised criminal groups have taken advantage of citizens' and institutions' increasing reliance on technology, using sophisticated methods to gain illegal financial advantage.

Threat characteristics:

- 1. Ransomware:** frequent ransomware attacks have affected major institutions, including hospitals, financial institutions and public services, paralyzing operations and demanding significant amounts of money.
- 2. Online banking fraud:** using phishing and malware techniques, criminals have been able to access online bank accounts, causing significant financial losses to citizens and businesses.
- 3. Phishing attacks:** citizens have been victims of phishing attacks where criminals, under the guise of legitimate organisations, have obtained sensitive information, including personal identification data.

Impact on public security:

1. **Disruption of important state institutions:** attacks on critical infrastructure have led to temporary disruption of health, financial and other essential public services.
2. **Declining public confidence:** the rise of cybercrime has affected citizens' confidence in the ability of authorities to ensure security and protection of personal data.
3. **The need for additional resources:** police structures have been overstretched and require additional resources to cope with the complexity of investigations and to prevent further attacks.

Measures taken:

1. **Stepping up cyber education:** awareness-raising campaigns were launched to inform citizens and businesses about ways to protect themselves against cyber crime.
2. **Enhanced cooperation with the private sector:** collaboration between police and technology companies has been strengthened to develop effective security measures.
3. **Investment in cybercrime:** police structures have been given financial and human resources to develop advanced capabilities to prevent and investigate cybercrime.

Conclusions: The case study highlights the need to adapt to imminent threats, such as cybercrime, and the importance of an integrated approach involving education, collaboration and significant investment in cyber security. It is essential to build resources and capacity to protect public security in the technological age.

3.2 Case Study: Successful implementation of new tactics in the fight against urban crime

Background: In a metropolitan city with a significant increase in crime rates, police forces have identified an urgent need to tackle complex and violent crime such as armed robbery, drug trafficking and gang violence. Faced with the specific challenges of a dense urban environment, authorities decided to implement new tactics to ensure community safety.

Objectives:

1. **Reduce violent crime:** decrease violent crime and gang violence.
2. **Improve case resolution:** increase the rate of case resolution, including complex cases.
3. **Building community confidence:** improving the relationship between the police and the community through proactive and transparent approaches.

New tactics implemented:

1. **Predictive analytics:** use of advanced technologies for predictive analysis of crime patterns, identifying high-risk areas and possible future incidents.
2. **Community Collaboration:** increasing community interaction and collaboration programs through regular meetings, social events and community projects.
3. **Rapid Response Teams:** Establish specialised teams for rapid response in emergency situations and for undercover operations.
4. **Innovation in surveillance technologies:** implementation of modern video surveillance systems with facial recognition and behavioural analysis capabilities for continuous monitoring of critical areas.

5. **Specialised training:** continuous training of staff in specific approaches to urban crime, including crisis management and negotiation techniques.

Outcomes:

1. **Significant Decrease in Violent Crime:** Within 12 months, there has been a significant reduction in violent crime, with a clear concentration in areas identified through predictive analysis.
2. **Improved clearance rate:** Thanks to specialised teams and close collaboration with the community, the clearance rate has increased, strengthening public confidence in police action.
3. **Stabilising and strengthening the relationship with the community:** through collaboration and transparency programmes, the relationship between the police and the community has improved significantly, with the community feeling more involved in the process of ensuring safety.

Conclusions: The successful implementation of new tactics in urban crime fighting has demonstrated the effectiveness of adapting to the specific challenges of an urban environment. Predictive analytics, community collaboration and innovative technologies have become essential pillars for maintaining security and building trust in the police institution. This approach can serve as a model for other jurisdictions facing similar challenges in managing urban crime.

PERSPECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the dynamic evolution of public security threats, the ability to anticipate and continuously adapt becomes crucial for law enforcement institutions. In this context, this chapter examines the importance of anticipating future threats and the need for constant adaptation in addressing them.

By monitoring and analysing criminal trends, specialised structures can identify emerging patterns and anticipate the evolution of criminal behaviour by using advanced technologies to develop response capabilities, which provide real-time information and predictions on potential threats. Effective information sharing between law enforcement agencies, intelligence services and other relevant entities strengthens efforts to anticipate and counter threats [11].

In an era characterised by globalisation and interconnectivity, international collaboration becomes essential for the development and implementation of effective policing tactics in the face of contemporary threats. Within this context, law enforcement agencies join forces internationally to collectively respond to common challenges.

For effective information exchange, law enforcement structures establish effective communication and information exchange channels to prevent and counter cross-border threats [12].

In order to standardize tactics, international collaboration allows the identification and adoption of standardized tactics and protocols that ensure the coherence and effectiveness of actions in crisis situations, as well as the organization of joint training and exercises between national and international institutions that facilitate the exchange of information and the development of the necessary skills in managing complex threats.

National agencies can use the platforms provided by Europol and Interpol to facilitate the exchange of information, the coordination of investigations and the implementation of common tactics. The establishment of international working groups specialized in certain

fields (eg terrorism, cybercrime) ensures the concentration of resources on specific threats and the identification of innovative tactics. Collaboration enables increased operational efficiency by distributing resources and expertise equitably. National institutions benefit from the experience of other countries in dealing with new threats, facilitating rapid adaptation to changes in the security environment.

International collaboration helps avoid fragmented responses to global threats by ensuring a common front against them. Through this type of collaboration, law enforcement institutions can build a common front in the face of contemporary threats, developing effective tactics and strategies to ensure global security.

4.1 Recommendations for long-term public security policies and strategies

Investment in advanced technologies: development and deployment of advanced technologies such as intelligent surveillance systems, big data analytics and facial recognition technologies to improve crime monitoring and prevention capabilities.

Human Resource Development: Investing in the ongoing education and training of law enforcement personnel to meet the ever-changing technological, social and criminal challenges.

Interagency and Community Collaboration: Foster partnerships between law enforcement agencies and communities to build trust, improve communication, and encourage civic engagement in the process of maintaining public safety.

Prevention Focus: Directing efforts towards prevention programs and initiatives, such as educational projects, youth mentoring and support for disadvantaged communities, to reduce the risk factors that can lead to crime.

Implementation of community policing: The adoption of community policing tactics, which involves close collaboration between the police and the community to identify and solve local problems and build a partnership relationship.

Addressing hidden causes: Identifying and addressing the hidden causes of crime, such as poverty, lack of access to education or mental health issues, to reduce the root causes of the problem.

Adapting to cyber threats: developing and implementing effective strategies to counter cyber threats, including protecting critical infrastructure and ensuring the security of sensitive data.

Enhanced international cooperation: strengthening international collaboration to combat cross-border threats, including terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

Promoting innovation in policing: Encouraging and supporting innovation in policing technology, forensics and operational tactics to respond to evolving crime.

Transparency and accountability: increase transparency and accountability by implementing effective measures to monitor and report police activities to maintain public trust.

CONCLUSION

In the light of the thorough analysis of the evolution of threats to public security, as well as the recommendations for long-term policies and strategies, relevant conclusions can be drawn.

Public security is an ever-evolving field, and traditional approaches must be constantly adapted to deal with new, emerging threats. Cooperation between law enforcement structures, communities and national and international states is essential to build a secure environment and to effectively respond to today's challenges.

The approach focused on prevention and collaboration with communities is a fundamental pillar in maintaining public security and building a resilient society. Constant use and adaptation to advanced technologies, as well as effective management of cyber threats, are imperative in a modern context.

Increasing transparency and assuming responsibility in police actions are paramount to maintaining public trust and promoting a climate of safety.

The importance of international collaboration is clear and global action must be coordinated to counter cross-border threats.

Innovation and flexibility in police tactics are essential to respond quickly and efficiently to changes in the security environment. Continuous innovation, together with education and community awareness, helps create a strong partnership between the police force and civil society. The development of police tactics takes place in an ethical and efficient framework, ensuring a balance between security and individual rights.

As a general conclusion, public security remains an ongoing challenge and its success depends on adapting to social, technological and criminal changes. The implementation of effective policies and strategies, along with the continued engagement of communities and law enforcement agencies, is key to building a safe and resilient environment.

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