

Poli Exam Study Guide

Module 6:

Drug trafficking methods:

There are four main drug trafficking methods

Drug Mules - Drug mules often swallow the drugs in a latex bag, carrying the drugs in the stomach with the intent of retrieving them, using laxatives, once the destination is reached. However this method is dangerous if the capsule breaks during transit.

Shoes, Clothing, Furniture etc. - Drug traffickers will try and smuggle their product in almost anything they can get their hands on, from shoes to laptop computers to bras and furniture.

Animals - Animals have been used like drug mules, with the intent to hide the drugs within the body of the animal and retrieve it at the destination point. From beetles to puppies to snakes, anything that is available.

Children - In recent years the practice of children as drug traffickers has become a growing phenomenon.

Narco-Terrorism:

Narco-terrorism refers to the use of drug trafficking to advance the objectives of certain governments and terrorist organizations. The most notorious narco-terrorist is Pablo Escobar, the leader of the Medellin cartel, who used violence and terrorist acts in order to gain money, power, respect, and even went so far as to run for congress at the height of his operation, campaigning for a change to foreign policy, in hopes to raise his profits from his illegal drug activities going on in the US. Colombia is a classic example of a state run by narco-terrorists, the big 5 are the FARC, the ELN, the M-19, the EPL, & the AUC. A perfect example of the dangers of narco-terrorism is Ingrid Betancourt, who was captured by the FARC during the presidential election due to her outspoken attitude toward the FARC, they in turn offered to free her only if rebels were freed, a method that a drug running group would never have thought about before the term narco-terrorism was coined. Unfortunately narco-terrorism is present in the middle east as well, in Afghanistan, with the Taliban, Hezbollah and Hamas, and it was only after the September 11 attacks that nations decided to begin accepting narco-terrorism as a real threat and start fighting against it.

Canadian Drug Markets:

Module 7:

Agencies Fighting Organized Crime:

There are national agencies, provincial agencies, and international agencies put in place to fight organized crime. Some of these agencies are the RCMP, which has the Organized Crime Branch, Financial Crime Program, Criminal Intelligence Program, Proceeds of Crime, and many more, each with their own mission in mind. With all of these divisions, the RCMP is a leading force against organized crime in Canada. There is also the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canada Customs & Revenue Agency, again all with their own responsibilities. Working

together with the provincial organizations such as the Surete du Quebec, Ontario Provincial Police, Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau, Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia, and the municipal police departments like the Montreal Police, and joint forces across Canada like the Bike Enforcement Unit, Provincial Organized Crime Enforcement Team, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Units, Integrated Counterfeit Enforcement Teams, Integrated Border Enforcement Team. All of these organizations were created with one goal, to stop organized crime from growing and spreading and gaining anymore power, and while it may seem like they are not doing a great job, they are working very hard, with some good results. On an International level there is Interpol, the police responsible for keeping the borders of each nation clean and drug free, as well as organized crime out when it is not wanted.

Need for Information Sharing:

The need for information sharing is important because there is too much information gathered by police departments for them to not overlook some facts. By sharing information with other police departments, then pieces of the puzzle that are missing might be found and might be able to create full proofed cases against members of organized criminal groups. This is a major lack in the police system, where no police department is sharing their information, causing many to criticize the work being done. With information sharing, then one can be sure that all the information has been checked out and it all comes back clean and useful.

Obstacles to Information Sharing:

Some obstacles that come in the way of information sharing are things such as:

- Trust** - Trust must be obtained by numerous level of law enforcement in order for everything to be secure and useful. Trust must be foolproof between an officer and informant, a chief or captain and his officer, from department to department, and from organization to organization, something that is not easy to accomplish.
- Legal Issues** - When law enforcement wishes to use certain information, they must disclose to the source what their intentions are, therefore creating a legal technicality that can allow a source to say that no consent was given, creating cross border problems.
- Investigative Work Methods** - Law enforcement agencies are very secret, it is within their culture, mainly due to lack of trust mentioned above, but because of this, investigators are used to protecting their source and view information as a means to power or a jump on other departments, there is also a lack of understanding on the technology put in place in order to gain information, sometimes a technology is not transferable between departments.
- Working Conditions** - Unfortunately because of the magnitude of information, there is not enough time to share it with other departments, and not enough people. The working conditions for law enforcement agencies is very hard, and this needs to change first.

Successful Joint Squad Operations:

Operation Printemps was a successful operation conducted by more than 1000 police officers in which they raided the homes and businesses of several Hells Angels gang members. By targeting the ring leaders, the police agencies were able to arrest over

120 Hells Angels members. The reason it was such a big operation was because it cost over 20 million dollars and involved the use of informants, undercover investigators, wiretaps, and other electronic surveillance. In the end, law enforcement was successful in charging 10 of the accused, leaving only 3 for trial.

Module 8:

Definition of Money Laundering:

There is no universal definition of money laundering. It is basically the process of criminal proceeds, generated from criminal acts such as gambling, drug trafficking, racketeering, to disguise their illegal origins. Funneling through different channels, using different methods, the goal is to switch the illegal funds into legal funds. There are three main goals, to convert the illegal funds, to conceal the illegal ownership of the funds, and to create a legitimate explanation for the funds.

Three Stages in the Money Laundering:

The three stages of money laundering are:

Placement - Placing the money in different accounts or facilities, whether it be offshore or not. Criminals use financial institutions and non financial institutions, either way the money is placed into the legal market.

Layering - After placing the funds, the launderer will then distance the funds from the original source through different methods, and over a period of time. The goal here is to disguise the funds so law enforcement has trouble finding the source of the funds.

Integration - The last stage is the integration of the funds into the legitimate economy, through real estate, luxury goods, or business ventures.

Money Laundering Techniques:

Some of the more popular techniques of money laundering are through:

Nominees - Nominees is the process that money launderers use that entails obscuring the direct connection of criminals to the money by nominating family members, friends, business partners, or any other person as legal holder of the asset.

Structuring - This technique refers to the process whereby large cash deposits and other transactions are broken down into smaller accounts to avoid suspicion associated with large amounts of money.

Insurance Industry - The insurance industry provides criminals with the opportunity to take out large life insurance policies with large cash surrender benefits. They will pay the premiums with cash and then cash it in and request that payment be made.

Transportation Vehicles - Transportation vehicles provide a useful method for smuggling cash. The main advantage of smuggling cash across illegal borders is that there is no paper trail, however it is very risky.

Shell Corporations - Shell corporations can be defined as businesses without commercial purposes, basically created to conceal the true beneficial ownership of business accounts and assets owned by criminal organizations. They are usually set up offshore.

Impact of Money Laundering:

Money laundering has devastating economic, social, and security consequences. It provides fuel for drug dealers, terrorists, illegal arms dealers, corrupt public officials and all those looking to increase their criminal organizations. All in all money laundering does not offer any advantages, in the long run it can even be dangerous for criminals.

Module 9:

Canadian Legislation:

The Canadian government has begun to take some action against money laundering. An example of this is the Proceeds of Crime Act (Bill C-61). It is basically a bill that allows the government and courts to battle against criminal acts because it created the offense of laundering the proceeds of crime. Drug offenses, and enterprise crime offenses are all documented in the act, making it easier for law enforcement agencies to fight organized crime. There are some weaknesses however, the bill is too territorial. It only enforces national money laundering and not international, allowing criminals to continue to launder money overseas. There is also Bill C-9 which details that any transaction over \$10000 must have detailed records of the transaction. Anybody who doesn't comply faces a penalty of 6 months in prison and a \$50000 fine. There is also Bill C-25 and C-22, which give even more power to the government to fight criminal organizations and money laundering.

Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act:

This act was created to criminalize terrorist financing as well as continue the record keeping and customer identification requirements in order to prevent any fraud from occurring. The PCMLTFA was introduced to facilitate the investigation or prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing. To respond to the threat posed by criminal organizations by providing law enforcement officials with the information they need to investigate and prosecute money laundering or terrorist financing offenses, and to ensure Canada keeps its promise in fighting against transnational crime. There are also crimes if none of these criteria are followed, ensuring that people do not try and beat the system.

FINTRAC:

FINTRAC was created to facilitate the detection, prevention, and deterrence of money laundering, terrorist activity financing and other threats to the security of Canada. It fulfills its mandates through gathering and analyzing information on suspect financial activities. Ensuring those subject to the PCMLTFA comply with reporting, record keeping and other obligations. FINTRAC has the ability to disclose information to law enforcement in order to better ensure that criminal activities are not taking place, helping law enforcement fight crime ultimately.

Module 10:

Theories Behind Street Gangs:

There are some major theories about street gangs, but some of them are:

Strain Theory - This theory argues that gang involvement is caused by unfulfilled economic aspirations. Youth who realize that society is unwilling or unable to provide them with equal access to the means

needed to achieve a higher economic success will therefore turn to illegal activity to obtain this.

Labeling Theory - This theory contends that gang members are not considered deviant until they are labeled as such. Once labeled by society, they will then go on to fulfill society's stereotype of them.

Subculture Theory - Similar to Strain Theory, it involves uneven opportunities, it states that gang members do not strive to attain middle or upper class goals, instead criminals strive to create their own socially defined goals.

Differential Association Theory - Based on the idea that criminal activities and attitudes are in large part the result of the norms and beliefs of one's associates and that most criminal skills will be learned through one's peers.

Why Do Youths Join Gangs:

The main reason for youths joining gangs seems to be due to social inequality and disadvantages with aboriginal youth as highest risk. Gangs target youths who come from troubled families or have economic problems, and show them a life in which, though illegal, can provide a financial and social status that is higher and more powerful than what the youth may think they can achieve.

Correctional Strategies:

Bus Therapy - This strategy involves moving an inmate from one prison to another as a form of punishment. Some times it has proven to break up prison groups.

Set-Off Policy - A very ineffective strategy that attempts to divide units with equal numbers of gang members in order to prevent dominance.

Gang Recognition/Legitimacy - This method involves prison authorities meeting with gang leaders in order to prevent gang clashes or fights, however this only further legitimizes gangs.

Separate Housing/Programming - This dual approach includes providing housing in locales away from prisons and providing vocational and community functioning skill training and psychological treatment.

Rehabilitation & Reintegration Practices:

There are multiple rehabilitation and reintegration practices in place set up by governments. Some are school based programs, community intervention programs, prevention programs, and other programs. The goal is to prevent youth and unfortunate characters from joining gangs before they become attracted to the concept that gangs can provide.

Street Gangs through the Media:

Street Gangs have been popularized by the media through film, theatre, television, and even music. The problem comes down to glamorizing gangs and the gang lifestyle, polluted with images of money, women, and power, kids are only bound to be drawn to the lifestyle eventually. Video games are providing kids with the introduction to the lifestyle from the safety of their own homes through games like Grand Theft Auto and rap. If society can stop being so interested in the gang lifestyle than maybe there is a chance that we can prevent youth at the source.

Module 11:

Overview of Motorcycle Gangs:

There are three main motorcycle gangs in Canada. The Hells Angels, the Bandidos, and the Outlaws. The Outlaws are based in Ontario, originating from members of Satan's Choice, they suffered a dire loss to the Hells Angels in Montreal, after being threatened to not wear any colors in public for fear of being shot. There are still members in Montreal, however they keep a very low profile, and there is no headquarters located in Quebec. The Hells Angels originated in California and are considered the largest biker gang in Canada. Money-making is established as the groups primary role thanks to Barger, the president of the Hells Angels. The Bandidos are the second most powerful biker gang, founded in Texas, they feared the absorption of the Rock Machine's Ontario chapter for fear of sparking another war with the Hells Angels. The Toronto chapter was practically eliminated when 8 people were found dead in a farmer's field near Sheddon.

Hells Angels:

The Hells Angels came to Canada in 1977, with an initial chapter in Montreal and Laval. Their beginning years were spent opening different factions in Vancouver, Halifax, and other places. Because of some problematic murders that the Montreal & Sherbrooke chapters committed against the Laval faction, they ended up absorbing them and making it a bigger chapter. The structure of the group is very strong based on chapters, regionally and nationally. The groups are maintained through a set of rules that are followed to the dime. Chapters are created by a vote, each with a president, VP, sergeant-at-arms, secretary, and treasurer. Chapters have a probation period of one year, and they make sure to never share any profits with any other chapters. The basic rules are close to that of any gang or criminal organization, they must be ready to put their family aside and help a fellow member in need of help, never make statements to police, and also must not use cocaine. The Hells Angels make their money through retail, mostly on their website and through stores located on Route 81, and also through blackmail.

Abadinsky's Research:

Abadinsky conducted research on criminal organizations and found 8 characteristics among them, which can be applied to more than one type of group. He basically mentioned that groups were:

Non-Ideological - Any involvement is for self-interest, its created to advance its own economic interest rather than to achieve higher ideals

Hierarchical - Groups require a hierarchy of at least three permanent positions, it can be either bureaucratic or less formal

Limited/Exclusive Membership - Groups exclude people who pose a threat to security, and excludes those who tarnish the image or daily activities of the group

Self-perpetuation - A groups success depends on the charisma and ability of a single person, the test is once the group survives once the person is gone.

Willingness to use Violence & Bribery - Gangs must not think about the ethical uses of violence or bribery, just the practical uses.

Division of Labor - Individuals assume specialized activities within the organization, and use their skills to advance the organization

Monopolistic - The organization attempts to dominate the territory, an industry or both, and tries to reduce competition in order to increase profits

Governed by Rules & Regulations - Rules such as non-cooperation with law enforcement

Module 12:

Biker War:

The biker war started in Montreal in 1994, in relation to control over some of the drug sectors. Evidence was gathered originally using electronic interception of private telephone calls, interrogations, and informants that mentioned that Mom Boucher decided to take over Gazzeta's turf. The common strategy used was to send in undercover strippers, or people who could gain access to the bar and gather information about who the drug dealers were, and who the businesspeople were who ran the establishments.

Operation Springtime 2001:

Operation Springtime 2001 was an operation that involved 2000 police officers from 26 different police agencies, working from 77 different cities that targeted every Hells Angels chapter in Quebec. It marked the end of Project Bobcat, Project Ocean, and Project Rush. Project Bobcat led to the end of the Evil Ones Outaouais, after that there was Project Ocean, which targeted the Nomads drug ring. Project Rush also targeted the Nomads as well as their soldiers, the Montreal Rockers.

Operation SharQC 2009:

This operation dealt a crippling blow to the East chapter of the Hells Angels in Quebec. 1200 police officers executed 177 search warrants and arrested 111 full patch members of the Hells Angels, and 47 of their associates.