

PFI is about law enforcement and...

Futures research · emerging technologies ·
criminal justice system · law enforcement
use of technology · education · leadership
recruiting · retention · police operations ·
public-private interaction · media
forecasts · bioengineering · cyberterror ·
radio communications · ethics · staffing ·
organized crime · arson · artificial
intelligence · new paradigms · internet-
specific crime · dispatch · forensics ·
genetics · social impact of emerging
technologies · investigations ·
nanotechnology · crime mapping &
analysis · robotics · non-lethal weapons
research · transnational crime · handling
biological & chemical material ·
progression planning · long-range
planning · profiling · strategic intelligence ·
virtual reality · computer crime · and
other issues of concern to public safety.

PFI Secretariat
Sam Houston State
University
Criminal Justice Center
P O Box 2296
Huntsville, TX 77341
(936) 294-3081



Professionals willing to break
from the status quo in order
to create possible, probable, and
preferable futures.

www.policefuturists.org

What is PFI?

The Society of Police Futurists International (PFI) is an organization of law enforcement practitioners, educators, researchers, private security specialists, high technology experts and other professionals dedicated to improving criminal and social justice through the professionalization of policing.

What is Futures Research?

Futures Research is the pivotal discipline that constitutes the philosophical underpinnings of PFI. The tools and techniques of this field are applied in order to more accurately anticipate and prepare for the evolution of law enforcement ten, twenty, and even fifty years into the future. Futures research offers both philosophical and methodological tools to analyze, forecast, and plan in ways rarely seen in policing in the past.

Futures Research is an outgrowth of the Systems Approach and Operations Research. Its principal aim is to facilitate long range planning. This is accomplished by forecasting from the past supported by mathematical models, cross-disciplinary treatment of subject matter, systematic use of expert judgment, and systems-analytical approach to problem solving.

Unlike traditional disciplines, Futures Research attempts to deal with social problems in original and novel ways. The three primary goals of Futures Research are to form perceptions of the future (the possible), study likely alternatives (the probable), and make choices to bring about desirable outcomes (the preferable).

A Brief History of PFI

The idea for what today is the Society of Police Futurists International (PFI) dates back to the early 1980s. In 1982 "Futuristics in Law Enforcement," developed and taught by then-FBI Supervisory Special Agent William L. Tafoya, was first offered as an elective graduate course in the National Academy (NA) Program at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia.

Nine years later, a professional meeting sponsored by the FBI was held at the FBI Academy. Thus, PFI is a direct outgrowth of this first "International Symposium on the Future of Law Enforcement." In April 1991, 60 educators joined 250 graduates of the NA Futures course from around the world in that historic 5-day event.

In the concluding days of this meeting, the participants discussed the concept of law enforcement futurists. The delegates voted to begin a professional association dedicated to the future of policing. A steering committee was selected from the delegates to develop a constitution, bylaws, and membership criteria for this new professional organization.

PFI was officially constituted in August 1991 as a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

Goals of PFI

PFI is a voluntary organization whose mission is to foster excellence in policing by promoting and applying visions of the future. In furtherance thereof, PFI strives to:

- Encourage partnerships between law enforcement, the academic community and private industry;
- Develop information transfer concerning police futures research to its members;
- Develop, analyze and interpret long range forecasts;
- Provide and promote education and training in the application of long range forecasting and the use of technology;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for the communication of innovative and proactive policing strategies.

PFI Membership

PFI membership consists of professionals willing to break from the status quo in order to create possible, probable and preferable

futures. PFI endeavors to anticipate and evaluate the need for change in law enforcement. PFI is concerned with policing today and planning for tomorrow.

Criteria for admission to PFI have evolved over the years. Membership is open not only to graduates of the futures course at the FBI academy, but is also now available to other professionals interested in the future of policing.

Membership details are available on our website.

Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to the PFI Newsletter, *Police Futurist*
- Access to the PFI Members Only email discussion group
- Access to members only section on website
- Discounted registration fee to annual World Futures Society (WFS) conference
- Networking with police and other professional futurists from around the world
- Access to extensive database of resources and research
- Access to the PFI Speakers Bureau
- Research by Futures Working Group
- Other benefits vary from year to year (e.g. merchandise and certificates)

For more information about membership, visit our website or contact:

PFI Secretariat
Sam Houston State University
Criminal Justice Center
Huntsville, TX 77341
spfi@shsu.edu
Phone: (936) 294-3081

Applications available online at:

www.policefuturists.org