From one perspective, LEAA can be viewed as a grand experiment. It is designed to challenge conventional wisdom in crime control and criminal justice. It is an effort to learn what is most effective.

Within LEAA, it is the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice that has principal responsibility for determining what works best, what works only in part, and what doesn't work at all. It is an important role.

DONALD E. SANTARELLI
Administrator, LEAA
Institutes current D4-member staff is capable of designing and directing major research efforts.

This year, the Institute will emphasize rigorous evaluation of criminal justice programs. Its priority is to identify those programs, practices and research avenues offering the greatest promise of success. The knowledge gained will be widely disseminated and translated into action through demonstration programs designed to reduce crime and make significant changes in criminal justice operations.

In carrying out its programs, the Institute plans to work more closely than ever before with criminal justice officials and the research community, and to seek their ideas and suggestions regarding potentially fruitful areas of research.

The chart below shows the new internal organization of the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Outside research is administered by the Office of Research Programs.

The newly-erected Advisory Board is composed of distinguished researchers and practitioners in the field of criminal justice.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

In the current year — 1974 — the Institute is launching several new programs in community crime prevention, juvenile delinquency, police, courts, corrections and criminal justice equipment. Key elements of these programs are highlighted in the following descriptions.

Community Crime Prevention

During the past two years, the Institute's crime prevention programs have focused on reducing the opportunities for crimes to occur — with particular emphasis on robbery and burglary, two of the crimes the public most fears.

Research efforts have described the patterns of these crimes, the relationships of victim and offender, developed improved alarms and locks, and enhanced safety through environmental design. Support for these efforts will continue.

In 1974, the Institute is inaugurating new programs to reduce violent crime, to thwart fencing of stolen goods and to meet the needs of crime victims.

Specific projects anticipated in each of these areas are:

- Violent Crime — The Institute will investigate the three crimes which continue to rise even though other serious crimes are declining — rape, homicide and assault. The task is to develop effective prevention and treatment strategies and bolster investigation and prosecution capabilities.

- Crime Victims — Research efforts will analyze the needs and problems of victims of crime. Criminal justice processes for assisting victims will be developed.

- Environmental Design — New concepts of "defensible space," developed under Institute grants and successfully demonstrated in public housing areas, will be further refined. The Institute will sponsor research to develop methods to transfer security in residential, school and commercial areas and on public transportation.

- Fencing — The Institute will support projects to analyze the characteristics of fencing and to develop strategies to impede the redistribution of stolen goods resulting from robbery and burglary. Earlier Institute research indicates that disruption of the fencing process might have a significant impact on reducing robbery and burglary.

Juvenile Delinquency

During the 1960's, the juvenile arrest rate increased seven times faster than the adult arrest rate. In 1970, more than half of all serious crimes were committed by young people under 21. Youthful offenders have the highest recidivism rates. In fact, the younger the age at the first arrest, the higher the rate of recidivism.

The LEAA-supported National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals designated juvenile delinquency prevention and control as one of four priority areas in reducing crime. In response, the Institute has established a separate division to consolidate juvenile delinquency research and focus efforts on the most pressing problems of juvenile crime and the juvenile justice system. One new program, for example, will study the relationship between employment opportunity and youth crime.

Specific projects include:

- Juvenile Corrections — The Institute will continue to finance the National Assessment of Juvenile and
The nationally coordinated Analyses on officer selection and performance. Recently, the programs which police Institute will consider, among other efforts, to assess the feasibility of adopting currently produced compact and intermediate cars to police use.

**Closed-Circuit Television** — Analyses of the application of closed-circuit television to criminal justice operations will continue. The Institute is now examining a technology which will enable a prosecutor at a central location to screen cases processed at outlying police stations by closed-circuit television.

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH**

This office conducts its own research in support of the Institute Program Plan. It also administers the Visiting Fellowship Program, a new program designed to bring criminal justice and research professionals to Washington to conduct research and development in major problem areas of criminal justice. It is expected that as many as 15 Fellows will visit the Institute this year.

**OFFICE OF EVALUATION**

The Institute's research projects usually include an evaluation component. The Institute also has funded evaluation of LEAA's High Impact Anti-Crime Program in eight major cities to determine the effectiveness of various criminal justice activities in reducing street crime and burglary.

The Crime Control Act of 1973 expanded the Institute's evaluation responsibilities. To fulfill this new mandate, the Institute will develop a system to monitor the effectiveness of criminal justice improvement programs, review the annual evaluations of state criminal justice planning agencies, and, in cooperation with the states, set up experiments to assess controlled variations among similar criminal justice programs. Specific programs planned for 1974 include:

- Evaluation of Criminal Justice Programs, Projects and Hypotheses — In-depth evaluations will assess particular projects and programs. One effort will evaluate the effects of New York State's strict new developing new technology for solving criminal justice problems.

Examples of planned projects include:

- Police Vehicles — The Institute will consider developing a new vehicle to better meet police needs. This effort will be similar to that which produced the unique vehicles now used by the U.S. Postal Service. In the interim, the Institute plans to assess the feasibility of adapting currently produced compact and intermediate cars to police use.

- Police Pursuit — The Institute will consider the problem of police pursuit and develop methods for reducing minor offenses, such as traffic violations, from the criminal courts.

**Corrections**

Much correctional research has tried to assess intervention strategies and compare the effectiveness of particular programs in reducing recidivism rates. Unfortunately, most findings to date have been negative or inconclusive. Institute research will continue to evaluate widely accepted treatment and rehabilitation programs. It will also seek new, more effective methods to match the offender with the best treatment strategy because no existing classification and treatment model assures that any given offender will be treated in the way most likely to reduce recidivism.

In addition, the Institute will support a major rethinking of the aims and limitations of current correctional practices. Specific 1974 projects include:

- Reconceptualization — The Institute will support an assessment of the correctional experience of the last decade to provide direction for future research and program development. This trend away from traditional incarceration toward community-based programs will be given special attention.

- Assessment of Adult Corrections — The Institute is considering assessment of existing rehabilitation and treatment alternatives and the relative success of each in reducing recidivism.

- Offender Classification — Institute support will be provided for development of a model offender classification system.

**Equipment Systems Improvement**

The Institute's initial equipment program funded numerous small-scale projects which produced useful results. Among these were exploratory efforts to use satellites for identification of suspects and evaluation of the effects of burglary alarm systems in municipal police departments. Recent accomplishments include demonstration of a garment made of synthetic fiber able to withstand penetration of bullets up to 38 caliber, and the publication of standards for both ballistic resistance of body armor and walk-through metal detectors.

In 1974, the Institute will begin to shift emphasis from adopting existing technology to
drug penalties. The Institute also will support evaluations conducted in cooperation with states and other Federal agencies.

- Evaluation of LEAA Programs - The Institute will continue support for both local and national evaluation of the Impact Cities program. Additionally, the Institute will support evaluation of LEAA's Standards and Goals Implementation Program.
- Manpower Survey - Support will begin for a three-year criminal justice manpower survey and evaluation of existing educational and training programs.

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The Office of Technology Transfer encourages the widespread adoption of improved criminal justice practices. It tests significant research findings and model projects in different jurisdictions. Through programs ranging from personal liaison to computerized data banks at the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, it promotes the use of promising research results from both LEAA and other organizations.

Specific efforts in 1974 include:

- **Model Programs** - Outstanding on-going projects and "prescriptive packages," based on field experience, will provide guidelines for model programs. Funds will be provided to jurisdictions interested in carrying out programs and practices that have worked elsewhere. Training materials will be developed in support of this effort.

FUNDING

Institute funds are awarded through both grants and contracts. The competitive procurement system is used primarily for large projects where no institution or individual has unique capabilities. Contract announcements are made in Commerce Business Daily, and bidders may obtain the Request for Proposals from the LEAA Contracts Office, Room 922, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. In addition, the Institute publishes its own program announcements of new research programs for which proposals are being solicited. The Institute Plan gives a fuller description of application procedures. (To receive a copy of the Plan, or additional information on other programs, or to be placed on the program announcement mailing list, use the card on the following page.)