

Interviewer: Uyen Sao Truong
Interviewee: Officers Mike Pace & David Morse

Describe and analyze changes and trends in crime and law enforcement in Hillsboro, Oregon, 1980-2005

Personal/Experience-Related

Uyen Sao Truong: How long have you lived in Hillsboro?

Mike Pace: I actually live in Aloha all my life, so 30 years

UT: How long have you been working in the police department?

MP: I started at the police academy back in 1997

UT: Do you work day or night shift? Is there a significant difference between the two?

MP: I work both shifts. There are different shifts; you have a day shift, a swing shift, and a grave shift. Each shift has different elements to it. You have one more of your paper crime sort of day and you have a lot more domestic violence's at night.

UT: Does the stress or the job get to you?

MP: Not really, it's fine...I mean if it does get to you, I do think that they stress get me work out every day, treat you right and that's kind of normal

UT: So you get used to it?

MP: yeah, you get used to it

UT: What do you believe is the biggest problem in Hillsboro?

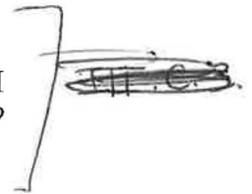
MP: I think the biggest problem in Hillsboro is David Morse he's just ***laughs*** no, I don't know what the biggest problem Hillsboro could be. What do you think partner?

David Morse: Meth

MP: I'm thinking of Meth is the big problem in Hillsboro. Then we have a lot of ID theft about 95% of ID theft cases all has something do with Meth

UT: How often do you deal with criminals?

MP: I deal with criminals almost every single day I go out and work because there's always a crime that we response to



UT: Is it scary?

MP: Sometimes, I mean you know it gets your blood pumping once in awhile, and you see a gun pointed at you, or a shot gun sitting outside the house or you're in some crime scene and you see one person standing trying to find somebody else and you try to chase them

UT: How often do you see crimes occurred around you? What is your response/reaction to it?

MP: What do you mean by that? Do you mean personally or professionally?

UT: Both

MP: Both? I see in my Personal life, I see a lot of people using drugs, and professional life, I mean well that's what we do in law enforcement, so we deal with crime laws. And response and reaction is that we just go out there and do our job and you really don't know what you have to learn

UT: What do you believe is the biggest cause of crimes in Hillsboro?

MP: Drugs and weed, asperity between low income and high income, it's when you have a wide gap of income and then you're going to have problems with that. Do you understand what I'm saying?

III. c. 3.

UT: Yeah

Domestic Violence

UT: How much control do the police have in the domestic violence cases?

MP: What control do they have? What do you mean by that?

UT: Like do you have a lot of power?

MP: Well it kind of depends on...

DM: Would you like some help with that?

MP: Yeah

DM: The state law regarding domestic violence is extremely clear, said if there is a situation of domestic violence somebody has to go to jail. So we have an excursion in that we say "oh, it was an accident, we really didn't commit it or hurt the person" but somebody has to go to jail that's the main policy of our law

III. c. 1.

MP: so it's part of the control. Our personal control, we don't have any control, that's all law enforcement control our actions within. So there's hardly any excursion when it comes to this any type of physical violence

UT: Would you please explain the process of investigation?

MP: When it comes to domestic violence, we usually separate the two parties at the time from each person depends on what the situation was and they started a conclusion on the crime scene and what it looks like and upon the arms and abrasions of person has suffered and then you need physical evidence that the suspect or person have at the time and we take effect with the witness account and the 911 call, and they make a decision based on that

III. C.1.

Gangs-Related

UT: How has the police address gangs related issues in the last 25 years?

MP: I think within the last 25 years I say that we became a lot more intelligence on gangs and stuff. We work with a full agency. We used to have an inter agency at the beginning work and it was great because you get to collaborated with all different departments within the Washington County area, and the community gotten polished and even though the gang remains in the city of Hillsboro, but we were able to understand the reasons why they do it. Set up programs to help younger kids to work within the community and solve the crimes out of fashion. Because you have a list, you have a network; you know that Stumpy is a friend of Skippy who is actually really with Dopey. You know what I mean. You know all this info.

III. C.2.

UT: How serious are gang crimes?

MP: How serious are they?

UT: Yeah

MP: It's like the gang, I would say a gang is messed up, it's made up of unorganized crimes. Some gangs are very organized some gangs are not organized whatsoever. So it's kind of hard to determine how serious gang crimes are. These are wide expletives I'd say-

UT: How has gang involvement changed over the last 25 years?

MP: You mean within the community?

UT: Yeah, within the community

DM: I think the community

MP: a lot of new family actually moved here from California up to Hillsboro area to give their kids a new live, but what they don't realize is that it's the same here

DM: yeah, it's same here

MP: Exactly—original gangsters that were California up here or that their parents were--- they were more or less violent in California-----

UT: How has measure 11 affected on gangs?

MP: We're actually seeing such malevolent factor, a lot of more of the original gangsters going in and coming out and they have to serve their time, for one it's monitoring their serving for a certain amount of time and for two they're going to prison for it for shooting somebody or something like that. So it comes back out as a status, coming out as a theme---

IV.H.

DM: They go to prison and they learn how to do better. They learn different ways to a crime, we've see videos of them training on how they could take down a police, or training on ways to avoid handguns and they practice it, they got nothing else to do for a crime. It's like going to college you know

MP: and that's a very criminal thing to do

DM: that's what happens, is they come out and no one want more any of that community crimes---

MP: either that or they study upon on how it happened---

DM: they have access to---a lot of them have the rest of the time to study up upon the law---

UT: What type of people joined gangs in 1980? How was the type of people in gangs change over the last 25 years?

MP: Well gangs were originally developed back in Mexico to protect themselves from the banderols or bandits within the Mexican area up here and trying to keep themselves from American culture. Kind of like a gathering. You look back at the Irish, where they come from, overseas and they kind of band together because they were a subculture and so that's kind of how it work again in Hillsboro. So you're looking back at the 1980s, you're looking at a lot of people with low income, from low income places. And the types of people change over the past 25 years, like we stated, it's pop culture. I was watching a video, a data where this guy, his family lives in Westfield (?) and his family were totally rich and awesome and all sort of stuff like that---And he went to prison for 25 years for killing somebody. I mean he had the education, he could have gone anywhere, but he found the family support he needed in a gang. That's what some of the kids feel. You get the full time dads and full time moms out there working and they have no family structure and so they go out there and look for this and they see that they get respect and they see the respect within the gangs, and how it all works out and they think that's for me. So they wanted to be, but what they don't understand is "oh geez, the leaders of the gangs are using me" because hey these kids are under 15 years old and they

III.C.2.

get out and sling by dope---and the youngsters go to jail for it and didn't realize it's a huge crime you know and they're using them and it's not right.

DM:-----

UT: After 9/11, are there more crimes or lesser crimes in Hillsboro?

MP: 9/11 was actually a terrorist act. And so, when we're talking about terrorism there's basically 3 different types of terrorism. There's crazy---and the ideological Al Qaeda or Osama Bin Laden. You're looking at ---

After 9/11, you're looking at Al Qaeda. So what terrorist acts usually do is they use mass casualties to gain more varieties for their theory. So with Al Qaeda they blew the twins tower so they could have mass media for their own, you know "this is what we're all about" but they don't blend because they don't know---so what you're looking at 9/11 is there's probably, I can't say for sure, but if you look at it, there's probably short decrease in crime because we were like banded together because we know there are terrorists out there---there would be no increase, unless you're looking at some kind of social change and some kind of wide variety aspects like the 1950's or 1960's. If it's a social change then you would have a lot more problems because the society is not happy when new things are being brought in. But when you have a terrorist act, it's not a social change; it's somebody going out there and tells you our problem with this government so it's not going to increase the crime rates

III. C. 8.

Equipment/Technology

UT: What equipments/weapons does the average Hillsboro officer use?

MP: What do we have? We got ash(?), which is graspable (?) baton, we got the O.C., pepper spray, handcuffs, sideguns, handguns, shotguns, and then we got the pepper spray bottles, specialize vehicles, special beams, SWAT team, special canines....we have gas that we can use for hostile situations---

DM: That's sort of on verbal training. We have been taught some way to resort difficult situations (?)

MP: There's a lot of new equipment out there. New technology that always comes out that helps a lot with law enforcement. There's the electric magnetic poles weapon that were using for car chases that uses to slow them down, to shoot cars that they're always --vehicle. Or they have the low jack system they also helps located cars that gets stolen---they have some off the wall kind of stuff. Like now they're testing out some sonic weapons---that would shoot a sound out it'll and make people move away in its own area. So they would move out on their own area. And then they have this spider view kind of stuff that will wrap you up. You see that kind of stuff?

IV. A.

DM: Yeah

MP: That's pretty cool. There's always new stuff coming out to help with law enforcement

UT: You have mentioned about verbal communication. Is that more effective than weapons?

DM: It depends. You know if you can just by if you're showing up, if you can resolve a situation just by the fact without the involvement of police, that's the best outcome for everybody. But if you could resolve a situation where nobody going to get hurt, people still may go to jail. Somebody has to go to jail, you take them to jail. If you could resolve it verbally, they won't get hurt, you wouldn't risk injury, you just take them into custody. But so really, that's the first line; we show our best to say "you're under arrest, you got a warrant turn around and put your hands on the back", and a lot of people need that. And there are some people who don't need that, and so we have to start using the others tools and make sure we take them to custody, and the people that we deal with, they're the one who dictates the level of force that we use

MP: and sometimes you have to use your imagination. I mean that's part of the best method any police officers could have ever used; it's their imagination for a difficult situation. I had this experience with really imaginative stuff to solve people lack of motivation and help them recently. I had this one kid, I used to work as a security for a high school. He got suspended and I say, "I'll go with you" we had a hand-off policy. So I had to keep him out the classroom and go to the Principal's office and he said "I don't want to go there" and I said "Well, if you don't go with me, I'll sing to you" and he said "no you won't" and I said "yeah I will" *laughs* So I sang to him, so he got so embarrassed and he got up and walk with me. So sometimes you have to think outside the box. Now police officers are doing, they're thinking outside the box. How can I resolve this conflict? And that's ---great programs we have at the police department---we don't have much time to sit down and resolve all of the issues, but we could recruit them to our special units, so they can sit down and say, "let's resolve this conflict". And there's that imagination in the police department that really help bringing in a new meaning and providing in new leadership too

IV.A.

UT: What changes have occurred since the '80's in equipment?

MP: I would say MDT, our Mobile Data Terminal---that has really increased our efficiency---

DM: I think that the tactics have changed a lot too. There have been important decisions that influenced the way police officers have to react to a certain situation, the first step they have to take. I think that the time period of the people who are being attracted to the law enforcement profession has changed too. Years and years ago, it was the big bullies against the police, and if there was a problem, they'd go in and crash somebody over in the head, or punch them or things like that. Now that's not what we do. Most police officers go through a lot of training like how to react to situation like that. How to resolve these bullies they now that they have got policies in place, and say that if a person is behaving this way excessive force is justified is called the force---. I don't know how long that has been around, but it's nice to have those guidelines. It lets you know that here's how it progress.

MP: And just to touch point, if people would hire you back then it used to be widely known. You had to have the police department that really matches our country time in the service. We also brought in a lot of illegals and minorities into our police department and I think that helps the law enforcement agency to understand the issues that affect the agents. We had someone that was a victim of rape. I mean I couldn't even think about the way the male officers could probably treat the woman after a rape. "Oh you were rape? Did you deserve it?" or stuff like that. The females in understanding different minorities we really come a long ways in dealing with different things. And you know kids, especially kids are hard. The way we deal with sexual predators and children that are victims of sexual abuse we got the care unit in fact they're taken into the soft room and the psychologist talks to them and it's all tape recorded. So the kids doesn't have to sit and record over and over that's the guy who raped me because that's traumatic enough for the kid to go through once and then twice with the investigators and another time with the defense lawyers and the prosecutions. I mean these are just great things (care unit)

IV.A.

DM: Law enforcement is more sensitive, has a touchy feely side, don't you think? (talking to MP) I mean, don't get me wrong, if there's something that needs to be resolved with an escalated amount of force we'll do it. We've been train to do it, but we also been trained to take care of things, you know differently. (mumbles something and laugh together)

UT: How well does the new equipment perform?

MP: I think with anything you integrate a new system or anytime the new equipment has been brought to a police room. I think first letter MTs, they *really* didn't work good. Just green or black or orange are really hard to read in the night. And when you read them, they glow up in your face and you couldn't see in the car.

IV.A.

DM: And they ruined your night vision, you couldn't see out

MP: Oh yeah, but I mean the officers learn to adapt with the equipment. The officers in the department sets up the---with the equipments and trade with it, and then works with it. And then the developers of the equipments see the issues that the officers have with it and they adapt so that it's better suited for helping the community

UT: How has technology affected police station?

MP: I think it made it more effective, more touchy feely, more approachable, more user-friendly, more special opts. We have a lot of special agents working in this department. We got violence report teams, crime prevention specialist, police services specialists that deal just with enforcement, we got police officers that deal with just day-to-day stuff. We got reserved units which is specialized volunteer agency, we got the feds which are honorary agents, we got command staff, I mean these are all just specialized units that work together to solve a problem.