**Synopsis**

Police Cynicism and Personality Characteristics

IRB Approval # 2009G5647

1. This study focuses on the relationship between police cynicism levels (as measured by Regoli’s (1976) revised police cynicism scale) and personality characteristics (measured by Rotter’s (1954) locus of control scale, Snyder’s (1974) self-monitoring scale and Dalbert’s (1987) belief in a just world scale). Because this study focuses on police officers personalities in relation to police cynicism, police officers are the only subjects that will participate. It is anticipated that 50 officers will participate through two law enforcement agencies (San Marcos, Leander). The only additional criterion for inclusion or exclusion is whether the individual volunteers to participate once the study is described.
2. An email describing the nature of the study and its intent will be sent to the San Marcos and Leander Chief of Police. The Chief has been chosen for recruitment because he oversees the officers of interest. Before the survey may begin, the Chief must permit the officer’s participation. The email to the Chief describes the study, states the benefits of the research, and requests permission to seek volunteers from the department. Confidentiality procedures are described and a copy of the consent form will also be included. The supervisors’ concurrence states that they are allowing me to recruit officers within their department and that the officers may complete the surveys if they wish to participate.
3. Upon the Chief’s approval, procedures for administering the survey will be discussed with the Chief to best meet the needs of the police department. One method that will suggested is that the surveys will be placed in the officer’s mailboxes, with a consent form on the front of the envelope provided. Officers who choose to participate will complete the survey, and place the completed survey in the envelope provided. This unmarked envelope will then be placed in a box with other completed surveys, which will be adjacent to the officers’ mailboxes. The box will be secured (lock box). The consent form will be collected separately. Those who filled out the survey cannot be connected to their consent form. Another option, which will be suggested to the Chief, is to hand out and collect the surveys at a meeting. Again, the consent form will be collected separately and never connected to the information provided in the survey. The specific procedure for administrating the survey will be finalized with the Chiefs approval.
4. There are minimal risks in this study, although questions in the survey may be of a sensitive nature to officers who have experienced cynicism. Some officers may feel hesitant to give out their information in the fear of their supervisors obtaining it. These risks are minimal, but participating officers are ensured that any and all of the information they put forth is completely confidential. Officers will be told that any cost that is associated with their participation is their sole responsibility. Additionally, officers are reminded in the consent procedure that they can withdraw from the study at any time, for any reason, with no penalty and all of their answers are confidential.
5. Officers will place the surveys in a sealed envelope in a locked box with all of the other completed surveys. Confidentially is guaranteed in four ways: 1) officers name, or any other identifying information will not be collected with the survey; 2) participants will be informed of how their confidentiality will be protected in the consent form; 3) the Chief is never informed of specific officers who participate, (he will be presented with overall findings, but specific demographic information will be excluded); 4) The Chief never sees any of the responses from the officer’s surveys. Confidentially is imperative not only between the officer and the researcher but also between the officer and his fellow co-officers, including his Chief.
6. The police department, supervisors and officers involved in this study have the potential to gain information from the studies findings. Additionally, society will benefit from the studies finding since our society deals with law enforcement and the criminal justice system daily. Research by Niederhoffer in the 1960s and 1970s has shown that police cynicism is a phenomenon affecting law enforcement officer’s throughout the profession. High rates of police cynicism are related to negative outcomes for officers including, divorce, drug and alcohol problems and, even, suicide. Through a better understanding of cynicism, steps can be taken to manage the seriousness of cynicism before it progresses to extreme levels. Officers who understand the dangers of cynicism can be more aware of it and take steps to assist other officers to remain positive about the aspects of their job. If wanted, participating officers are able to request a copy of the completed research report, which will conceal any identifying factors of fellow co-workers. The report will include final conclusions and recommendations and will be free of any identifying officer information.
7. There will be no compensation or extra credit given to police officers participating in this project. The participating officers will be informed that their participation is merely on a volunteer basis in an effort to promote this project.
8. The benefits of this project greatly outweigh the risks. The risks involved in this study are minimal. The primary risk involves an officer becoming consciously aware of the attitudes that may be affecting how they perform their duties and confidentiality breach. The survey may stir up some unattended feelings or beliefs within the officer. Measures are in place to ensure confidentiality. This minimal risk is outweighed by the benefit of having a better understanding of cynical attitudes in police officers to prevent negative effects from cynicism.
9. This project is seeking approval to designate surveys to police officers in the San Marcos and Leander Police Departments.
10. I am involved in this project to expand my understanding of the process of research (Elizabeth Kanode, [ek1089@txstate.edu](mailto:ek1089@txstate.edu)). The study will be under the supervision of Dr. Donna Vandiver ([dv14@txstate.edu](mailto:dv14@txstate.edu) or 512-245-7907) of the Criminal Justice Department and Dr. Randall E. Osborne ([reosborne@txstate.edu](mailto:reosborne@txstate.edu) or 512-245-8236) of the Psychology department.
11. Dr. Donna Vandiver and Dr. Randall Osborne are both familiar with this project and will have continued involvement throughout the project.
12. The project has not previously been submitted for IRB approval.
13. The following individuals will have access to the unpublished results of this study during or after its completion: Elizabeth Kanode ([ek1089@txstate.edu](mailto:ek1089@txstate.edu)), Dr. Randall Osborne (reosborn@txstate.edu), Dr. Donna Vandiver ([dv14@txstate.edu](mailto:dv14@txstate.edu)), and Dr. Mark Stafford ([Stafford@txstate.edu](mailto:Stafford@txstate.edu)). Additionally any officer who requested a copy of the final report will also have access.