Congressional "Ask a Criminologist" Series
New Policing Technologies: What Are the Impacts to Public Safety and Civil Liberties?

#AskaCriminologist

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Dr. Cynthia Lum
George Mason University

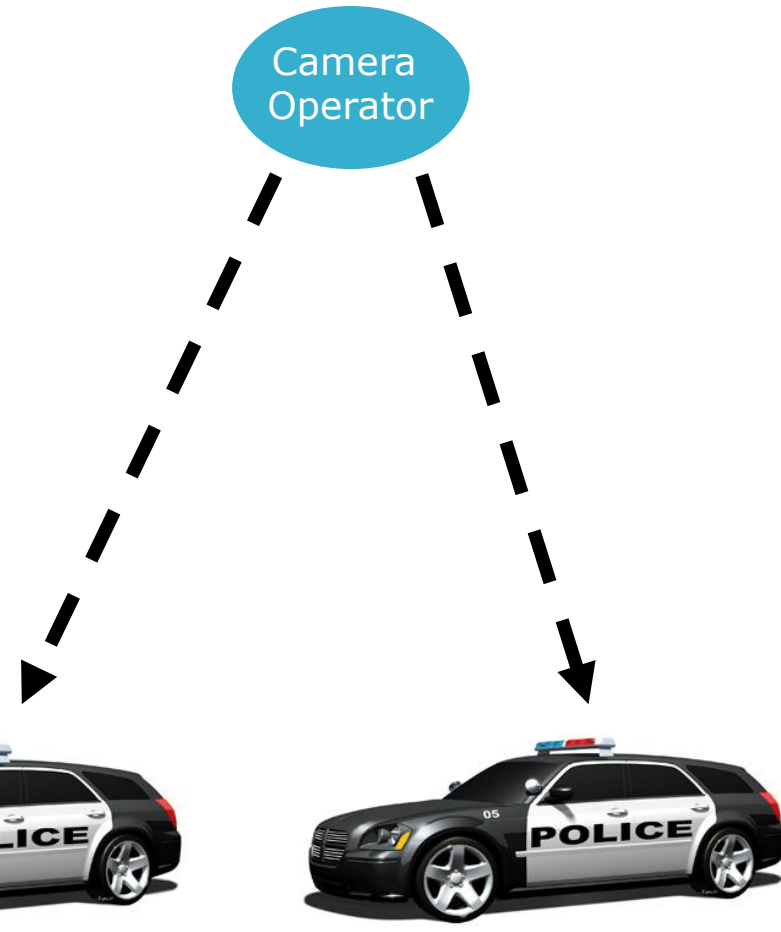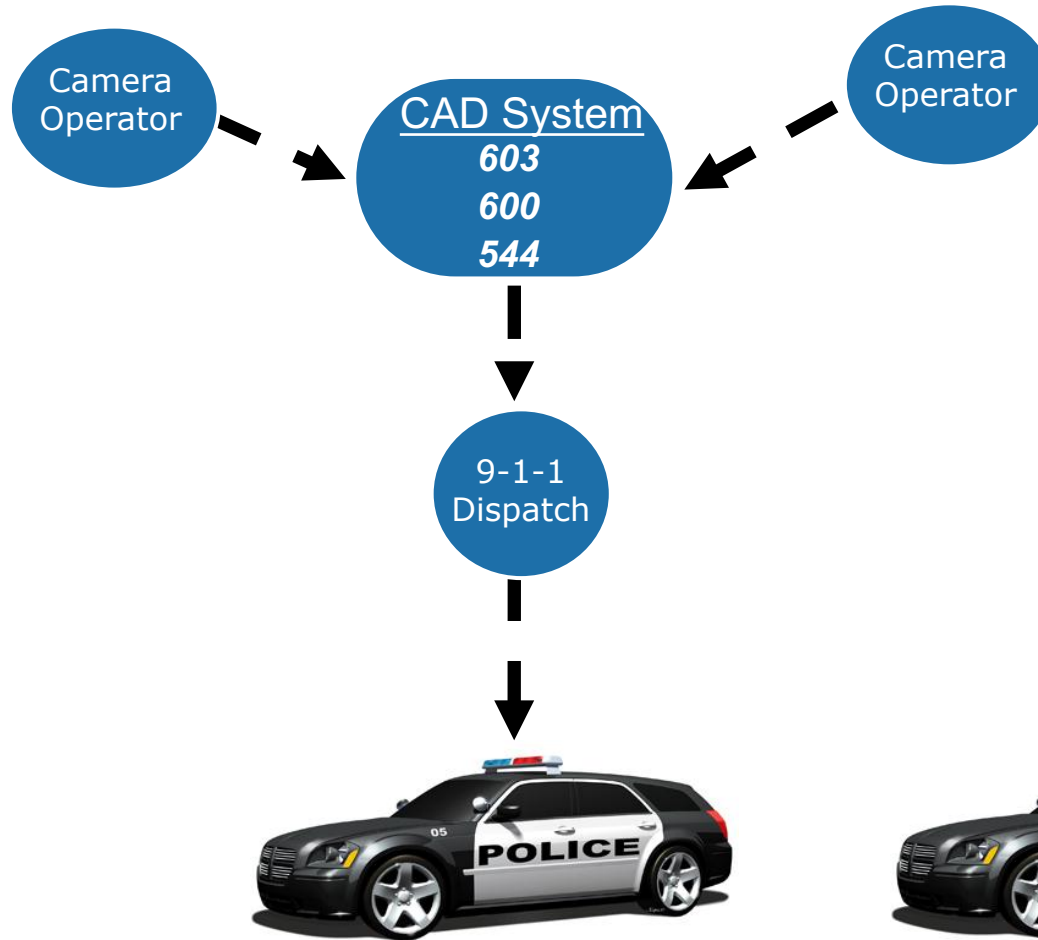We actually know very little about technology's impacts on policing

What we do know: Technologies can have both intended and unintended consequences

The importance of research:
To identify outcomes—including unintended ones—and determine impacts

Dr. Eric Piza
John Jay College

"Technological Determinism"

- An unquestioning belief in the power of technology, whehter benign or malevolent."
  - Clive Norris & Gary Armstrong (1999, p. 9) *The Maximum Surveillance Society. The Rise of CCTV.*

Standard Approach

Newark PD Experiment

Camera Operator

CAD System
603
600
544

Camera Operator

Camera Operator

9-1-1 Dispatch

POLICE

POLICE

POLICE

Piza, E., Caplan, J., Kennedy, L., and Gilchrist, A. (2015). The Effects of Merging Proactive CCTV Monitoring with Directed Police Patrol: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of Experimental Criminology,* 11(1): 43-69.

Predictive Policing

- Predictive Policing "methods involve pattern recognition applied to historical data and then extrapolated into the future. For anyone familiar with crime analysis, that is not new. And it's particularly not new when the default intervention strategy involves putting cops on dots."
  - Malcom Sparrow (2016, p. 100-101). *Handcuffed. What Holds Policing Back, and the Keys to Reform.*

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