

## **Civilians in traditional law enforcement roles**

Edward J. Serafin

Law Enforcement Agencies today face challenges and conditions demanding a clear demonstration that they are applying available resources efficiently and effectively. The response is a trend to search out other accessible means to meet the demand of maintaining public order and providing services. Traditional law enforcement customs alone cannot deliver every item on the public's wish list. Increasing budgets, intolerance to crime, and other public concerns have created a shift in traditional police practices. The blue-uniformed public servants who have traditionally held certified law enforcement positions, are giving way to non-sworn personnel assuming many of these positions. The benefits and disadvantages of this hybrid policing are discussed.