Local **CRIMINAL RECORD CENTRE OFFICIALS** are responsible for recording crime scenes/objects by means of ideography, photography and drafting techniques; and for investigating crime scenes/objects to collect exhibits and clues for forensic analysis. They collect, preserve and process forensic exhibits and register cases on the system. Local Criminal Record Centre Officials are stationed at centres nationwide, supporting detectives in their investigations.

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A **CRIME PREVENTION OFFICIAL** prevents or reduces factors leading to crime by applying the constitutional mandate for democratic policing, which is addressing crime from a proactive policing point of view. He or she applies principles of policing in crime prevention and planning, and implements crime prevention programmes such as visible policing and roadblocks. The Crime Prevention Official can be stationed at the South African Police Service Stations and Crime Prevention Units nationwide.

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The Rider at the **EQUESTRIAN UNIT** responds to crime on horseback. They support the Stock Theft Unit, do border patrols, crowd control and have the task of crime prevention and visible policing in urban and rural areas.
Members of the SAPS who have completed basic training and who have a passion for animals can follow a career in **DOG HANDLING.**

Police dogs and the mounted unit play an important role in the prevention, combatting and investigation of crime. To train and work with police animals is regarded as a specialized field and requires people with unique qualities.

Members who have completed the dog handling course (patrol dog handling and tracker dog handling) can be trained in 11 specialized fields such as:

- search and rescue;
- narcotics detection;
- detection of explosives;
- detection of protected species; and
- fire investigation.

A member of the **SPECIAL TASK FORCE** handles high risk operations which cannot be dealt with by normal policing. The Special Task Force official handles hostage situations, urban or rural terror, protects VIPs and executes specialized rescue services.
**DETECTIVES** at police stations are responsible for the investigation of crime. Operational detectives investigate a broad category or crime. They normally work from police stations. The detectives at police stations carry out duties such as -

- gathering evidence;
- executing warrants of arrest or search warrants;
- using investigative techniques;
- preparing case dockets for court proceedings;
- attending crime scenes;
- tracking and arresting suspects;
- searching premises and seizing evidence;
- investigating reported crime; and
- serving summonses and subpoenas.

**BORDER POLICE** personnel carry out border control. They prevent the illegal entry and exit of people and goods to and from South Africa. Our borders include those that can be entered by air, sea and land. They work in cooperation with other Government departments to make our country ports, international airports and seaports safe.
The **AIR WING** enforces the law by means of air support. The main function of the Air Wing is to render air support -

- during policing operations aimed at the prevention or investigation of crime;
- during quick response to crime call-outs;
- for the fast deployment of personnel;
- during anti-drug operations;
- for the taking of photographs and videos from the sky;
- to monitor public gatherings and big events;
- during border patrols;
- for communication flights; and
- during search and rescue operations.
HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS deal with hostage situations and suicide-related incidents. These negotiators are specifically trained and equipped with negotiation skills to ensure the safety of persons involved in different types of hostage situations, attempted suicide, kidnappings and barricades. Negotiators do this work in addition to their normal duties.

FORENSIC SCIENTISTS who work at the FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) analyse physical evidence that is collected at crime scenes. All relevant physical evidence and clues are studied and interpreted according to acceptable scientific principles. During investigations, forensic science is used to bring criminals to justice and to protect innocent people from prosecution.

The following are some of the scientists working at the Forensic Science Laboratory:
A **FORENSIC BIOLOGICAL ANALYST** analyses crime scenes and attends post-mortem examinations to gather biological evidence. The preparation and examination of objects include; trigonometry, DNA analysis, facial reconstruction and individualization.

A forensic biological analyst also has to give expert evidence in court and do research.

A **FORENSIC CHEMICAL ANALYST** processes or reconstructs crime scenes to gather chemical evidence. He or she prepares and examines objects for chemical analysis in investigations relating to fires, poisons and narcotics (drugs). He or she presents expert evidence in court and does research.

A **BALLISTICS ANALYST** examines firearms and tool marks. Ballistics is the science of projectiles and firearms. The duties of a ballistics analyst include analysing crime scenes for ballistic-related evidence, examining ballistic objects, attending postmortem examinations, presenting expert evidence in court and doing research.
A **QUESTIONED DOCUMENT EXAMINER** is responsible for the forensic examination of any aspect regarding a document that is questioned, for example handwriting.

A **FORENSIC SCIENCE ANALYST** at the Scientific Analysis Unit provides a forensic service regarding:

- the analysis or investigation of primer residue;
- the analysis of material; and
- the analysis of trace evidence, electronics and images.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT AT THE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY:**

- Three years’ relevant experience and a Senior Certificate (Grade 12) with Mathematics and Science.

- One or more of the following: BSc honours degree, diploma or degree in Chemistry; BSc degree in Chemistry; a degree or diploma in photography, graphic design or fine art with photography as a subject; a diploma or degree in Police Science or Criminology.

- A relevant degree or diploma in one of the following: Zoology; Soil Science; Botany; Physics; Inorganic, Analytical and Physical Chemistry and Electron Microscopy; Anthropology; Criminology; Armourer; Medical Technology; Medicine; Medical Science; Statistics; Geology; Geochemistry; Mineralogy; Electronic Engineering and Molecular Biology; or an LLB degree.