

**For your safety.  
Your National Police**





## **The National Police – a successful and community-based law enforcement authority**

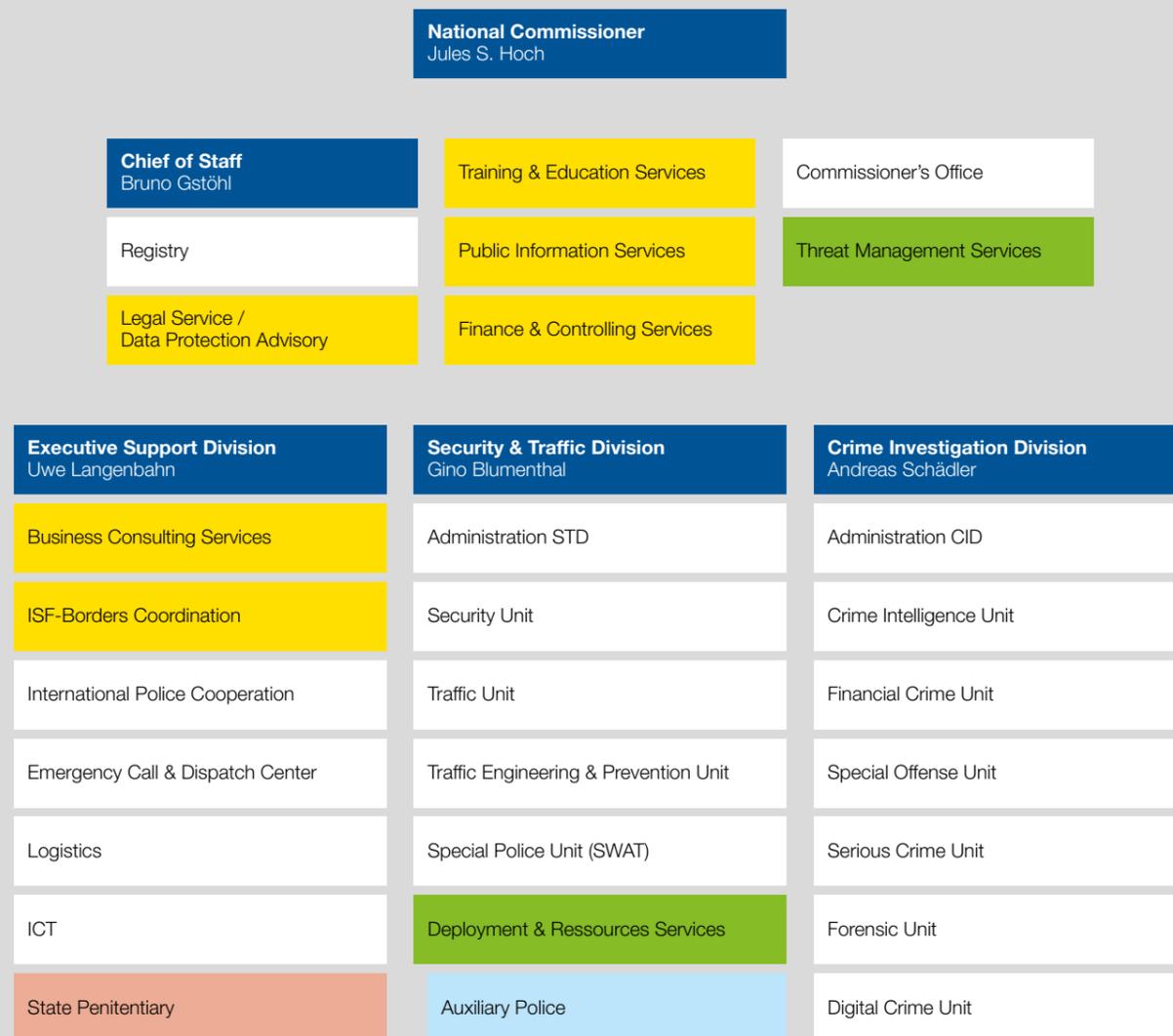
The National Police is the central authority responsible for safe guarding internal security in our country. The tasks the National Police is required to perform have changed remarkably over the years and have become increasingly more complex. New forms of crimes in the digital world, the shifting leisure patterns of a “24-hour society”, the increased mobility of citizens, as well as the internationalisation of crime in a global economy and in a united Europe, all place exacting demands on the organisation and personnel of the National Police, in both qualitative as well as in quantitative terms. Although we are a small law enforcement authority, our daily duty is to take on these huge challenges, in order to enable the inhabitants of Liechtenstein to live their lives in a safe and secure environment. To fulfil this task, we have to rely on trust and understanding from the general public. They need to be aware of what the National Police does, as well as why and with what resources it goes about its business.

As Commissioner it is therefore my goal to oversee an open, community-based law enforcement organisation, whose policing operations are dedicated at all times to the principles of commensurability and transparency. The successful police work of the past years and the positive feedback from many members of the public, as well as from our foreign law enforcement partners, confirm and support our approach.

This brochure is intended to contribute towards this objective, providing interested parties with information about the organisation, the responsibilities and activities, as well as giving an insight into our country’s central law enforcement authority.

Jules S. Hoch  
Commissioner

The National Police is the sole police authority in Liechtenstein. It has over one hundred officers and other staff and is responsible for public security.



**Jules S. Hoch**  
Commissioner



**Bruno Gstöhl**  
Chief of Staff



**Gino Blumenthal**  
Head of the Security and Traffic Division



**Andreas Schädler**  
Head of the Crime Investigation Division



**Uwe Langenbahn**  
Head of Executive Support Division

## Always there for you

The Emergency Call and Dispatch Center takes emergency calls by phone or alarms, on the numbers 112, 117, 118 and 144. Our dispatchers staff work around the clock, 365 days a year. On average they take a call every nine minutes. Whether this involves simple traffic accidents, domestic violence or other serious crimes, the response to every call has to be fast and the appropriate security and rescue organisations need to be assigned. These include, inter alia, the units of the National Police, the fire brigade, the medical services, the mountain rescue and lifeguard service as well as crisis intervention teams. State-of-the-art communication and information technology enable us to respond quickly, efficiently and professionally to both minor and major incidents as well as to any unusual events. Our mobile command post is deployed if major deployments at particular locations need to be coordinated. The available systems and databases make it possible to check individuals and vehicles quickly. An effective analysis of the situation can be rapidly established.

## Together we are strong

Crime does not stop at the borders of the small state of Liechtenstein. For this reason the question of international police work has become hugely important. Liechtenstein's compact dimensions mean there are many cases that also involve neighbouring countries. Thanks to the trilateral Police Cooperation Treaty with Switzerland and Austria, Liechtenstein has excellent contacts in the field of cross-border cooperation. This is impressively manifested by mixed patrols, the prompt exchange of information about current crime phenomena and specific events, as well as coordinated searches or manhunts.

Cooperation is maintained not merely regionally with neighbouring police authorities in Switzerland and Austria, but also Europe-wide as a member of the Schengen Treaty and Europol as well as worldwide via Interpol.

The National Police ensures that Liechtenstein is provided with modern, responsive and efficient emergency management. In the fight against crime we work closely together with our regional and international law enforcement partners.



## On the road

The number of vehicles on Liechtenstein's roads is rising constantly. One of our principle tasks is to ensure that despite this increase, traffic safety is maintained. The constant presence of uniformed patrols as well as regular traffic and speed checks have a preventative effect. This enhances road safety and consequently helps prevent accidents. Nevertheless not all accidents can be avoided, we therefore immediately dispatch officers whenever an accident is reported, ensuring that the necessary measures are taken at the site: securing the site of the accident, providing the injured with assistance, coordinating urgent immediate measures and ascertaining the facts of the situation.

Checks are also necessary in the field of heavy goods vehicles: Compliance to driving hours, working hours and rest hours is checked on roads and at business sites. In addition, the rules governing the transportation of hazardous materials as well as the technical condition of vehicles are also checked. In order to minimise traffic

disruption, we even escort exceptionally large or heavy goods transporters, draw up road traffic concepts and organize traffic flow at major events. A range of security measures are implemented, during state visits foreign guests are provided with motorbike escorts.

Ever-shifting networks mean the level of support provided for other organisations in Liechtenstein and abroad is continuously rising. For this reason, legal and administrative cooperation have also become part of our regular duties.

Our responsibilities include responding immediately to traffic accidents and investigating such incidents, as well as our preventative presence on the streets.



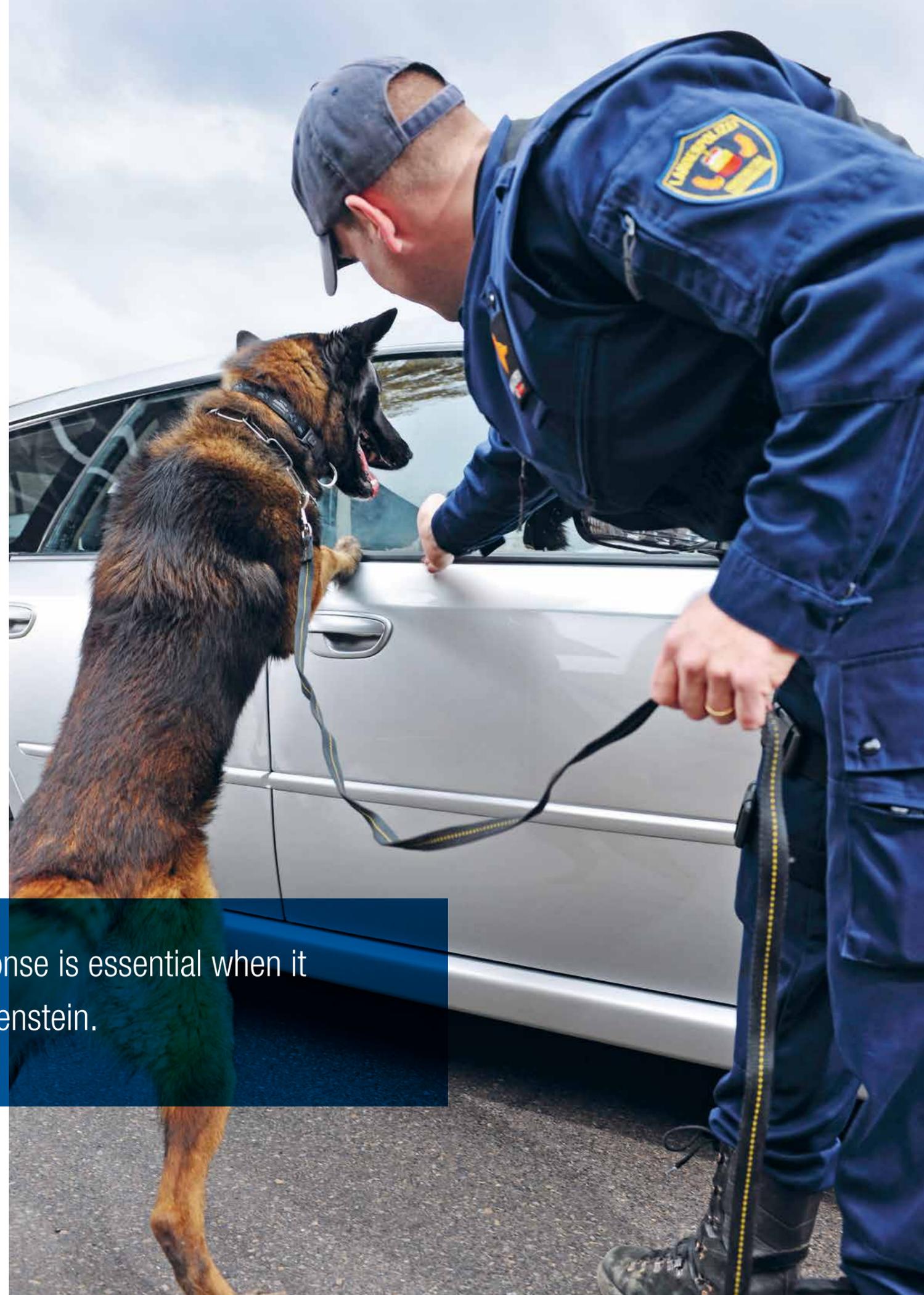
## Public safety and security

Within the context of the provision of basic police services, we are responsible for maintaining law and order in Liechtenstein. To enable quick response in an emergency we have teams on call around the clock. Our patrols raise public profile and signify that we can intervene immediately, as and when required. Whether on account of theft, violence or child welfare, our day-to-day work involves assignments of all kinds. Close links with other agencies and institutions are essential in many cases. Appropriate support is provided in cases of domestic violence, escorting prisoners or executing court orders.

In order to ensure that public safety is maintained at major events, such as sporting events or on the national holiday, Security Corps deployments are essential. The presence of our security personnel prevents major escalations and can defuse conflicts through dialogue. We are supported in such deployments by the auxiliary police, who only work on a part-time basis. This unit can be drawn upon in conjunction with all duties of the National Police linked to maintaining public order and security. Its members are also integrated in regular shift services in order to reinforce the front line police officers.

Police dogs are also an enormous help on account of their acute sense of smell, and can be deployed in a variety of ways. In regular training units, guard dogs and sniffer dogs are taught by their handlers and prepared for their deployment in operations.

Permanent readiness as well as a rapid response is essential when it comes to maintaining law and order in Liechtenstein.





## Meticulous investigations

Liechtenstein is considered one of the safest countries in Europe, however crimes do occur. The National Police conducts investigations in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure and helps the judiciary prosecute crimes. An analytical mind and tactical abilities are important preconditions when it comes to investigating criminal offences, tracking down fugitives and finding missing persons.

Complex investigations can keep our officers busy for months. Every clue is followed up and every trace is pursued. This being the only way to investigate cases. Close cooperation between detectives, forensic experts and IT experts as well as other specialists is essential to obtain a full understanding of complex criminal cases. Carefully considered measures, combined with optimum teamwork, enable suspects to be caught in conjunction with all crimes, whether it be financial, property or drug related offences.

## Crime scene investigation

Forensic experts and IT specialists make important contributions when it comes to investigating criminal offences. They secure and analyse evidence of all kinds. Their meticulous work is one of the crucial elements that contribute towards solving criminal offences. Our crime scene specialists are deployed in conjunction with financial and property offences, fires or unusual deaths, as well as following serious traffic or work accidents. Thanks to state-of-the-art procedures and methods, footprints, fingerprints or biological traces (DNA) are secured at crime scenes. Forensic analysis and investigation in the laboratory, as well as computer forensic evaluation of data carriers by IT forensic experts, often provide the decisive evidence that enables a suspect to be convicted or exonerated. Cutting edge technical equipment can trace the smallest possible clues and can help to understand what actually happened at the crime scene.

The National Police works to investigate criminal offences. Not always quite as fast as television detectives – but at least as meticulously and successfully.



Targeted prevention in the fields of road traffic and crime raises public understanding and awareness of dangers and risks.

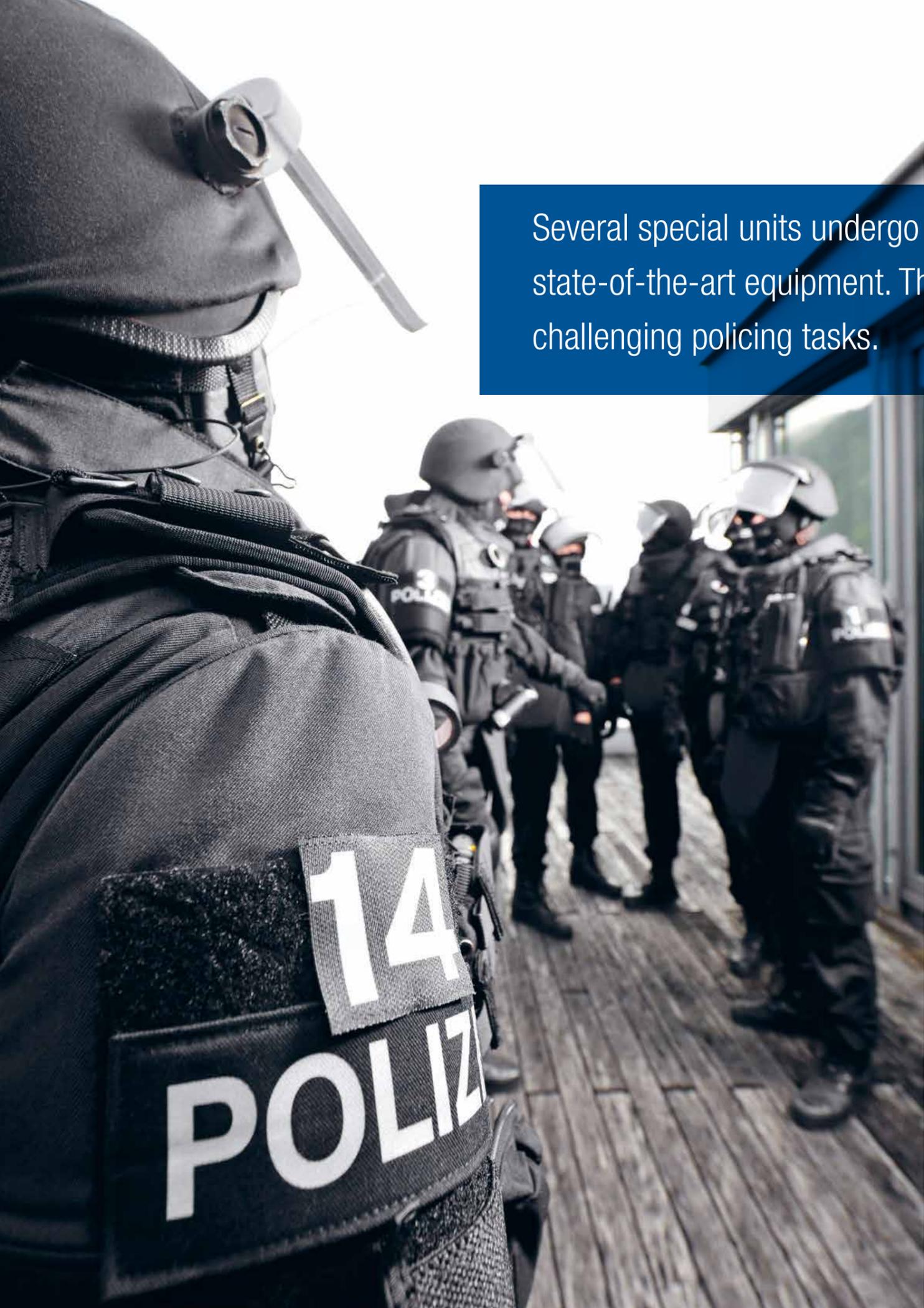
## Drawing attention to dangers

Road traffic and crime prevention are two important areas of work for the National Police. Dedicated road traffic education for the young, aims to ensure that children learn the traffic rules. Specially trained road traffic instructors familiarise young children, from kindergarten age upwards, with road traffic signs and the traffic rules. During these courses, participants can put their knowledge to the test in simulated traffic situations at the road training centre operated by the National Police. The programme aims to increase road safety and to reduce accidents among the youngest and most vulnerable members of the population.

In order to prevent traffic accidents and to improve road safety, several campaigns are conducted each year, drawing the attention of the public to road traffic risks by means of posters and radio spots. The aim is to encourage drivers to modify their driving behaviour, thus preventing accidents happening in the first place.

However, we do not focus only on road traffic safety. We also work on crime prevention, raising public awareness of potential risks, by giving regular information and warnings in the media. The public are informed about sophisticated activities of fraudsters and thieves, and the risks associated with surfing the Internet, as well as raising awareness and understanding among the youth about the dangers of drug use. The National Police issues a wide range of special brochures and flyers on specific topics, which are either distributed to interested parties, or can be downloaded from our website.

Prevention is successful when observant and alert citizens are aware of risks, report criminal offences to the National Police without delay, and thus contribute to keeping Liechtenstein safe.



Several special units undergo the very latest training and are provided with state-of-the-art equipment. This enables them to help realise particularly challenging policing tasks.

### **Surveillance, arrests and identification**

The National Police has several special units which are deployed for specific purposes, these are organised on the basis of a militia system, and undergo permanent training.

The oldest and largest special unit is the SWAT team, whose principal responsibilities include, arresting potentially violent persons, protecting state guests, the Government and Princely Family, as well as guarding buildings and events.

The Surveillance team works closely together with the SWAT team. Specially trained police officers are responsible for the covert surveillance of suspects. Patience and a sharp eye are essential when it comes to obtaining useful information about suspects. In today's environment surveillance operations are important in the fight against crime, this has become an essential part of the investigative process.

The Alpine Police is deployed to gather evidence following accidents in alpine terrain, such as mountain and skiing accidents, avalanches, paraglider and small aircraft incidents. The alpine Police respond to accidents and conduct investigations in inaccessible terrain.

If a major accident occurs, or if a crime resulting in numerous deaths is committed, then the specialists from the Disaster Victim Identification team (DVI) are deployed to identify the victims. These specialists need to possess a high degree of mental resilience and psychological strength for their difficult task. Members of the Swiss DVI team, our specialists are also deployed abroad.

## Police careers

Being a Police officer is not a run of the mill profession, it is multifaceted and exciting. The work differs from that in the private sector in many ways. Each day is different and presents new challenges. Quick learning ability and carefully considered responses are required when officers are sent out on deployments, making their work versatile and keeping monotony and routine at bay.

As a rule, the path to the National Police is lead via the Police Academy of Eastern Switzerland, where Liechtenstein police candidates get trained. This is due to the fact that being such a small country it does not have its own training facilities. Before being accepted as a police candidate by the National Police, the prospective officer must pass a written entrance examination as well as a fitness test. The criteria that potential candidates need to fulfil in order to be admitted to the entrance procedures are stipulated in the Police Act.

Upon passing the final examination at the end of two years of training at the Police Academy, the candidates are awarded a Federal Diploma and are admitted to the National Police as sworn in police officers.

Specialists may also be recruited externally for management tasks and special police functions. The police training for these individuals is then completed on an in-service education, either internally or at the police training institutions abroad.

Police officer – an exciting and multifaceted profession with new daily challenges that keep monotony and routine at bay.





In the beginning the Princely Liechtenstein Security Corps had seven police officers – today over one hundred National Police officers and other staff safeguard internal security in Liechtenstein.

### How it all began ...

Up until the 18th century parish priests and parish councillors were responsible for maintaining peace and security in our municipalities. At that time a dedicated police force did not exist. It was only during the course of the 18th century that two bailiffs were appointed to maintain peace and security. At the beginning of the 19th century responsibility for public security was assigned to the municipalities. Each municipality was then required to pay for a part-time “police-soldier” (army veterans). However, these police-soldiers had an extremely poor reputation, as the municipalities, no doubt for reasons of cost, tended to appoint very poor or disabled individuals to these posts. It was not before the mid 19th century that Liechtenstein acquired five uniformed and armed, although still untrained, police officers. These were responsible for guarding the borders, as well as undertaking security corps duties. A new bailiff legislation was introduced in 1871 on account of the unsatisfactory security situation, numerous “tricksters and vagabonds” were roaming the country. The aim of this police reform was to improve the effectiveness of the police force, reduce begging and to monitor fire protection as well as building regulations more effectively. In order to make the bailiffs work less arduous, they were permitted to use the public buses while on duty. In addition, a “state telephone” was installed.

After the First World War, pressure arose once again to reform the police force in Liechtenstein. Taking into account the political and social changes in Liechtenstein and abroad.

In 1932, the Princely Liechtenstein Security Corps was established as a uniformed and armed civil guard. This body was charged with maintaining peace, order and security. Seven police officers joined in April 1933 having completed their training at the Gendarmerie Academy in Austria. They were provided with quarters in the Government Building in Vaduz. From 1937 onwards they were supported by a steadily growing number of auxiliary police officers.

By the end of the 1950s it was apparent that the existing structure of the Security Corps had become outdated and needed to be overhauled. For this reason the, then Commissioner, initiated a reorganisation. This was completed in the year 1964, when the “Service Instruction” decree was issued by the Princely Government. Restructuring the corps into three divisions, the Administration Division, the Crime Division and the Traffic Division, made it possible for police work to become specialised for the first time.

An important step in the direction of international cooperation and the fight against crime was taken in 1960 when Liechtenstein joined Interpol (International Criminal Police Organisation). As the Interpol bureau was built up, international contacts were strengthened and became increasingly important.

The police force suffered a heavy blow in the year 1986 when the, then, head of the Crime Investigation Division was shot while on duty. As a direct consequence of this dramatic event, the Security Corps equipment was modernised, A SWAT team was created to respond to violent offenders.

The new Police Act that came into force at the end of the 1980s saw the “Princely Security Corps” renamed the “National Police”. On account of the shortage of space in the government building, a new police building was constructed, which was especially designed with the needs of the police service in mind and became operational in 1991. For the National Police this relocation marked the beginning of a new era of technology, as the first computers were introduced only shortly thereafter. In 1995 the first women police officers took their oaths with the National Police. Two years later the uniforms were changed, which made the transformation of the Security Corps into the National Police visually apparent. After over 60 years in olive green, the police were given a more contemporary and more functional blue uniform.

In 1999 the National Police was reorganised once again and the number of operative divisions was reduced to two. Due to the financial market turmoil that occurred in the year 2000, a unit was created in the Crime Investigation Division to fight economic and organised crime. In conjunction to this, for the first time in the history of the National Police, foreign citizens were also admitted into the police force.

In view of the increasingly international nature of crime, the National Police found itself obliged, as a small law enforcement authority, to promote greater cooperation in the field of police work and to build up international networks. In the year 2001 this intensified new focus across national borders led to the trilateral Police Cooperation Treaty with Switzerland and Austria, our two most important cooperation partners. Only two years later the National Police became an associate member of the Eastern Switzerland Police Concordat (Ostpol). This was an important step for strategic and operative cooperation, resulting in dedicated working groups and specialist panels. For example, joint situation analyses are drawn up and equipment and deployment tactics are coordinated, thus simplifying joint police operations. Training was also standardised with the foundation of the Police Academy of Eastern Switzerland in the year 2006. In its capacity as an Ostpol member, the National Police can also participate in jointly-run centres of excellence, for example, forensic science. This gives it access to expertise that it would not be able to maintain independently. The Polycom radio network operated jointly with Switzerland is another example of this close regional cooperation in the field of security.

However, police cooperation also extends beyond that with our immediate neighbours. In December 2011 Liechtenstein joined the Schengen area. As a consequence, the National Police established a so called SIRENE office providing access to Europe-wide searches for persons and property. As a member of Europol, the National Police also benefits from the large network of liaison officers at this institution’s headquarters in The Hague (NL), as well as from the in-depth analysis of a wide range of crime phenomena.



**National Police**

**Principality of Liechtenstein**

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