

## 1.01 United States Legal System- Key Terms 2

**Department of Homeland Security-Their primary mission is:**

- **prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;**
- **reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorism; and**
- **minimize the damage, and assist in the recovery, from terrorist attacks that do occur within the United States."**

**Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)**-The mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of organizations, involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States.

**Executive Branch**-the executive branch consists of the President and the Vice President, of the United States.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**-The overall mission of the FBI is to uphold the law through the investigation of violations of federal criminal statutes. This mission is further divided into five functional areas: Criminal Law Enforcement; Foreign Counterintelligence; Investigative and Operational Support; Law Enforcement Services; and Direction, Control, and Administration

**Judicial Branch**-the judicial branch consist of the U. S. Supreme Court. This branch decides on the constitutionality of any statute passed by the legislative branch. This branch may also decide if an action or decision by the Executive branch exceeds the powers granted under the Constitution. If so, this action or decision is void.

**Legislative Branch**-the legislative branch consist of the U. S. Senate and the U. S. House of Representatives.

**North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)**- The State Bureau of Investigation is a division of the N.C. Department of Justice and assists local law enforcement with criminal investigations.

**North Carolina State Highway Patrol**-The North Carolina State Highway Patrol's primary mission is to reduce collisions and make the highways of North Carolina as safe as possible. This is accomplished through active patrol and enforcement of N. C. State statutes and laws for motor vehicle operation

**Police Departments (local)**-a police officer within the corporate limits of their city or jurisdiction and one mile outside these limits same powers that are vested to all officers by statute and common law, to enforce the laws and statutes of the State of N. C

**United States Marshal Service**-Among their many duties, they apprehend federal fugitives, protect the federal judiciary, operate the Witness Security Program, transport federal prisoners and seize property acquired by criminals through illegal activities.