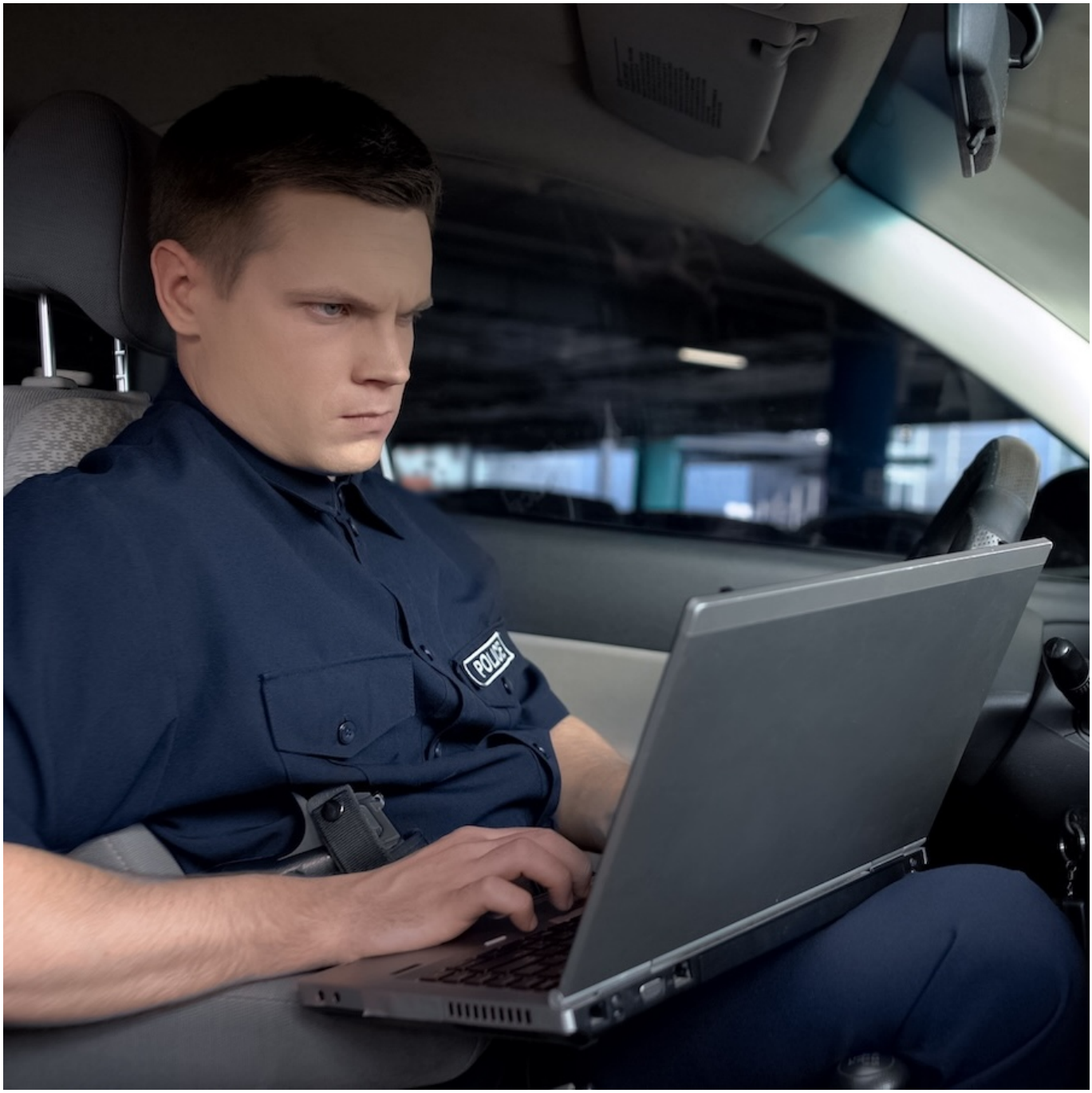
Critical Case Studies:

Three Assessments of AI in Action

In March 2026, the Council on Criminal Justice Task Force on Artificial Intelligence released Assessing AI for Criminal Justice: A User Decision Framework. Building on the panel's Principles for the Use of AI in the Criminal Justice System, the framework provides guidance for responsible AI procurement and deployment in the criminal justice field and translates broad principles into practical, detailed actions for agencies and practitioners.

Adapting and extending the work of the framework, the Task Force has developed three case studies. They demonstrate the framework's guidance in action across different AI tools and hypothetical use cases, with a focus on substantive decision-making considerations. The case studies are not intended to endorse, reject, or rate any specific vendor, product, or technology category in the abstract. Instead, they show how agencies and practitioners might reason through concrete AI questions using the framework's step-by-step structure, responsive to the fact that the same technology may raise different questions depending on variables such as the user, purpose, population affected, data inputs, legal obligations, and available oversight capacity.

Each case study addresses a core criminal justice sector and was selected for its illustrative value when weighing its relevance for current and future field and technological developments.



A Case Study on Police Use of AI-Generated Report Writing Tools

Police departments across the country are beginning to use artificial intelligence tools to draft incident reports from body-worn camera audio and

other officer inputs. This case study examines tools that produce draft incident narratives from these data.

A Case Study on Public Defender Use of General-Purpose AI Tools

Facing overwhelming caseloads, some public defenders consider using AI to ease administrative burdens. This case study examines general-purpose AI tools for research, document review, motion drafting, discovery analysis, and case preparation.

A Case Study on the Use of AI-Powered Classification Tools in State Corrections

This case study examines how AI-powered inmate classification systems shape corrections decisions affecting safety, conditions of confinement,

access to services, release preparation, and institutional management.