

But victims' anger mounts

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What brutality? Police IAD investigators find little

CARL KRAEMER wanted only an apology. Ardale Calvin wanted \$20 to replace a tooth. Charles Dominick wanted a notation on a policeman's record. James Bryant wanted a policeman transferred and disciplined.

All four people were victims of police abuse, they said, and each of them went to the Police Department's Internal Affairs Division sincerely believing they would get some sort of satisfaction.

All they got was more anguish and more trouble, and their anger over a single policeman mushroomed into a distrust and fear of the entire department.

It was this sort of growing public distrust of the department's handling of police brutality complaints that prompted The Tribune to launch a five-month investigation into police abuse.

Reporters talked to hundreds of alleged victims, interviewed hundreds of persons who claimed they had witnessed such incidents, examined thou-

sands of documents, and arranged polygraph tests whenever possible.

The newspaper found that the Internal Affairs Division of the department, responsible for investigating such abuses, continues to be seriously negligent in its duties despite years of public criticism.

BRUTALITY CASES documented by The Tribune showed the IAD often ignored fundamental investigative techniques. IAD investigators often failed to seek out key witnesses, monitor relevant court testimony, and use the polygraph.

Carl Kraemer, a hardware store owner, provided a witness and passed a polygraph test for the IAD, but after 6½ months, the IAD has not resolved his case.

Ardale Calvin, a 56-year-old widow, provided six witnesses for the IAD, which ignored them after five failed to respond to a form letter.

Charles Dominick, a Chicago Housing Authority senior mechanical engineer,

The Internal Affairs Division of the Chicago Police Department is responsible for watching over the conduct of the city's 13,751 policemen. If a citizen feels he has been treated unfairly or abused by a policeman, he must rely on the IAD investigative staff to prove his complaint. A five-month Tribune investigation of police brutality has shown the IAD has been woefully negligent in serving the public interest. This is the sixth in a series of reports compiled by The Tribune's Pulitzer Prize-winning team of chief investigator George Bliss,

provided a witness and medical records, and the IAD ignored them.

James Bryant tried to, but couldn't take a polygraph test because his tracheotomy operation requires that he breathe thru a hole in his neck, a condition that interferes with the polygraph machine's efforts to measure his respiration. The IAD will not give a lie test



POLICE BRUTALITY

Pamela Zekman, and William Mullen, and reporter Emmett George.

to the policeman whom Bryant accused of choking him.

These are perhaps some of the reasons the IAD has a dismally low score in sustaining brutality complaints against policemen.

IN THE FIVE-year period thru 1972, the department received a total of 5,251

complaints from citizens alleging police abuse. The IAD sustained only 144.

So far this year the IAD has compiled its "best" record ever, sustaining 8 per cent of the brutality complaints filed thru Oct. 10.

"I wish I could say I didn't sustain a single case," said IAD director Alfred Conrad. "I'm not proud of high figures here."

Conrad, a veteran of 32 years on the force, has a staff of policemen selected from the general ranks of the department.

The department has traditionally and strongly resisted having anyone but policemen investigate allegations of misconduct against fellow policemen. The argument is that only another policeman can fully understand the subtleties of the policeman's duties.

There are 62 investigators on the IAD staff, which operates on one per cent of the total annual Police Department budget.

"No department can afford to put more into this kind of an operation

than one per cent of the budget," Conrad said. "I think it is generous."

IAD INVESTIGATORS generally are older, more experienced policemen, who have an average of seven years of investigative experience by the time they join his staff, he said. The staff is divided into three units, one of which deals only with brutality cases.

The brutality unit has 20 investigating sergeants, who spend an average of 15 days on each investigation, Conrad said. The sergeants apparently have a

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wide range of discretion on the effort they put into each case.

Reporters found some of them very conscientious in going to complainants and witnesses when and where convenient and comfortable for them to talk.

Others merely sent out letters telling witnesses to come to the IAD offices at 11th and State Streets at a time picked by the investigator. If they didn't show up, the investigator considered them "uncooperative" and dropped the case.

Investigators label a complaint in one of four ways: unfounded—allegation false or not factual; exonerated—policeman guiltless of wrongdoing; not sustained—insufficient evidence to prove allegation either way; or sustained—policeman guilty of brutality.

WHATEVER the finding, the investigation goes thru a review process within the IAD before director Conrad signs it and sends it out. Once a brutality charge is sustained against a policeman, the IAD recommends a written or oral reprimand for the policeman, a suspension without pay, or firing.

Even if the IAD recommends punishment, the recommendation merely sets into motion a series of actions "upstairs" in the hierarchy of the department. The recommendation has to be reviewed by the policeman's commander, a deputy chief, the deputy superintendent, and the superintendent.

The recommendation can be rejected or sent back to the IAD from any of those levels. If the higher chain of command concurs with the IAD recommendation, the policeman still has an

opportunity to object to the finding before an appeal board of fellow policemen.

As the IAD recommendation travels thru this elaborate review system, the original recommendation for punishment is frequently and considerably cut down. This fact may account for seemingly trivial suspensions of one to two days in serious brutality cases sustained by the IAD.

"We try to decide what is fair to the policeman, the victim, the Police Department, and the citizens of Chicago," director Conrad said of punishments meted out to policemen guilty of brutality.

JOSHIE JOHNSON, the auto worker whose story of losing 40 days of work because of a police beating began this series of reports, was dismayed to learn that the policeman who beat him was suspended for only two days.

A suspension of that short a duration has been given to policemen guilty of taking unauthorized lunch breaks.

"We consider suspension not punishment, but training," Conrad said. "We mete out punishment with consideration of what it will take to be sure this man won't do it again."

During its investigation, The Tribune discovered Patrolman Antonio Francis, the policeman who beat Joshie Johnson, has been the target of at least two more brutality complaints since his two-day suspension.

Conrad said a brutality victim is automatically informed that his complaint has been sustained once his case is proved. But The Tribune investigation

has shown that the IAD is, in fact, negligent in keeping victims informed.

It was Tribune reporters, not the IAD, who informed Sixto Cruz, a 23-year-old factory worker, that Patrolman Richard Madeja had been suspended for five days for beating him last Jan. 15.

The suspension went into effect July 23, but Cruz had not heard from the IAD when he was interviewed by reporters Sept. 12.

EVEN WHEN the IAD does inform a victim that his complaint has been sustained, it will not tell the victim what the guilty policeman's punishment is.

Conrad said the IAD uses form letters to tell victims their complaints have been sustained. The letters say the policeman will be "disciplined commensurate with the charge involved" or "suspended . . . for a period, without salary."

"We feel it is enough to tell them that disciplinary action has been taken," Conrad said. "If they really want to know more, they can come downtown and ask, and they will be informed of the punishment."

This closed-mouth attitude that the IAD maintains even with the victims in sustained complaints is indicative of the total secrecy it maintains in all phases of its operation.

During early stages of The Tribune investigation, reporters asked Conrad for IAD information on cases they were investigating. Reporters first approached Conrad on Aug. 7, inquiring if two policemen had been suspended. He refused to give any information.

"Why should we reflect on a police

officer on a case that has already been concluded?" he asked. "It would unfairly reflect on his integrity as a policeman. We never go into the past history of a policeman."

Attorneys representing brutality victims in a federal suit were able to obtain IAD files of the accused policemen only after a judge issued an order protecting the files from disclosure to the public.

CONRAD REFUSED to give any information to Tribune reporters for three months. He finally softened his position two days before The Tribune began publication of the series. He gave reporters limited access to IAD files at that time.

He explained he had grave reservations about routinely publishing information on disciplinary actions against policemen guilty of misconduct.

"Discipline is a very serious thing," he said. "You don't want to ruin morale. If a policeman is disciplined and you publish it, then his family knows it, his neighbors know it, and he is disgraced in front of his children."

He said he believed disciplinary action should be publicized only in the most serious misconduct cases—when the department initiates proceedings to fire a policeman.

"Of course," he said, "you have to balance this with keeping the public confidence in these investigations."

The IAD has not maintained the confidence of Carl Kraemer, Ardale Calvin, Charles Dominick, and James Bryant in its investigations of their cases.

6½ months later, his complaint is unanswered



Carl Kraemer

Tribune Photo

LAST APRIL 26, Carl Kraemer, 35, of 1642 N. Orchard St., wanted only an apology from Patrolman Charles Rickher after, Kraemer said, Rickher punched him in the stomach during a traffic stop.

Rickher stopped him that day, he said, at Halsted and Willow Streets, charging him with drag racing. Kraemer said he asked Rickher why he had been stopped.

"That's all I said," Kraemer maintained, "and he all of a sudden hits me in the stomach, then tells me to 'Com'on, try and start something.'"

After he received the ticket, Kraemer said, he went to the East Chicago Station to file a complaint against Rickher. A sergeant there tried to talk him out of it, he said, promising that Rickher would not show up in court for the ticket if Kraemer would forget the incident.

"I told the sergeant I wouldn't make a beef if Rickher would just apologize to me," Kraemer said.

HE SAID he and the sergeant confronted Rickher, and Rickher angrily denied ever touching Kraemer. So, Kraemer said, he went ahead and filed a complaint with the police Internal Affairs Division, producing witnesses to prove his story and eventually taking a polygraph test that showed he was telling the truth.

Rickher testified in court that Kraemer had been extremely belligerent when he stopped him, would not show his license, and had yelled obscenities. He denied ever striking Kraemer.

Kraemer was convicted of speeding, and after 6½ months, still doesn't know what the IAD has done with his complaint.

"I've been called a liar," Kraemer said, "and they've made me look like a fool. It's going to cost me \$300 to appeal my case. I've wasted seven days from work, and before all this is done I'm going to be out \$600.

"What the hell," he said, "what's the use?"



Tribune Photo

IAD's Alfred Conrad . . .
"We consider suspension not punishment, but training."

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