

POST-DISORDER DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

Critique Session

On September 8, 1967, the Detroit Police Department held a critique session on the civil disturbance at the Detroit Police Academy. In attendance were:

Deputy Supt. John Nichols (Presider)
Chief of Detectives Edward Sash
Chief Inspector Thomas Turkaly
Director of Personnel Robert Quaid
Director of Technical Services Henry Sedmak
Director of Traffic William Polkinghorn
Dist. Inspector Arden DeLuca
Dist. Inspector Anthony Bertoni
Dist. Inspector Charles Gentry
Insp. Bernard Winckoski, Research & Development Bureau
Inspector William Morris, Academy
Inspector Chester Sylvester, T. M. U.
Inspector John Bowyer, Mounted Bureau
Inspector John Ware, Special Investigation Bureau
Lieutenant Francis McGee, Research & Development Bureau
Lieutenant Alfred McGee, Academy
Lieutenant Raymond Borsak, Tenth Precinct
Lieutenant James Taylor, M. T. B. (Motor Traffic Bureau)
Lieutenant Alfred Saffold, M. T. B.
Lieutenant Clarence Cesare, S. T. B. (Stationary Traffic Bureau)
Lieutenant Teddy M. Sikora, S. T. B.
Lieutenant Robert Mазzie, Tenth Precinct
Lieutenant Fred Hotchkiss, Property Bureau
Sergeant Ray Piddington, Fourteenth Precinct (Air Operations)

The material that follows came from this meeting, and is considered confidential.

12 hour shifts -- The suggestion was made that following the initial phase of operations, shifts other than 12 to 12 could be used for street patrol (such as 8 to 8). Director of Personnel Quaid was to prepare a report on this matter.

Timekeeping -- An officer would be designated in each precinct to be responsible for timekeeping. In order to facilitate timekeeping and for other operational purposes, officers will report first to their precinct and then to the command post. Director of Technical Services Sedmak was charged with formalizing a system of timekeeping, utilizing key punch machines.

Supervisory Personnel -- It was decided that each unit in the field should have adequate supervision, i.e., each squad should have a sergeant, and a bunching of three or more squads should have a lieutenant. Director Quaid was to prepare plans for this.

Deployment of Personnel -- It was stressed that precincts should follow instructions on the deployment of personnel, otherwise men would be held at a precinct simply because of possible future need at the precinct.

Equipment Issuance and Security -- Need was expressed for a method to maintain control over and a record of weapons, etc., issued during emergencies. The possibility of using the factory "tool check" system was discussed. Inspector Gentry described the form on which squad or other commanders had recorded information. The form also served other purposes. Inspector Gentry was to prepare a report and recommendation.

Private Weapons -- There was discussion concerning use by officers of private weapons. No conclusions were reached. It was noted that special training would be required.

Air Operations -- Sergeant Piddington, Precinct 14 (Air Operations), was to submit recommendations on which would be preferable - a helicopter or a fixed wing aircraft.

Director Quaid and Sergeant Piddington were to screen personnel records to see if additional young pilots were available.

Consideration was to be given the problems created when manpower is drained from bureaus or precincts when pilots are used. The defining and formalizing of pilot assignments was also to be considered.

Prisoners --

Transportation -- Problems were experienced but it was agreed that the D.S.R. provided excellent service. Arrangements were made through a dispatcher for the D.S.R. Bus drivers were cooperative and helpful. Transportation must be arranged so as to avoid delays in moving prisoners from one place to another. Duplicate requests for transportation should be avoided, and a precinct should make certain that busses are not waiting to be used before making a request. Busses can be sent reasonably near trouble areas if security guards are provided.

Detention Facilities -- This was termed a problem. Busses were used for this purpose in several instances for as much as two days.

Registration -- The suggestion was made that a bus sent to pick up prisoners in trouble areas should be provided with personnel to register (at least on preliminary basis) prisoners. Detective personnel would be desirable, but shortage of men is an obstacle. Inspector Ware was to prepare a recommendation. It was further decided that each precinct should designate a man to be responsible for prisoner registration and reporting.

Identification -- The proper identification of prisoners was considered essential to the transfer, processing and court prosecution of prisoners. Reports must be accurate and must contain the correct name or names of arresting officers. The photographing of prisoners with the arresting officers is helpful. When busses are used for prisoner registration in the field, a man should be detailed to the bus to take photographs of prisoners, if possible. It was stated that additional cameras were needed.

Prisoner Information Center -- The person in each area designated to be responsible for prisoner registration and reporting should notify an Information Center promptly of any pertinent information relative to a prisoner. This will be included in the check-list for command post operations.

Property -- The use of correct tags was given importance. Much material tagged as evidence property could be tagged as found or possibly safekeeping property, thus making release easier, as it is necessary to clear through Detectives to release evidence property. 90% of the property that came into Department's possession during riot was tagged as evidence property, and only a small portion of it was actually used as evidence.

Security -- It was decided that provision had to be made for the security of property, as many small sized items of considerable value are involved during a disorder.

Storage -- Consideration was to be given to the use of tractor trailers from trucking companies as temporary property storage facilities at precincts and other locations. Each precinct was to designate a man to be responsible in this area. Lieutenant Hotchkiss of the Property Bureau is preparing written recommendations covering these matters.

Command Posts -- A need for more telephones was immediately expressed. It was stated that command post locations should be selected on a city-wide basis (perhaps 5 or 6 locations) and they should be pre-wired with police lines and bell lines (jack system). Three Uniform District Inspectors will get together and decide on locations. The security of a command post is an important consideration. A command post kit is being designed containing needed equipment, etc. Any suggestions as to what should be included in the kit were to be sent to Inspector Gentry. A PREP unit at command posts was considered essential.

Identification of the Dead and Injured -- Inspector Ware of the Special Investigation Bureau will make recommendations on the possible use of an OCD system of tagging the dead and injured.

Communications --

PREP Units -- The Detroit Police Department expects to receive approximately 100 new PREP units in the near future. It was agreed that they should be phased into the present city-wide system, and that a new city-wide channel should not be utilized.

Bullhorns -- These are received as valuable items, and more are felt to be needed. Those that the Department has will be strategically located at key precincts, so that they will be readily available in the event of need.

Automobile Public Address Units -- It was felt that these served a useful purpose during the disorder.

Dispatching -- Generally the dispatcher does not handle cars in the trouble areas, as this is the responsibility of the area commander. However, it was considered important that certain vehicles not report to the command post in order to remain under the control of the dispatcher to handle minor runs (where a three car unit is neither desired nor necessary).

Officer in Trouble Calls -- The point was made that an over-response to officer in trouble calls caused difficulty, because the cars responding often blocked the street, preventing the needed emergency equipment or personnel from entering.

Information to Department Personnel -- It was deemed important that all personnel and units be notified promptly of any changes in rules, regulations, directives, etc. (such as curfews, restriction on sale of alcohol, gasoline, etc.). In some instances, this type of information was released to the public through radio broadcasts, while the department personnel had no official notification. Information, it was recommended, should go to Precincts and to command posts first.

Intelligence --

Reports from the Field -- It was emphasized that reports to Headquarters from the field and precincts should realistically reflect the true situation, and that care should be exercised so as to avoid over-stating a problem.

Intelligence Patrol -- It was noted that Inspector Genry had a two man team patrolling the area during the riot, and that they were able to provide valuable and accurate intelligence data. A larger number of such men was the recommendation so that the entire trouble area can be covered. This concept is to be developed.

Intelligence Bureau Officer -- The Intelligence Bureau man (C.I.B.) at the command post, it was decided, should serve as the intelligence officer for the commander. He should screen reports phoned in by Intelligence Patrol officers; provide liaison between the command post and the Intelligence Bureau; and screen out-of-town prisoners, arranging for interviews with detectives if deemed appropriate. He is also to monitor radio calls at the command post.

Backlash -- There was discussion regarding the possibility of backlash in the event of another civil disturbance. This could involve groups of people invading trouble areas, which would make the police job doubly difficult. Any information on this topic was to be directed to Inspector Ware.

Homicides, -- It was suggested that a homicide bureau man or a man familiar with homicide procedures be detailed to each precinct. It was decided that the best method is to send the case (and those involved) to the homicide bureau for handling. This procedure entails having a car available to be used for transportation purposes.

Emergency Police Reserves -- The E.R.P. program has been tentatively revamped since the disorder by Lt. A. McGhee of the Detroit Police Academy. The major change is the proposal that certain employees of public utilities and similar agencies serve as E.R.P. only on the premises of their employer. Exhibit 28 describes this proposal and the general workings of the E. R. P.

Citizen Volunteers -- Many citizens volunteered to assist the department during the emergency. It was decided that Commanding Officers should be granted authority to accept the services of volunteers in appropriate work (such as clerical duties). Moreover, citizens will not be committed to danger areas under any circumstances.

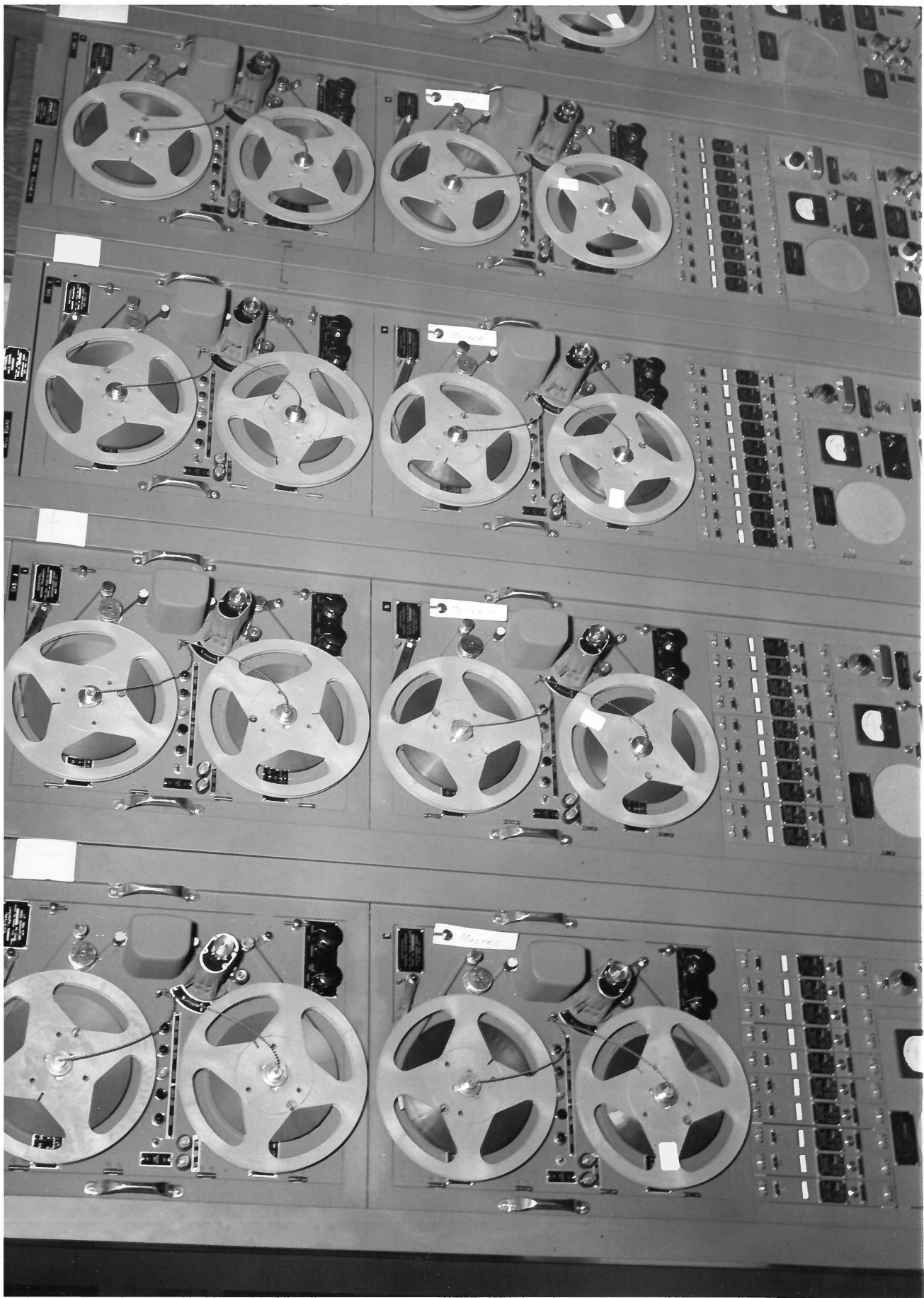
Retired Officers -- There was discussion concerning the possible use of retired officers during emergencies. Advantages, disadvantages, and complications were reviewed. No conclusion was reached other than that it is a matter that can be given further consideration.

Liaison with Other Units --

Michigan State Police -- Liaison with the Michigan State Police was considered excellent. One recommendation was to clarify formally with the Director of the State Police the fact that the Detroit Police Department can use men in less than 16-man (squad) units.

National Guard -- There was a recommendation for a ranking National Guard officer to be present in future disturbances at Police Headquarters. During the recent difficulty, ranking officers were in the field and at command posts, and a Captain was the highest ranking officer at Headquarters.

Street Lights -- There was general agreement that street lights should be extinguished in trouble areas since lights generally work to the disadvantage of the police. The Public Lighting Commission has promised to cooperate if the Detroit Police Department makes its wishes known to them. It sometimes takes a few hours to make the necessary arrangements. Director Sedmak and Inspector Gentry are working on this.



City of Detroit

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

RAY GIRARDIN
Commissioner

PROPOSAL TO ENLIST EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND OTHER AGENCIES INTO EMERGENCY POLICE RESERVES OF DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

To ensure that an armed guard force could quickly be posted at critical installations, it is proposed that certain employees of public utilities and other agencies be enlisted into the Emergency Police Reserve (EPR) of the Detroit Police Department. They would provide protection until police or military authorities could direct their attention to such matters. Employees enlisted under this program would be given the same basic police training as other volunteers in the EPR program, but they would be assigned only to provide security on the premises of their employer. They would not be subject to removal from that assignment for duty elsewhere.

The proposal does not suggest that these voluntary civilian guards be a substitute for police and military personnel when they are available, or when a combat situation is encountered. It does, however, offer protection at vital installations until police or military can supplant or augment the civilian force. Also, a guard force of this type would relieve demands on police personnel in areas where the threat of sabotage is not imminent, but where it would be prudent to have guards stationed in the event of unlikely developments.

Utilities and other agencies, in addition to the security guards, should give consideration to providing some physical

protection for their property, in the form of security fencing, floodlighting and the like. This would reduce the number of guards required for maximum security.

The Emergency Police Reserve (EPR)

The EPR is a force of volunteer citizens that offer their services to assist the police department in the event of major emergency. They receive basic police training, including instructions in the handling of firearms, and in the event of an emergency they may be called to duty by the police commissioner. They are not paid by the city during their period of training or duty, but as a provision of the Detroit ordinance under which they are organized, they are covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act. If called to duty during a civil disturbance and assigned to duty where it might be necessary for them to protect themselves, they would be armed.

Training

The training of EPR's is usually conducted in their off-work periods at pre-established precinct stations. Fourteen hours of classroom training, in two-hour sessions, is offered, plus two four-hour sessions at the firearms range.

Uniforms and Firearms

It is contemplated that a uniform or some distinctive identifying attire or equipment will be provided to members of the EPR and that those assigned by the police department to field

duty will be provided with firearms. It is expected, however, that EPR's assigned only to duty on their employers' premises should be provided with firearms by the employer, if possible.

Liability

An employe volunteering for membership in the EPR program would be serving as a member of that force from the moment that the emergency was declared until he was relieved of the duty. Accordingly, it is anticipated that his actions during that period would be those of a police officer acting for a law enforcement agency, rather than those of an employe acting for his employer.

Private Armed Guards -- It appears that business places using armed guards avoided to some extent looting and damage. There are, however, practical and legal considerations. For example, a Governor's proclamation setting up rigid emergency firearms control rules could have an effect upon this, particularly if transporting weapons is involved. Any suggestions should be directed to Inspector Ware.

Arrest Procedure Proposal

In any situation where mass arrests may be made, it is imperative that arresting officers return immediately to the scene. Given these circumstances, prisoners and evidence must be processed quickly and accurately. The procedures described below have been developed by the Detroit Police Department Research and Development Bureau to provide rapid processing with a minimum of paper work at the time of the arrest. These procedures are designed to be followed when prisoner processing is accomplished at temporary facilities including the prisoner processing vehicle, or precinct stations during emergency situations. These procedures have not been completely finalized or passed on.

A new form, D.P.D. 551, the preliminary arrest card, has been designed for the processing of mass arrests (see Exhibit 29). This form will serve as a temporary arrest ticket and a PCR (preliminary complaint record). The regular print card, arrest ticket and the complete PCR will have to be prepared later, when time permits, but not later than the end of the tour of duty of the arresting officer.

The form will be available in the stock room. Each precinct shall maintain a supply of 500 forms and the Commanding Officer of the Motorcycle Traffic Bureau shall be responsible for insuring that the prisoner processing vehicle is equipped

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROPOSED PRELIMINARY ARREST CARD

Last Name		FIRST	MIDDLE	AGE	SEX	RACE
Address				DATE OF BIRTH		
Where Arrested			DATE	TIME		
Arresting Officers			BADGE	UNIT		
			BADGE	UNIT		
Initial Charge.						
Details of Arrest				RIGHT THUMB PRINT		
DPD 551				PRELIMINARY ARREST CARD		

Source: Detroit Police Department, Research and Development Bureau.

with a minimum of 1000 copies of the form and a like number of evidence and property tags.

The procedures to be used are described in detail in the following proposed amendments to the Detroit Police Manual:

CHAPTER 20

Add the following new sections after Section 145:

Section 145A, PRISONER PROCESSING DURING MASS ARRESTS,

The arresting officer shall enter the processing area with his prisoner and obtain the preliminary arrest card, D.P.D. 551, and if necessary, evidence and property tags. Once the officer has obtained the necessary forms, he shall follow the procedures listed below.

A. The prisoner's right thumb print shall be placed on D.P.D. 551.

If the right thumb cannot be printed due to injury or amputation, another digit shall be used and so indicated on the form. No attempt should be made to complete the form at this time.

B. After the thumbprint has been taken, the officer, his prisoner and any related evidence shall be photographed by a polaroid process. The officer, and his prisoner shall stand behind a table and any related evidence shall be placed on the table before them. Such photographs shall be taken from a distance of approximately four feet for maximum clarity.

C. Upon completion of photographing, the arresting officer shall prepare D.P.D. 551, including as many details of the arrest as time and space will permit. These details are essential as the arresting officer later will have to prepare a complete PCR from this card.

D. Evidence tags will not be completed at this time. The arresting officer shall place only his name and unit on the tag. The property shall be placed in the containers provided and the evidence tag shall be attached so the number may be easily read. The evidence tag numbers shall be noted in the space provided on the arrest card and on the reverse side of every polaroid picture that was taken.

Other officers will be available at the processing area to take charge of the prisoner and all property.

Revision of the Detroit Police Department's Mobilization Plan for Emergencies

The current mobilization plan for emergencies excludes certain units and bureaus - the Women's Division, Civic Center, Communication Center, License, Liquor License, Medical, Motor Service, Property, Public Vehicle, Record, Recorder's Court, Research and Development, Traffic Court, the Traffic Safety Bureaus and the specialized detective bureaus.¹³ Mr. William Walter of the Detroit Police Department Research and Development Bureau is setting up a new mobilization system, the basic change proposed being the mobilization of the above units and bureaus in emergencies.

¹³Detroit Police Department, Detroit Police Manual, September 1, 1967, p. 174.