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Police department starts 'team policing' project

By BLAINE TAYLOR

"The guys are enthusiastic about it and ready to do a good job," Sgt. Policewoman Mercedes Rankin told the AFRO about the Baltimore Police Department's new "Team Policing Project."

SGT. MERCEDES RANKIN

"I feel the citizens are going to accept this program and that the police will do their darndest," she added.

The Team Policing effort is the first phase of the department's "Crime Control Team Project," and is being financed by a block grant of $525,329 approved by Mayor Schaefer and the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice.

The aim of the project, said Sgt. Rankin, is simple: "To reduce crime within the team areas."

* * *

The teams aim to produce a psychological impact by being both visible and available to the community residents, and to be able to prevent crime by identifying problems and developing patrol techniques to resolve them.

The Crime Control Team Project consists of nine teams, each with three patrolmen, two police agents and one sergeant in charge.

A lieutenant has been assigned to each of the target areas and each is responsible for the operations of three Crime Control teams.

Sgt. Rankin is the only female team leader so far, and she is in charge of five males.

* * *

The three areas are Southwestern District, bounded by Baltimore St. on the north; the B. and O. Railroad, Washington Blvd. and Nanticoke St. on the south; Poppleton, Parkin and Scott Sts. on the east and Catherine St. to the west.

Area number two, Northwestern District, is bounded on the north by Menlo Dr., Rogers and Belvedere Aves.; south, Woodland Ave.; east, Pimlico Rd. and race track, and Park Hghts. Ave.; and west, Reisterstown Rd. and Western Maryland railroad.

Area number three, Northern District, includes north, Argonne Dr., 39th St.; south, The Alameda, Exeter Hall Ave.; west Greenmount Ave.; and east, Hillen and Harford Rds. and Loch Raven Blvd.

The teams are scheduled to go into action this Monday, Feb. 5.

Nationwide search underway for state commission head

A nationwide search is underway for a $28,000 a year executive director of Governor Marvin Mandel's new Study Commission on the Structure and Governance of Education.

Mathias J. DeVito, chairman, told an organizational meeting on Monday, that the executive director should be someone with organizational skills who would prevent this new commission from being "just another commission."

The commission would also have an assistant director and two secretaries, Mr. DeVito said.

Governor Mandel in announcing membership on the 26-member commission said:

"... the task ahead is a formidable one and will probably require at least two years of work. What I am seeking is a fresh look at the structure and governance of all public education—kindergarten through graduate school—and some workable recommendations for change."

* * *

Members of the commission beside Chairman DeVito are:

David W. Barton, The Hon. Clarence W. Blount, William E. Coyle, Rev. Vernon N. Dobson, Thomas S. Gwynn, Jr., Mrs. Richard L. Harrison, Mrs. Anna Hart, Mrs. Samuel J. Keker,

The Hon. John J. Kent, Richard R. Kline, John J. Lancaster, Mrs. Enolia T. MacMillan, William L. Marbury, Esq., The Hon. Lucille Maurer, The Hon. Barbara A. Mikulski,

Mrs. Frances Murphy, James G. Nelson, The Hon. Mary L. Nock, The Hon. Robert A. Pascal, The Hon. Frank B. Pesci, Mrs. Lester B. Reed, The Hon. Frank Robey, Jr., Leonard H. Rosenberg, Oakleigh Saunders, M.D., Fred H. Spigler, Jr., and Charles W. Willis, Ph.D.

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5th carrier crewman is convicted

SAN DIEGO (UPI) — Airman Donald Ricks, 20, of Roxbury, Mass. was found guilty by Navy court maritial this week of assault asd rioting, the fifth of 27 accused crewmen of the carrier USS Kitty Hawk to be convicted.

Forty-six crewmen were injured in rioting aboard the carrier as it sailed toward Vietnam Oct. 12-13. Navy prosecutors and a congressional subcommittee that investigated the incident said a relatively small group of black sailors ran amok, beating up white crewmen.

In testimony in the trial of Airman Apprentice Nejson P. Mouton, 18, Beaumont, Texas, Seaman Charles Beck identified Mouton as one of the blacks who assaulted him. Beck, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., said he was surrounded by a group at a drinking fountain and chased into a bomb storage area where he was beaten.

Mouton hit him with a six foot long chain, Beck testified.

Mouton also faces eight counts of breaking brig rules while in confinement awaiting trial.

Two more trials began Wednesday, those of Seaman Apprentice Melvin J. Newsom, 20, of Detroit, and Airman Apprentice James D. Jackson Jr., 20, Williamson, W. Va.

Twenty-six of the 27 sailors charged are black. One has been acquitted.

Brown exhibit due at UMBC

A show of watercolors and gouaches completed in the fall and winter of 1972-73 by Hilton Brown is slated to be exhibited in the Library Gallery of the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) beginning Feb. 5 through March 9.

The exhibit will be free to the public during regular library hours, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 2 to 11 p.m., Sunday.

Shooting victim dies, homicide rap hits wife

The death from gun shot wounds of Lawrence Patterson, 45, Tuesday night at Johns Hopkins Hospital has caused the victim's wife to now be charged with homocide, police report.

The 30-year-old East Baltimore matron, Mrs. Martha Patterson, was originally arrested and charged with assault by shooting. She is currenly confined at Baltimore City Jail without bail.

The bizarre shooting incident which led to Patterson's death occurred Jan. 20 at the couple's 1500 block N. Caroline St. home.

It was apparently triggered by Patterson a Korean veteran, daring his wife to shoot him.

* * *

"So you want to shoot me?" Patterson was reported saying to his wife moments before the fatal blast, according to police.

"Go ahead and shoot me," witnesses claim the victim said.

Police state Patterson produced the murder weapon, a .22 caliber revolver, from his pocket and fired one shot into the air before handing it to his spouse. The reports also state the victim directed the weapon to his head.

The accused, according to police, is a former patient of Crownsville State Hospital. Spokesmen for the hospital confirmed this adding Mrs. Patterson was part of the hospital's foster care program and she currently has a social worker assigned to her case.

Funeral services are 10 a.m. Saturday at the St. Francis Catholic Church, Caroline and Oliver Sts.

The deceased's sister, Mrs. Helen Strong, told the AFRO Wednesday Mr. Patterson and his wife of five years appeared quite happy together.

* * *

"He loved life and people. Everyone was like a relative to him," she said.

Patterson was an employee of the Suncrest Furniture Co. at the time of his death. He had served in the Korean War for two years, returning to his home in Baltimore, August, 1962.

Surviving him, along with his wife and sister, are: another sister, Mrs. Stephanny Griffin; a brother, William Patterson; two sons, Steven, 2, and Lawrence, 3; and three aunts, Mrs. Hazlel Curtis, Mrs. Doris Woods and Mrs. Helen Chaplan.

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