

The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department



Retiree sees evolution of his work

On March 10, Retired Captain Jack Brady - the man who started a unit in 1968 that would go on to revolutionize policing in Kansas City - came back to see how far it had come.

Retired Captain Brady helped start the Helicopter Unit 46 years ago, with Chief Clarence Kelley's support. He knew other big cities were getting helicopters. He saw what a big difference it was making, and he couldn't wait to get started.

"Anything new at that time was a good thing," he said. "And I just really enjoyed the thought of getting the helicopters."

Kansas City was one of the first cities in the nation to implement airborne patrol. Jack Brady worked with the United States military to obtain surplus helicopters for the police department's use in the late 1960s.

"We bought our first helicopter for \$300,000, which I had to sign for," Brady said.

Curious as to what had happened to the unit he founded, Brady simply drove there recently, popped in, explained his history and asked for a tour. That led the current officers to plan something special for him: a flight in the first-ever brand new choppers the department purchased last year. Until that point, KCPD was still using Vietnam War-era machines.

"It's night and day difference really," he said after his flight. "They almost fly themselves compared to what we



Officer Isaac Freestone and Sergeant Tony Mak helped retired Captain Jack Brady out of the police helicopter after his flight March 10. Brady was a founder of the Helicopter Unit in 1968.

had to do." years old in May. In addition to his work at the Police Department, he founded the Airborne Law Enforcement Association in 1968, which has grown to an international organization with more than 3,000 members.

Brady grew up in Cameron, Mo. He has been married to his wife Helen Brady for the last 64 years. He has four children: Cathy Menniga, Mike Brady, Cindy Ragsdale and Kelly Summers and has 10 grandchildren. Many family members accompanied him on March 10.

Besides his inevitable love for flying, his family says he enjoys gardening and fishing.

"He is very good at wood carving and a really good artist," daughter Cindy Ragsdale said.

had to do."

The first thing that caught his attention after getting in the chopper was the power. He explained what flying the old helicopters was like.

"We were really only concerned with four things," Brady said. "We had the cyclic that we steered with, the collective you pulled up and down on, then at the end of that was the throttle that gave you power. Lastly, we had to talk on the radio."

Today's helicopters have everything from heat sensors to moving map systems.

Brady began his KCPD career in 1952 and retired in 1980. He'll turn 88

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Patrol reorganizes specialty units, captains

Two reorganizations are underway in the Patrol Bureau to make the most of resources in lean times.

Impact Squads are combining the several specialty units at patrol divisions into more flexible teams, and an area command concept for captains at suburban stations is being tested.

Impact Squads

Over the years, patrol divisions have acquired a number of acronym-designated squads aimed to enhance community policing. There have been CAT (Community Action Team), CAN (Community Action Network), TOPS (Target-Oriented Policing Squad), PACT (Parks Anti-Crime Team), and more. Some started with grants. Others didn't.

"It put people in silos," said Deputy Chief Bob Kuehl, Patrol Bureau commander.

"With tough budgets, we want to be able to put resources wherever needed."

The department is facing a \$5.5 million deficit in this fiscal year, and a \$6 million budget cut in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1.

D.C. Kuehl said the Impact Squads aren't necessarily changing what the officers are doing day-to-day, but they allow division commanders flexibility to use them where needed. That could be anything from a 28-day assignment to track down specific fugitives to a weekend spent trying to tamp down a crime flare-up.

Kuehl said it's a way to break down walls.

"If you've got guys assigned to a Parks Anti-Crime Team who only ride ATVs, but it's been sub-zero and everything is covered in snow for months, how can we use them differently?" he asked.

Major Robin Houston of the Patrol Bureau said things that have shown great value and return will remain in place, like the Westside CAN Center and Crime Free Multi-Housing officers. Kuehl said he hopes Impact Squads will give division officers opportunities to rotate in and out of them for a change of pace and/or to tackle specific projects. He doesn't think the changes will negatively affect the department's community policing efforts. In fact, he said Impact Squads will make it less complicated for residents to find the help they

need.

Division stations will be reporting Impact Squad progress to each other and to the Chief's Office on a quarterly basis.

Area Commands

A delay in the captain selection process has left the department short of patrol commanders. The Patrol Bureau is trying to find creative ways to cope while balancing span of control issues with crime-fighting.

Typically, each division station has three captains – one assigned to each shift. But because of the current dearth of captains, the three suburban stations – North, Shoal Creek and South patrol divisions – now have only

two. Major Houston said they could not be short captains at inner-city stations because of the high activity levels there. "It's hard, because captains are very needed in the field," Major Houston said. "That's where our newest and most

inexperienced people are who need the most guidance."

So South Patrol is serving as a guinea pig of sorts for an area command concept. Instead of being assigned to a certain shift, captains are assigned to a geographic area. At South Patrol, one is in charge of the west side of the division, and the other is in charge of the east. The captains flex their hours between the PM and over-night shifts (the major is there during the day).

Deputy Chief Kuehl said the Research and Development Division is looking into whether other cities have used a similar concept and how it worked for them. Crime-wise, he said it's a good model because the same criminals break the law at different times of the day, and it allows a commander to stay on top of different crime patterns in the areas they're looking out for. But the shift model works best for span of control.

Other division stations are trying other methods to get by with a reduced command staff. Shoal Creek has added an operations sergeant to handle many of the administrative duties, and North Patrol appointed a sergeant as an acting captain during the over-night shift.

Deputy Chief Kuehl said the Patrol Bureau will continue to evaluate what works and what doesn't while awaiting a new crop of commanders.

"With tough budgets, we want to be able to put **resources** wherever needed."

- Bob Kuehl
Deputy Chief
Patrol Bureau Commander



Well-known police dog passes

Soty, one of KCPD's most decorated canines who retired in 2009, has passed away at age 13. His partner was Retired Officer David Magruder. Soty lived with Magruder and his family until his death. Soty was featured on the COPS television show finding a suspect who shot an officer. He was assaulted by suspects during two separate arrests (one bit off part of his ear) and was the first to take advantage of a new city ordinance making it a crime to assault a police animal. He also won best bomb dog in the nation and was co-grand marshal of the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department is to protect and serve with honor and integrity.

Solar panels pop up on police buildings

Sunny days soon will save the department money on utility bills.

Solar panels have been popping up on top of police buildings since last fall, with the project expected to be complete by June. City Facility Services Manager Robert Rives said they're part of a citywide project to put solar panels on up to 80 City buildings to use more renewable energy.

The panels are currently on the Shoal Creek Patrol Division, Regional Police Academy, Indoor Firing Range, the vehicle maintenance and storage buildings at Metro and South patrol divisions and the Headquarters Annex.

Installation of more panels is slated for the South Patrol/Special Operations Building and the South campus's Multipurpose Building. Installation is scheduled to be complete by June.

Project manager Charles Harris, P.E., explained how the police buildings were selected.

"We looked at the buildings with the design-build team to see if they were situated a certain way with no buildings or trees blocking



Solar panels atop the Headquarters Annex at 901 Charlotte.

the sun's rays," he said.

About 2,500 square feet of flat or properly angled roof space also was required.

Rives said the solar panels were a safe bet financially because the City is leasing the system and paid no upfront costs. It only will pay Kansas City Power and Light for the actual power generated. The systems are capable of generating about 25 kilowatts of power per hour. The lease is for 20 years, and the City locked in the price of today's energy rates for that 20-year duration.

Employees and visitors in the buildings should notice no difference, Rives said. The City is monitoring how much energy the panels generate and how that compares to overall energy use. Energy production will vary based on weather.

Police stations were an obvious choice to get the solar panels, Rives said, because of their 24/7 nature and thus round-the-clock energy usage. Other City facilities getting the systems include fire stations and community centers.



Lee's Summit Police honor KCPD officer

The Lee's Summit Police Department bestowed KCPD Officer Garron Carter with their Award of Commendation at a ceremony Feb. 27 at Lee's Summit Police Headquarters. Although he was off-duty, Officer Carter helped break up an intense physical altercation between a mother and daughter in the parking lot of a Lee's Summit restaurant on July 27, 2013. He kept them at the scene until Lee's Summit officers arrived and assisted in the assault investigation.

Police present at major March events

Police worked hard to keep attendees at the NCAA Big 12 Basketball Tournament safe March 12-15 and again at the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17. Both events went off without any major incidents. Department members can view more pictures in the photo galleries on KCPD's intranet.



Upcoming Events

April 22
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting
(South Patrol Division)

April 22 - May 2
Police Fleet Expo-West

May 20
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting
(Academy)

The Informant is a publication of
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(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

Officially Speaking

Awards

Special Unit Citation

Firearms Training Section: Sergeant Ward Smith & Officers Donald Angle, Venasa Ray, Joseph Rooney & Instructors David Andress & Bill Conroy

Life-Saving Award

Officers David Adair & Brian Cooper

Officers Robert Martin & Daniel Pugh

Meritorious Service Award

Officers Nickolas McNallan & Instructor David Andress

Sergeant Matthew Payne

Certificate of Commendation

Sergeant Doug Niemeier & Master Detective Brent Taney & Detectives Kimberly Anderson, Robert Guffey, Vernon Huth & Steven Morgan & Analyst Sandra Lentz and Assistant Supervisor Jennifer Howard

Officers Dain Apple, Russell Lee, Michael Livers, Jason Rains and Edward Williams

Sergeant Blakely Brownlee and Officer Jacob Sapp

Awards cont.

Sergeant Jonathan Rivers and Officers DeAngelo Dotson, Luke Ewert, Joseph Malena, Charles Prichard and Daniel Quiles

Officers Russell Lee and Jason Rains

Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Steven Griswold

Officer Larry Cory & Detective Jennifer Crump

Promotions

To Sergeant

F. Damont Collins
Michael McKenna
Marvin Nix

To Major

Richard Smith

Obituaries

Retired Sergeant Dorris Towns

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