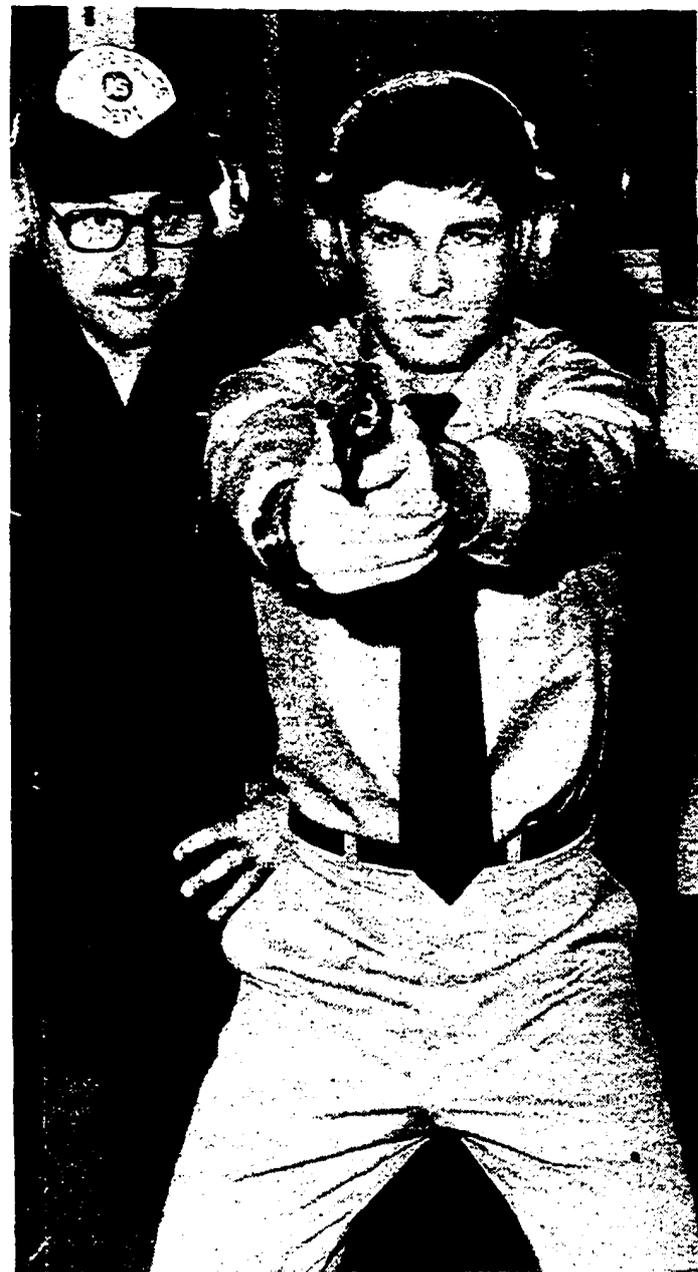


The making of a police officer, 1976



Tribune Photos by William Yates

Lincolnwood policeman Richard Rice takes aim in the firing range of the Chicago police academy as instructor Phil Culotta keeps close eye. Training program is given in century-old building at 720 W. O'Brien St.

By William Griffin

HOW DO you train a person to be a policeman?

What is it that must be triggered in his mind to make him see shoes before faces, notice fingernails and department, and sense danger without warning?

The experts seem to agree that these traits are learned only on the street—by pounding a beat. But the basics of police work usually are taught in a school.

IN THE CHICAGO Metropolitan area almost every police officer is trained at one of two schools, which are about as much alike as they are different.

One is run by the Chicago Police Department in a deteriorating, century-old building at 720 W. O'Brien St. It is in an area of congested traffic and in warmer months the smells of sauerkraut and sausage cooking on outdoor stands on Maxwell Street fill the room.

Besides training all of Chicago's police officers, the school provides annual seven-week courses for about 200 cadets from suburban and other government agencies.

THE OTHER school, called the Police Training Institute (PTI), is operated by the University of Illinois at Illinois Benedictine College in a remote area near Lisle. Its offices and classrooms are on the third floor of what once was a monk's cloister.

Together with its parent school in Champaign-Urbana, the PTI trains about 2,500 persons, most of them from suburban and rural police departments, in a six-week course.

The settings of the two schools are not the only differences.

In Chicago the cadets wear uniforms; in Lisle they do not. In Chicago they are inspected in military-style formations and stand roll calls; in Lisle they do not. In Chicago, they stand when questioned and address all instructors as "sir"; in Lisle they do not.

"I THINK we have more relaxed atmosphere, but I wouldn't call it casual," explains the PTI director William Burke, a former Chicago policeman. "We also stress discipline, but it's a different kind from what you'd get at the Chicago academy. A man here has his program and the responsibility to do well. If he doesn't, it won't be because of unnecessary pressures."

But the pressures on the cadets attending the metropolitan training program in Chicago are considered an integral part of their preparation for police work, says Capt. John Jemilo, director of the academy.

"We believe that a program should be semi-military because police departments, whether in Chicago or outside,



Instructor Greg Johnson teaches Norridge policewoman how to disarm a man with a gun during seven-week course.

are run that way. The chiefs of those departments back our training," he says.

"Learning to follow a command can be the most important part of police work. You see, the biggest problem in police work is boredom. Policemen must endure long periods of monotonous patrol, but a policeman must respond. If you don't do some of that in your basic training, I don't think you'll be getting it later."

BURKE, HOWEVER, argues that most cadets return to small departments after their training. There will be no uniform inspections, no roll calls, and probably no chain of command. So why include them in a training program, he asks.

But Jemilo says: "No matter how small the department may be, policemen must know how to obey commands and be able to move into a team concept. In an emergency, for instance, a

three-man department may find itself working with state troopers or sheriff's police."

Another difference between the schools is staffing.

THE CHICAGO department draws from a teaching staff of about 100 for its metropolitan training program. Most are Chicago policemen.

The PTI has a staff of about 20, many of them are retirees from police departments or other government agencies throughout the country.

But the vocational programs at the two schools are similar. Both stress the basics, such as fingerprinting, accident investigation, criminal law, physical fitness, personal protection, social sciences, and first aid.

"You have to give the broadest training to men going back to small departments because they won't have the support services available in larger departments," says Burke. "Every man on a

small department must know how to investigate accidents, handle youth problems, and investigate serious crimes because it's unlikely he'll be able to call in an expert."

JEMILO SAYS that at the request of police chiefs served by the program, the academy will extend its course to ten weeks. Burke said there are no plans now to extend the PTI course.

The state, which has required training for all policemen since Jan. 1, reimburses local police departments for most of the training costs and for salaries of cadets in the courses.

The Chicago police academy charges \$390 a man for the seven-week course, and Jemilo predicted the 10-week course will run about \$500. The six-week PTI course costs \$700, though that includes dormitory accommodations and meals.

Jemilo said the two schools are near an agreement to exchange instructors and work out joint programs.