

White police integrate Hub's historic Soul Patrol

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By Arthur L. Jones
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Ten white police officers have been assigned to the previously all-black "Soul Patrol," thus integrating the only black staffed police unit in Boston's history.

The announcement came at Boston police headquarters yesterday afternoon.

Comr. Edmund L. McNamara also announced he was making the Soul Patrol a permanent section of the Tactical Police Force and changing its command.

McNamara assigned newly appointed Lt. Leroy V. Chase Jr., 48, to take over command of the unit from Deputy Supt. Herbert A. Craigwell, who will return to his duties in the department's community affairs bureau. Chase and Craigwell are both black.

The new assignments became effective immediately.

Formed 10 weeks ago on a temporary "wait and see" basis, the experimental unit consisted of 32 black officers.

As of last night, the unit's personnel included 10 whites and 23 blacks.



PROMOTED — Police Comr. Edmund L. McNamara pins lieutenant's badge on newly promoted Joseph V. Mills. Other new lieutenants, still wearing sergeant's

stripes, are from (left) Earl B. Crocker, John J. Foley and Leroy B. Chase Jr. Latter will head tactical force patrolling Roxbury. (Globe photo by Sam Hammat)

The anticipated decision to integrate was made "as a result of a report submitted by Deputy Craigwell," the commissioner said.

Craigwell said that no other considerations influenced the commissioner's decision. The department

had been the target of discrimination charges hurled by Daniel Sweeney, president of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Assn.

"The commissioner doesn't recognize any pressures when making his decisions," Craigwell said.

A breakdown of the new permanent branch of the department is: one black lieutenant; two sergeants — one black, one white; four black detectives; and 26 patrolmen — nine white and 17 black.

The white officers were assigned on a non-volunteer basis.

Eighteen patrolmen of the special unit, nine white, nine black, will work in one and one tandems, Craigwell said.

Deputy Craigwell, who commanded the unit for 10 weeks, said he recommended integration "for the good of the department and the men involved."

The black officers transferred from the unit were reassigned to the positions they left when the Soul Patrol was formed.

The new special unit, under Lt. Chase's command, will continue to work out of Roxbury's Division 2.

Lt. Chase, a Baton Rouge, La., native and now the second highest ranking black in the Boston department, is a 22-year veteran of the department. He earned sergeant's stripes in 1961 and served until recently on District 4. In November, he was assigned to the Soul Patrol.

With the special unit now operating on an integrated basis, Lt. Chase anticipates no major problems either in the area of its black and white personnel or the constituency it serves.