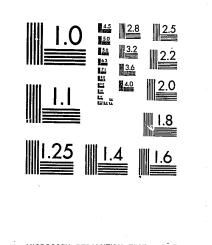
National Criminal Justice Reference Service



This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

National Institute of Justice United States Department of Justicie Washington, D.C. 20531

11

10/19/82



ENFORCEMENT

BULLETIN

Police Communica in an Urban Coun

he State of the Ar

and the second second

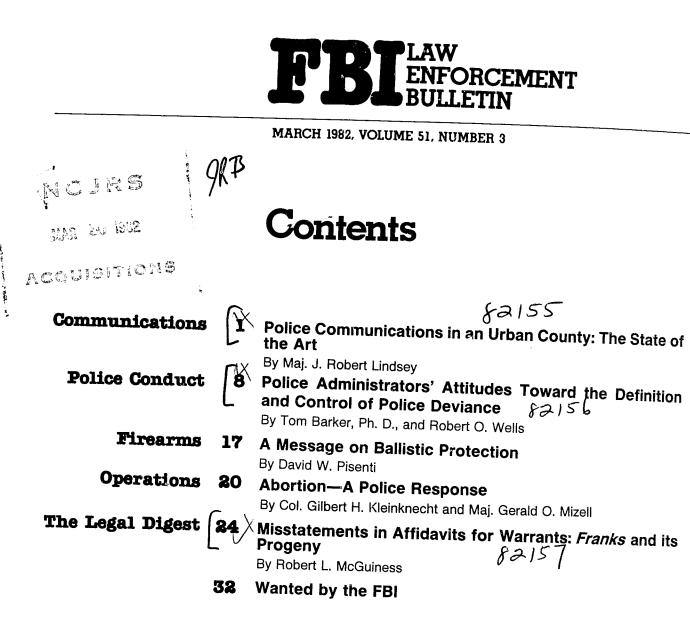
**MARCH 1982** 

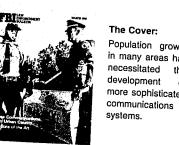
This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been Fernission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permis sion of the copyright owner.





Population growth n many areas has necessitated the development of more sophisticated

ISSN 0014-5688

82156

Federal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Justice Washington, D.C. 20535

William H. Webster, Director

The Atlorney General has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of the Department of Justice. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through December 28, 1983.

Published by the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Roger S. Young Assistant Director

Editor—Thomas J. Deakin Assistant Editor—Kathryn E. Sulewski Art Director—Kevin J. Mulholland Writer/Editor—Karen McCarron Production Manager-Jeffrey L. Sun



USPS 383-310



# **Police Administrators' Attitudes Toward** the Definiton and Control By TOM BARKER, Ph.D. of Police Deviance

Dean

College of Criminal Justice Jacksonville State University Jacksonville, Ala. and

**ROBERT O. WELLS** Doctoral Student School of Criminology Florida State University Tallahassee, Fla.

the problem of police deviance, especially corruption, been the subject of empirical research. Although the topic has been the subject matter of polemical debate since the establishment of the first paid police forces, empirical research to determine the causes of, attitudes toward, and means to control police deviance is still scarce. Even though there have been some noteworthy exceptions to this statement,<sup>1</sup> the pervasiveness of the phenomenon and the serious nature of the problem have not been matched by social scientific research interest. This is especially true in the area of police administrators' attitudes toward the definition and control of police deviance, especially corruption. Yet, few would deny the importance of the chief's role in preventing, controlling, and eliminating police corruption and other forms of police deviance. Police deviance, particularly in the form of

Only within the last 10 years has corruption, is not only contrary to the police mandate and organizationally divisive and disruptive but in many cases it makes the chief and other members rupt. of the department subject to criticism, dismissal, and/or prosecution.

> Although all members of the police command structure are, or should be, accountable for the performance of their men, the ultimate responsibility for corrupt behavior and other forms of police misconduct by any police officer and the integrity of the department rests with the police chief. Those areas in which the chief should be active include establishing an internal affairs unit to eradicate all patterns of misconduct, including corruption; being personally honest and being determined that his men will be honest also; and being willing to pay the price for virtue.<sup>2</sup> In addition, it is important that the chief take a public stance against corruption as a means of controlling it.3 This includes written

rules and regulations which explicitly define the administrator's position on behaviors which he believes are cor-

Recognizing the importance of administrative action in the prevention and control of police misconduct, we surveyed police chiefs in one southern State in order to determine their attitudes toward the definition and control of police corruption and other patterns of police deviance. Specifically, the chiefs were asked to define certain patterns of police misconduct as corruption, whether their department had rules and regulations covering these behaviors, and what action, if any, they would take if officers in their departments were discovered engaging in these types of behavior. These are the areas which appear to be most directly under the direction of the chief in his efforts to prevent and control police misconduct.



Dr. Barker

The patterns of police behavior to be discussed in this study are examples of a general pattern of deviant behavior (norm- or rule-violating behavior) known as occupational deviance, i.e., deviant behavior (criminal and noncriminal) committed during the course of "normal" work activities. Police occupational deviance refers to all deviant acts, i.e., violations of criminal laws, departmental rules and requlations, and ethical police standards, which occur during the course of occupational activity and are related to employment as a police officer.<sup>4</sup> These are acts which can be committed only by a police officer or acts which are made possible, facilitated, or directly related to the police occupational role. Specifically, the patterns of police occupational deviance to be examined are police corruption and police misconduct not directly related to police corruption. (See fig. 1.)

#### **Police Corruption**

Technically speaking, police corruption is an example of police misconduct, but we view it as a unique form of police misconduct. Specifically, police corruption is any proscribed act which involves the misuse of the officer's official position for actual or expected material reward or gain.5 In other words, corrupt acts contain three elements: (1) They are forbidden, (2) they involve the misuse of the officer's official position, and (3) they involve a material gain no matter how insignificant. There are at least 10 patterns of corrupt behavior which fit this definition.6 (See fig. 2.)

8 / FBI Law Enforcement Bu

#### **Police Occupational Deviance**

#### Police Misconduct Not Related to Corruption

Police misconduct not related to corruption, hereafter termed "police misconduct," is any pattern of behavior which meets two basic criteria: (1) It is a form of police occupational deviance and (2) the behavior does not involve a material reward or gain. Examples of police misconduct include police perjury, police brutality, sex on duty, sleeping on duty, drinking on duty, and other rule violations not involving a material reward or gain.7 The specific patterns of police misconduct to be examined in this study are: (1) Sleeping on duty, (2) hitting handcuffed prisoners, a form of police brutality, (3) having sex on duty, (4) speeding in patrol cars, (5) personal shopping on duty, and (6) drinking on dutv.

Figure 1

#### **Deviant Behavior** (Norm- or Rule-violating Behavior)

#### **Occupational Deviance**

(Deviant Behavior-Criminal and Noncriminal-Committed During the Course of "Normal" Work Activities)

#### **Police Occupational Deviance**

Corruption	Misconduct
(Involves a Ma-	(No Material Re-
terial Reward or Gain	ward or Gain)
<ol> <li>Corruption of authority</li> </ol>	Police Perjury
2) Kickbacks	Police Brutality
<ol> <li>Opportunistic</li> <li>Thefts</li> </ol>	Sex on Duty
<ol><li>Shakedowns</li></ol>	Drinking on Duty
5) Protection of	Sleeping on Duty
Illegal Activities	
6) Traffic Fix	Other Violations
7) Misdemeanor Fix	not involving
8) Felony Fix	material re-
	ward or
	gain
9) Direct Criminal	
Activities	
10) Internal Payoffs	

#### Figure 2

#### PATTERNS OF POLICE CORRUPTION

### 1) Corruption of Authority

Officer receives unauthorized free meals, services or discounts, and liquor.

2) Kickbacks

Officer receives money, goods, or services for referring business to towing companies, ambulances, garages, etc.

#### 3) Opportunistic Thefts

Opportunistic thefts from arrestees, victims, burglary scenes, and unprotected property.

#### 4) Shakedowns

Officers take money or other valuables from traffic offenders or criminals caught in the commission of an offense.

#### 5) Protection of Illegal Activities Protection money accepted by police officers from vice operators or legitimate businesses operating illegally.

6) Traffic Fix

"Taking up" or disposing traffic citations for money or other forms of material reward.

#### 7) Misdemeanor Fix

Quashing of misdemeanor court proceedings for some material reward or gain.

#### 8) Felony Fix

"Fixing" felony cases for money or other forms of material gain.

#### 9) Direct Criminal Activities

Officers engage in serious felonies, such as burglary, robbery, and larcenies.

#### 10) Internal Pavoffs

The sale of days off, holidays, work assignments, etc., from one officer to another.

Method

The principal data-gathering instrument for this study was a four-part mail survey questionnaire. The first part of the questionnaire consisted of 10 open-ended questions designed to gather general information about the respondent and his police department. The second section contained 30 auestions concerned with the existence of written rules and regulations governing the 16 patterns of police misconduct. The third part of the questionnaire dealt with the subject's opinion as to whether the behaviors actually constituted police corruption. Finally, the last section was used to determine what actions, if any, the respondents would take if officers in their department engaged in the behaviors.

#### Sample

Table 1

The population consisted of all police chiefs in a southern State. We compiled a list of 307 police agencies from two sources. Crime in the United States-1978 and a list entitled "Police Agencies-State of February 1979," which was obtained from a police academy in the State. We decided to survey all departments with five or more sworn police officers. Several methods were used to determine the size of each department in the population. Crime in the United States-1978 listed the number of officers in 277 of the 307 departments, and a member of the police academy staff was able to supply information on 19 of the missing 30 departments. The remaining 11 departments were con-

#### tacted by phone. The final sampling frame consisted of a total of 190 police agencies having 5 or more sworn police officers-114 departments with 10 or more officers and 76 departments with 5-9 sworn officers.

As a result of the initial mailing and two followup mailings, we received 115 useable guestionnaires. This represents an overall response rate of 61 percent. The response rate varied directly with the size of the department from a low of 54 percent for departments with 5-9 members to a high of 76 percent for departments having 50 or more members. (See table 1.)

#### **Rules and Regulations**

Each respondent was asked to indicate whether his department had written rules and regulations covering the various patterns of police deviance. Twenty-eight or 24 percent of the chiefs reported that their respective departments had no written rules and regulations. As one would suspect, this was directly related to the size of the department. Forty percent of the smaller departments, under 9 members, had no written rules and regulations, but only 2 of the departments with over 20 members had no written rules and regulations.

Table 2 reports the results on rules and regulations for each of the 16 patterns of police deviance. Over 50 percent of the departments had no rules and regulations specifically dealing with any of the examples given for the first pattern of police corruption-"corruption of authority." Accepting free meals from restaurants was the

. .....

#### Response Rate By Size of Department

Size of Department	No. of Departments	Number	Percentage
5-9 members	76	41	54
10-19 members	58	34	59
20-29 members	25	17	68
30-49 members	14	10	71
50 or more	17	13	76
	190	115	

#### one example where there was an almost even split on departments having rules and regulations forbidding this form of behavior-49 percent had rules and regulations covering this activity, 51 percent did not. For the remaining examples of police corruption, there were only three instances where over 50 percent of the departments had no rules and regulations addressing the form of corruption, viz., accepting money from bondsmen (52 percent)-an example of "kickbacks"-and giving and/or taking money for easy work assignments (55 percent) and giving and/or taking money for vacation time (61 percent), both examples of "internal payoffs." In no example did 100 percent of the departments have rules

#### **OPINIONS TOWARD POLICE DEVI-**ANCE

and regulations specifically addressing

or mentioning this behavior.

#### Is the Behavior Police Corruption?

In table 3 we are interested in the extent of agreement or disagreement between our definition and the respondents' definition of behaviors which constitute police corruption. As mentioned earlier, we classified the forms of police deviance into two categories: (1) Police corruption-a normor rule-violating act which also involves a material reward or gain, and (2) police misconduct-a norm- or rule-violating act which does not involve a material reward or gain. For us, the distinction between the two categories of behavior is the presence or absence of a material reward or gain. We were interested in seeing if the police chiefs also would make this distinction.

The first pattern of corruption to be presented is "corruption of authority." 8 This pattern includes many actions which some find insignificant, and it is the only pattern of corruption which may not involve criminal intent or some misuse of the officer's position at the time of the act. Nevertheless, the officer's integrity and position have been compromised. The officer has received some material reward or gain, and one or both parties to the act may expect some favorable treatment now or in the future. There is always the danger

Table 2

PATTERN OF DE

#### CORRUPTION

- 1) Corruption a. Free cup
- b. Accepting c. Using bad
- Accepting 2) Kickbacks
- a. Accepting b. Accepting c. Acceptin

#### referra 3) Opportunisti

 a. Taking ite b. Taking ar

#### c. Taking ho d. Taking lur

- 4) Shakedowns a. Money fro
- 5) Protection of a. Accepting
- b. Accepting 6) Traffic Fix a. Accepting
- 7) Misdemean a. Accepting
- 8) Felony Fix a. Accepting
- 9) Direct Crimi a. Policeme
- 10) Internal Pav a. Giving an assignr b. Giving an

# MISCONDUCT

- 1) Sleeping on d 2) Hitting a hand
- Sex on duty

#### Driving over s Shopping for

6) Drinking on di

## N = 87

\*\*Indicates a no response.

11

#### DEPARTMENTAL WRITTEN RULES AND REGULATIONS SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS OR MENTION THIS BEHAVIOR?

THIS DELIATION?		
EVIANCE	REGUL	ES & ATIONS ed in %) NO
<b>of Authority</b> of coffee g free meals from restaurants dge for free admission to movie g Christmas gifts	35 49 30 35	*66 51 70 66
g money from bondsmen g money from lawyers for referral g money from wrecker drivers for ls	48 52 60	52 48 40
<b>ti: Thefts</b> ems from a burglary rticles or money from a victim ome found property imber from construction site	66 58 54 54	35 **42 46 46
ns om criminals	61	39
of Illegal Activities g money from bootlegger or prostitute g money from drug pusher	61 54	39 46
g money from traffic offenders	74	27
I <b>or Fix</b> g money for dismissing case	68	33
g money for dismissing case	67	33
ninal Activity en committing burglaries	60	40
<b>yoffs</b> nd/or taking money for easy work ments nd/or taking money for vacation time	45 39	55 61
duty dcuffed prisoner speed limit on routine patrol personal items on duty luty	84 69 66 71 39 90	16 31 35 29 61 10

\*Some totals may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

March 1982 / 11

that an officer engaging in these "petty" forms of corruption may be started on a progression toward more serious ones. Police corruption for many officers often begins with the shared belief among the police peer group that "policemen have a right to a break," and the progression along the continuum of corruption is often so gradual that an officer is deeply involved before he realizes it. As table 3 indicates, this belief may not be shared by the re-

Table 3

and regulations specifically covering this behavior. It may be that the free cup of coffee is a traditional, accepted, and expected pattern of behavior in many of the responding departments. As the authors have heard on many occasions, those establishments that give free coffee are "good to the police" and those that do not are not. The implications of being labeled as "not being good to the police" are obvious. For the remaining examples of corrupspondents. Seventy-three percent of tion of authority-free admission to ther a lawyer or wrecker driver for rethe respondents disagreed with the movies, accepting Christmas gifts, and statement that accepting free coffee is accepting free meals-the majority of police corruption. Nevertheless, 35 the chiefs are either undecided or dispercent of the departments had rules agree with the acts being examples of tion.

police corruption, except that of an officer accepting free meals. In the last example a small majority, 51 percent, agreed that this is police corruption.

The second example of corruption was "kickbacks" and included accepting money from bondsmen, lawyers, or wrecker drivers. In each example, well over 50 percent of the respondents agreed that the behavior was police corruption. Ninety-three percent agreed that accepting money from eiferrals was police corruption, and 60 percent believed that accepting money from bondsmen was an act of corrup-

#### POLICE ADMINISTRATORS' BELIEF THAT **BEHAVIOR IS AN EXAMPLE OF POLICE CORRUPTION**

BEHAVIOR IS POLICE CORRUPTION (Reported in %) PATTERN OF DEVIANCE STRONGLY STRONGLY Х AGREE AGREE UND. DISAGREE DISAGREE SCORE (5) (4) (3) (2) (1) CORRUPTION 1) Corruption of Authority a. Accepting free coffee 2 18 64 10\* 2.32 7 b. Using badge for free admission to movie 13 24 26 35 2 3.12 c. Accepting Christmas gifts 7 14 21 55 З 2.65 d. Accepting free meals 14 37 24 24 3.36 1 2) Kickbacks a. Accepting money from bondsmen 30 30 20 3.89 20 b. Accepting money from lawyers 42 52 5 4.33 c. Accepting money from wrecker 53 drivers 41 4.4 3) **Opportunistic Thefts** a. Taking items from a burglary 80 21 4.79 b. Taking articles or money from a victim 76 23 4.66 c. Taking home found property 45 34 17 4.07 d. Taking lumber from construction 67 30 2 site n 4.57 4) Shakedowns a. Accepting money from criminals 84 16 4.84 5) Protection of Illegal Activities a. Accepting money from bootlegger or prostitute 81 19 4.81 b. Accepting money from drug pusher 85 13 2 4.78

There was also a general consensus among the respondents that each of the examples of "opportunistic thefts" was police corruption. One hundred percent agreed that taking items from a burglary scene was police corruption, and 99 percent also agreed that taking articles or money from a victim was corruption. Ninety-seven percent agreed that taking lumber from a construction site was police corruption, and 79 percent agreed that taking home found property was also an example of corruption.

For the next six patterns of corruption and their examples, "shakedowns," "protection of illegal activities," "traffic fix," "misdemeanor fix," "felony fix," and "direct criminal activities," there was 100 percent agreement that each of the examples

was an act of police corruption, except for accepting money from a drug pusher---one of the examples under "protection of illegal activities." For some unexplained reason, two respondents (2 percent) disagreed with the statement that such behavior is police corruption.

and the states that we wanted the set of the states of the set of

did not define the behavior to be discussed here as acts of corruption because they do not involve any material reward or gain. Again, as with corruption of authority, the respondents did not share our view of the behavior. In four of the six acts of misconduct, over 50 percent of the respondents considered the behavior to be corruption. There was also general agreement that both examples of the last Specifically, 53 percent believed that pattern, "internal payoffs," were police sleeping on duty was police corruption, corruption. Specifically, 82 percent of 77 percent believed that hitting a handthe respondents believed that giving cuffed prisoner was police corruption, and/or taking money for easy work 82 percent believed that sex on duty assignments was police corruption, was corruption, and 82 agreed with the and 81 percent agreed that giving statement that drinking on duty was and/or taking money for vacation time corruption. The respondents certainly was police corruption. had a more liberal definition of corruption than the authors. We believe that Misconduct the respondents are responding to As was stated earlier, the authors how "wrong" or unprofessional they

PATTERN OF DEVIANCE	STRONGLY AGREE (5)	AGREE (4)	UND. (3)	DISAGREE (2)	STRONGLY DISAGREE (1)	X SCORE
6) Traffic Fix						
a. Accepting money from traffic of- fenders	73	27	-	-	-	4.73
7) Misdemeanor Fix a. Accepting money for dismissing						
case	71	29	-	-		4.71
8) Felony Fix a. Accepting money for dismissing case	82	18	-	_	-	4.82
<ol> <li>Direct Criminal Activity         <ol> <li>Committing burglary</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	87	13	-	-	-	4.87
10) Internal Payoffs						
a. Giving and/or taking money for easy work b. Giving and/or taking money for	41	41	10	6	2	4.24
vacation time	33	48	10	6	2	3.99
MISCONDUCT						
1) Sleeping on duty	20	33	15	30	1	3.36
2) Hitting a handcuffed prisoner	50	28	8	12	1.	4.05
3) Sex on duty	44	38	10	7	1	4.14
4) Driving over speed limit on routine						
patrol	7	28	16	44	5	3.0
5) Shopping for personal items on duty	8	20	22	49	2	2.83
6) Drinking on duty	54	29	5	9	4	4.21

\*Some totals may not add to 100% because of rounding.

12 / FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

#### BEHAVIOR IS POLICE CORRUPTION (Reported in %)

March 1982 / 13

believe the behavior may be. Consequently, behaviors which violate the respondent's "wrongness" or "unprofessional" standard are equated with corruption. This is basically what one of the authors found in an earlier study.9 In that study, members of a 50-man police department were asked to indicate on a scale of 0-9 now "wrong" they perceived various forms of police deviance to be. Sleeping on duty and sex on duty received scores of 8 and police brutality and drinking on duty received scores of 9. These scores were the same as the scores for the majority of the patterns of corruption.

For the remaining patterns of misconduct, the majority of the respondents did not believe the behavior was police corruption. Only 34 percent believed that driving over speed limits while on routine patrol was police corruption, and 28 percent believed that shopping for personal items on duty was an act of corruption.

#### **Reactions to Police Deviance**

Table 4 presents a summary of the data dealing with the action the chiefs would take if, and when, instances of police corruption were exposed within their departments. The subjects were presented a fixed choice question dealing with each of the patterns of police deviance. Choices of action were: Take no action, give an oral or written reprimand, suspension, request resignation, press criminal charges, and other. We grouped these actions into four categories ranked by severity of action. The first represents those chiefs who would take no action. The second category, labeled "low," contains those responses of suspension and reprimand. The "medium" category contains those responses resulting in the resignation or dismissal of the officer. Our decision to include the firing of an officer in the "medium" category rather than the "high" category was based on the authors' observations of the effects of a police officer being fired. In numerous "real life" situations observed by the authors, when an officer has been fired from one

# "In all but one of the examples, the majority of the chiefs would handle police corruption through in-house or departmental action."

police department, he is often hired by another. This is especially likely if the officer is a certified police officer, i.e., completed his mandated training and receives his certification by the State's Police Officer's Standards and Training Commission. The possibility that the firing of an officer may mean only short term unemployment for the officer does not warrant placing this action in the "high" category. The "high" category was reserved for only those actions resulting in criminal charges against an officer.

A study of table 4 reveals several obvious patterns in the actions that the police chiefs would take in response to the discovery of police corruption in their respective police departments. The most interesting point is that in only one instance did over half of the police chiefs indicate that they would take "high" action. Only for those officers discovered committing burglaries did 75 percent of the respondents indicate that they would press criminal charges. Even more surprising is the fact that 25 percent of the chiefs surveyed would take action of a "low" or "medium" nature against officers committing violations of such magnitude as burglary. For every pattern, except direct criminal activities (committing burglaries), the majority of the police chiefs would take either nc action or action of "low" or "medium" severity. In other words, the chiefs would impose departmental sanctions. There are several dangers inherent in this reliance on "in-house" justice for acts of police corruption, especially the more-serious acts. For one, it lessens whatever deterrent effect more severe sanctions might have. In fact, in an earlier study Barker found that there is

an inverse relationship between risk and levels of police corruption. The higher the perceived risk, the lower the level of corruption.10 There is also always the danger mentioned earlier that an officer can be fired from one department for serious violations of the law and be hired by another department. Lax hiring standards can lead to a few "rotten apples" moving from department to department and continuing their corrupt activities. Furthermore, because police departments operate their own criminal justice system, i.e., receiving, investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating all complaints internally, it is possible for them to operate as a political society unto themselves without control or review by the people. It is also possible that dispensing lenient punishment for serious violations of the law by police officers will provide ammunition to those who argue that the police must be policed by some outside agency because they are unable or unwilling to police themselves.

For those patterns of police deviance defined as police misconduct, the majority of the respondents would take action in the "low" category, i.e., reprimand or suspension. The only instance where the respondents would resort to "high" severity of action is hitting handcuffed prisoners, an example of police brutality. Four percent of the respondents would press criminal charges against the officer. The reactions to police misconduct appear to indicate that even though the majority of the respondents would classify at least four of these acts as police corruption, they place them in a relatively low form of police corruption.

#### Summarv

The purpose of this study was to survey police chiefs in one State and determine their opinions toward the definition and control of two forms of police occupational deviance, viz, police corruption and police misconduct.

Table 4

Drinking on duty

PATTERN OF CORRUPTION

NO ACTION

Corruption of Authority	
Free meals	28
Free coffee	77
Free movie admissions	41 60
Christmas gifts	60
Kickbacks	
Money from bondsmen	24
Money from lawyers	
Money from wrecker drivers	
Opportunistic Thefts	
Taking items from burglary	
Money or items from victims	1
Taking home found property Taking lumber from construction site	3
Taking lumber from construction site	
Shakedowns	
Money from criminals	
Protection of Illegal Activities	
Money from bootlegger or prostitute	
Money from drug pusher	
Traffic Fix	
Money from traffic offenders	
Misdemeanor Fix	
Money for dismissing case	
Felony Fix	
Money for dismissing case	
Direct Criminal Activity	
Committing burglaries	
Internal Payofís	
Giving and/or taking money for easy	
work assignments	
Giving and/or taking money for vaca-	
tion time	4
Misconduct	
Sleeping on duty	
Hitting handcuffed prisoners	
Sex on duty	
Driving over speed limit on routine	
patrol	4
Personal shopping on duty	28

#### POLICE CHIEFS' REACTIONS TO POLICE DEVIANCE **GROUPED BY SEVERITY OF ACTION** (SHOWN IN PERCENTAGES)

LOW (Suspension & Reprimand)	MEDIUM (Resigna- tion or Firing)	HIGH (Press Crim. Charges)	OTHER
68	1		4
22	I		1
57			3
33			6
57	17	1	2
45	53	2	
47	51		2
2	49	50	4
6 73	58 19	31 5	4
12	44	42	2
12		42	2
3	60	37	
4	67	30	
5	67	29	
16	68	16	
16	68	16	
4	54	43	
2	22	75	2
			•
68	30		2
73	21		2
93	7		
56	35	4	5
55	42		3
90			6
70			2
46	54		
			March 1082 / 1
			840ron 1082 / 1

March 1982 / 15

Specifically, we were interested in the existence of written rules and regulations covering the behaviors, whether the chiefs would agree with our manner of categorizing the patterns of deviant conduct, and what action, if any, the chiefs would take if they discovered members of their department engaging in the patterns of corruption or misconduct. We found that a significant number of police agencies had no formal departmental rules and regulations, and of those with rules and regulations, most departments did not specifically mention the patterns of police deviance we outlined. In fairness to the police agencies, we believe that the wording of the question could have functioned to keep the "yes" responses low. Had we substituted the word "cover" for "specifically" in our question, "Departmental written rules and regulations cover this behavior?" instead of "Departmental written rules and regulations specifically address or mention this behavior?" the number of departments responding that they had rules and regulations covering the behavior might have been higher. It is also possible that a rewording of the question may have produced higher responses because the chiefs would have dealt with the patterns of deviance under the vague catch-all regulation found in many departments, i.e., conduct unbecoming a police officer. If this is so, we would have gained no additional knowledge about the disciplinary handling of police corruption and misconduct through a rewording of the question. In any event, this is an empirical question which deserves further research

The results also indicated a general agreement between the authors and the police chiefs over what behaviors constitute police corruption. The most notable exceptions were the police chiefs' classification of behaviors as corruption which are not generally treated as such by most writers on the subject, viz, sleeping, sex, and drinking on duty and hitting a handcuffed prisoner. There appears to be a general consensus in the literature on the subject that there must be some material gain involved before the act qualifies

... total reliance on departmental action for criminal violations leads to a small group of deviant actors moving from department to department. and . . . contributes to the scandal-reformscandal syndrome observed in many police organizations."

This manner of handling errant and criminal police officers may actually contribute to corruption, because it lessens the deterrent effect of more severe punishment and it contributes to a case-by-case or individual-by-individual approach to corruption control when the problem may be widespread throughout the system or organization. We also believe that total reliance on departmental action for criminal violations leads to a small group of deviant actors moving from department to department, and it also contributes to the scandal-reform-scandal syndrome observed in many police organizations. FRI

as police corruption. It appears that this group of respondents is not differentiating between "wrongness" and police corruption. They would define any behavior which they believe "wrong" or unprofessional as corrupt. There is some support for this notion from prior research on the topic. Future studies should attempt to discover exactly a standard or standards police administrators would use to define police corruption.

In our opinion, the most interesting results of our study occur in the manner in which the chiefs would react to police corruption and misconduct. In all but one of the examples, the majority of the chiefs would handle police corruption through in-house or departmental action. The exception was for a police officer committing burglaries, but even here, 25 percent of the chiefs surveyed would handle this criminal act in-house. One can think of several reasons why a chief may opt for departmental action in many cases. In-house disciplinary action is easier to administer and does not require the standard of proof necessary for court proceedings. Departmental action can also function to keep the activities secret or keep the "lid on" a serious problem.

<sup>1</sup>See T. Barker, "Peer Group Support for Police Occupational Deviance," Criminology, vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 353-366; T. Barker, "Social Definitions of Police Corruption: The Case of South City," Criminal Justice Review, vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 101-110; T. Barker, "An Empirical Study of Police Deviance Other Than Corruption," Journal of Police Science and Administr vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 264-272; W. J. Chambliss, On the Take: From Petty Crooks to Presidents (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1978); J. E. Fishman, Measuring Police Corruption, The John Jay Press, Criminal Justice Center Monograph No. 10, New York, 1978; J. C. Meyer, Complaints of Police Corruption: An Analysis, The John Jay Press, Criminal Justice Center Monograph No. 9, New York, 1977; A. J. Reiss, The Police and the Public (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press); J. Rubinstein, City Police (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1973); L. W. Sherman, Scandal and Reform: Controlling Police Corruption (Berkeley, Calif .: University of California Press, 1978).

W. P. McCarthy, A Police Administrator Looks at Corruption, The John Jay Press, Criminal Justice Center Monograph No. 5, New York, 1977.

H. Goldstein, Police Comunition: A Perspective On Its Nature and Control (Washington, D.C.: Police Foundation, 1975); P. Murphy, "Police Corruption," Police Chief, vol. 40, No. 12, pp. 36 et seq; R. Ward, "Police Corruption; An Overview," Police Journal, vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 52-54; R. Ward and R. J. McCormack, An Anti-Corruption Manual For Administrators in Law Enforcement (New York: The John Jay Press, 1979).

Barker, Criminology; Barker, Journal of Police Science and Administration

<sup>5</sup>T. Barker and J. B. Roebuck, An Empirical Typology Police Corruption (Springfield, III.: Charles C. Thomas, 1973); Barker, Criminology. 6Barker, Criminal Justice Review.

<sup>1</sup>Barker, Journal of Police Science and ninistration.

Barker and Roebuck, supra.

\*T. Barker, "Peer Group Support For Occupational Deviance in Police Agencies" (Ph.D. dissertation, Mississippi State University, 1976).

16 / FBI Law Enforcement Bulleti

# END