

# Reserve Officers' Role Vital In Police Department Work

By **PLINY CASTANIEN**

Hundreds of regular police officers on the San Diego force have kind words for the work and dedication of the 225 members of the police reserves.

These regulars have first hand knowledge of the spirit of community responsibility prompting the citizen to enter police service without pay, as the reserves do.

The volunteers know they will be exposed to the same dangers as the regular policemen.

The volunteers not only sacrifice their leisure time to be reserve officers, but it costs them about \$80 to buy their uniforms and leather gear.

## RECRUITING NOW

The department's training division late in December graduated 44 reserve officers and is now recruiting 25 more for the reserve program, to begin training early in 1968.

A reserve officer must be 21 to 50 years old, at least 5 feet 8 inches in shoes. He must be of good character and have good vision and generally good physical condition.

To become a reserve, if the age and physical requirements are met a man takes a written examination given by the police training department. Upon passing, he is called for an interview.

Two reserve supervising officers and Sgt. Henry G. Kelley, in charge of the program for the training division, conduct the interview.

## BUYS UNIFORM

After being accepted, the probationary reserve officer must acquire his uniform and leather gear. The Police Department furnishes him a gun, helmet, baton, whistle, call box key, and other small articles.

Now his training starts—15 weeks, for a total of 80 hours of classroom training. He goes to school Tuesday and Thursday for two hours, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., for four hours each week.

He learns laws of arrests, criminal investigation, how to patrol, defensive tactics, first aid, and use of firearms (taught on the police pistol range), and other police subjects.

After graduation, reserves are required to complete 100 hours of field training and working in city jail, at the border inspection station at San Ysidro, in the record division, or riding in police cars or accident investigation units.

After completing basic classroom training and the field training, each reserve is assigned to a reserve division

There are three division under a recently expanded program, designed to increase the reserve organization to 300.

Each division of 100 men is commanded by a captain who has two lieutenants and six sergeants, all of reserve rank, to supervise. Over the three divisions is a reserve inspector.

How well the reserves learn their lessons can be determined by reading the commendations they received from regular patrolmen:

"Officer (name deleted) stepped from the crowd gathered at this canyon fire before anyone arrived from the department, and taking the initiative with no instruction from a superior, he showed unusual ability to react in an emergency situation."

"Officer (deleted) showed unusual knowledge in first aid procedure . . . in this heart attack case where the victim appeared dead, and applied external heart massage and administered oxygen en route to the hospital. He refused to give up until breathing was restored."

## VICTIM AIDED

"Officer (deleted) was at Lindbergh Field when the subject suffered a heart attack. He displayed efficiency in giving first aid until this police unit arrived."

"It was this reserve officers' first night out in the field with no prior training in the police ambulance. He had to drive, and handled this special equipment with skill and efficiency."

"reserve Sgt. (deleted) as-

sisted in a serious accident situation involving 20 to 30 cars under the very hazardous conditions of fog, with traffic backed up several miles and 100 people out of the vehicles. He assisted 30 or 40 of those who were injured and did outstanding work under chaotic conditions. He is a great asset to police and the community."

## RESPONSIBLE JOBS

The reserve officer meets once a month with all the men of his division. He and regular patrolmen work together and ride together in the field.

In these times, when the department is short of regular officers the force leans a little heavier on the reserve officers. These men accept the additional responsibility as part of their voluntary job.

Because of the expansion of the reserves to 300 men late in 1967, the department now is recruiting 75 more reserve officers. The department needs this many more men despite the graduation of 44 new reserve officers on Dec. 19.

If the reserves can be recruited, a new class will start academy training in February.

Interested men who can qualify should contact Sgt. Kelley in the training division of the San Diego Police Department.