

## LAWMEN FROM THE HILL

## Major Bobbie Hill

Major Hill gained national prominence in 1964, when he was "fired," or "forced to resign" from the police department, went underground to infiltrate the then-fledgling illegal drug network in Tennessee, and rejoined the force after successfully breaking up illegal narcotics trafficking of that era. Of course, the "firing" was only a cover-up, and Hill never lost favor in the eyes of his superiors. He soon was to be promoted to sergeant, then lieutenant, and ultimately to captain, making him then, the top ranking black officer on the force. (plain talk will follow in the next issue with a more indepth look at Major Hill's activities in his rise through the ranks of the Metro Nashville Police Department.)

He was promoted to sergeant in 1964, to lieutenant in 1967, to captain in 1972, and to his present rank in 1987.

Hill was a standout athlete in his high school days in Sparta, and moved to Nashville in 1953, before joining the police force in 1959. He is the son of the late John Hill of Sparta, and Mary Lou Irwin Hill, who now lives in Indianapolis, Ind. An aunt, Ovie Bell Johnson still resides in Sparta.

Bobbie served as a "frogman," an underwater demolition expert with the U.S. Navy while stationed in San Diego, Calif.

With the police department, he served at various times on the patrol division, commander of the intelligence division, in planning and research, as personnel commander, special liaison to the mayor's office during the tenure of Mayor Beverly Briley, commander of the communication division, a post he now holds, as well as commander of the inspection division and of the West Patrol Division.

He testified before Congress several years ago during the period of civil unrest in the United States. After his undercover drug stint, he appeared on national television's "To Tell The Truth" hosted by Garry Moore, after which panelist Bess Myerson hosted a party for the group. Bobbie also was the feature of the cover story in "True Police Cases" in 1964.

He spends much of his off-duty time now counseling persons with drug and alcohol abuse problems.

Major Hill, his wife, Helen and their two children reside in Nashville.



Bobbie Hill



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## Capt. Hill Honored By Jaycees

Capt. Bobbie Hill, left, formerly of Sparta, who is the head of the Metro Nashville Police Department's Central Intelligence Division, accepts the Cumberland Jaycees "outstanding speaker of the year" award from Jaycees president John Hall. Looking on is Metro Assistant Chief Donald Barton.