

Photos lead to CPD detective being investigated

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A Clarksville Police detective is under investigation over photos that show drinking and handling of weapons by non-officers.

Police Chief Al Ansley is investigating Detective Vincent Duke after photos became public on the Craigslist and Photobucket websites Friday afternoon that show unidentified people posing with what appear to be Duke's police car and police-issued weapons.

Some of the photos include a young child dressed in a Clarksville Police uniform. Another Police Detective, Ginger Fleischer, is pictured in one photo, Ansley said.

The photos were flagged for removal from Craigslist at about 4:30 p.m. They were also posted to Photobucket by "keckckek." Those photos were removed from Photo Bucket at about 5:30 p.m. But by that time, the photos had been distributed by various users through Facebook.

"It was brought to my attention at 2:30 p.m. (Friday)," Ansley said. "When I found out about it I immediately called this individual's commander, and an investigation is under way."

Ansley said the photos were taken a year and a half to two years ago, and it was when Duke was off-duty.

"This officer is a very good officer. He's a detective, a young officer and this was in his private life," Ansley said. "It is unfortunate for him and CPD, he has been an outstanding officer with the Police Department up to this point."

Ansley said they are not sure where the photos came from or how they surfaced, but he said Duke will be held accountable if wrongdoing is discovered. Ansley said the entire situation must be thoroughly looked at before any actions are taken.

The City of Clarksville does have an information systems policy, according to Officer Jim Knoll. At this point, police officials do not believe Duke posted the photos himself. Ansley said they do have policy and the main point of the policy is not to discredit CPD by your actions.

"I tell police officers: All police officers are under a microscope, and people are watching, and there are people who come upon information and want to embarrass the Police Department," Ansley said. "This does not look good, but it's too early to say what discipline may come into play. I do hold the CPD officers to the highest conduct."

Fleischer returned phone calls from The Leaf-Chronicle Friday evening but did not wish to comment at this time.

Duke could not be reached for comment.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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