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**KEY WORDS** : **MORAL REASONING / POLICE POLICIES** 

WIJIT CHATKITJAROEN: MORAL REASONING OF THE POLICE DURING ON DUTY: (CASE STUDY IN NAKORNPATHOM PROVINCIAL POLICE). THESIS ADVISORS; SIVALEE SIRILAI, M.A., NIRAN PANTHARAKIT, M.A., NARONG SAPYEN, M.A., 89 P. ISBN 974-663-537-9

The purpose of this research was to study moral reasoning of the police concerning decisions and actions when confronted dilemmas which were not risk or dangerous situations.

The target group was the police working in Nakornpathom areas. Nine ethical principles of the police profession (fidelity, beneficence, tolerance, perseverance, non-greed, altruism, justice, wise action, and carefulness), Kolhberge's theory of moral development, Western ethics, and Buddhist ethics were used as ground for study.

The studies have shown that most of the polices' moral reasoning were extremely desirable behaviors (Kolhberg's the fifth stage). The results were also related to Deontological and Teleological ethics, including Buddhist ethics which stated that the police could identify what is right/wrong. To be a police officer, duty for duty sake is the most significant; however, desirable behaviors (Kolhberge's the fourth stage) and undesirable behaviors (the first and second stage) still remained significant.

In developing effective moral reasoning in police officers, the following factors should be considered; higher education, income, promotion, motivation and professional training. The researcher believes that a high range of police officers should be a good model in moral reasoning, competency, and practice.