

MIT Police

The [MIT Police Department](#) is under the command of chief of police John DiFava, who is also the director of the Department of Facilities Operations and Security. Deputy chief Jay Perault is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department. Captain Albert Pierce, Jr., is chief of staff and works closely with the administration in overseeing dignitary protection, the Special Services Division, and the Crime Prevention Unit. Captain David Carlson continues to be responsible for training and administrative duties. Captain Craig Martin is responsible for day-to-day direct supervision of the patrol function.

The core mission of the MIT Police is to provide a safe and secure environment, as free of negative external interference as possible, to enable members of the community to engage in their academic pursuits and research endeavors with minimal distraction. The department continues to base its policing style on problem-solving principles to ensure that its resources are returning maximum value to the community. Input and involvement from those we serve, especially as to how the agency addresses the needs and concerns of MIT, is not only welcomed but solicited. This information is considered critical to our daily operations and is of extreme importance in matters of planning and resource allocation.

While our main focus is and will continue to be on the entire MIT community, the department continues to actively engage in the development and maintenance of constructive relationships with the surrounding communities, as well as with local and national peer universities in the areas of research and education.

The year brought incredible tragedy and challenges. On April 18, 2013, officer Sean Collier was shot and killed while patrolling MIT's campus. The loss of Officer Collier affected the entire MIT community. At the memorial held at MIT on April 24, 2013, president Rafael Reif said, "To honor Sean's memory, let us sustain that same spirit of friendliness, kindness, and good will. Let us honor his memory and his life by keeping his example."

In addition to this tragedy, MIT also experienced a major blackout, and a hoax active shooter call on campus.

Patrol Division

Captain Martin is the commander of the Patrol Division, which makes up 75% of the department's manpower. The Patrol Division provides quality service and a uniformed presence throughout the Institute. Our patrol officers are trained to focus on maintaining a safe and secure academic and living environment. The continued presence of foot, bicycle, motorcycle, and cruiser patrols conveys our effort to work in partnership with community members to foster a willing, positive, and rewarding experience for all.

Many of our police officers maintain emergency medical technician certification, which ensures quality response to medical emergencies. In addition, the Honor Guard, made

up of nine members of the Patrol Division, participates in parades and special events both at MIT and outside the Institute. The Honor Guard and many other members of the department have represented MIT Police and the Institute in numerous events within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as in the New England area since the death of Officer Collier.

Special Services Division

The Special Services Division is staffed by three detectives and one captain. An on-call detective is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist the Patrol Division during major incidents. This unit is responsible for investigating all part-one crimes, which include but are not limited to rape, domestic violence, suicide, robbery, arson, drug offenses, and assault and battery. All detectives are certified to investigate sexual assault crimes. Captain Pierce, commander of the division, works with MIT senior administration during sensitive critical incidents. The division also provides assistance to any member of the MIT community dealing with the Massachusetts court system. Special Services continues to collaborate with a number of outside law enforcement agencies as their investigations on occasion require additional investigative expertise. Members of the Special Services Division continually seek additional core training to enhance their investigative skills.

Community Policing

Policing is as much about education as it is about enforcement. This objective of community outreach from members of the MIT Police comes in many forms, for example Toys for Tickets, a holiday program through which the department, in conjunction with the MIT Parking Office, waives parking tickets in exchange for new toys that are equal or greater in value than the ticket. All toys are donated to the Cambridge Salvation Army. For the first time this year, the Fill a Cruiser program was offered, where blankets, socks, hats, coats, and mittens were collected and donated to the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholism and Drug Rehabilitation shelter. Another successful program run by MIT Police is Flippin for Finals, a late-night breakfast where MIT Police, deans, faculty members, and often President Reif serve pancakes to students on the Sunday before spring final exams.

MIT Police continues to work with the Graduate Student Council. A designated community policing officer was assigned to the northwest graduate dormitories. The opportunity to be in the area of the graduate community has resulted in positive communications and feedback from the international student population.

The department continues to provide the ever-popular Security Tracking of Office Products tags, a loss prevention measure for laptop computers. This program has been offered since 1999 to reduce the theft of laptop computers. During student orientation, the fee was waived for the first 200 students who registered their laptop.

Several safety presentations were offered throughout the year. Summer orientation programs were offered to the Interphase, Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science, and MIT Sloan Scholars programs. In August and September, new student orientation keeps the Community Policing Unit busy by informational sessions to

members of the incoming student population about “surviving an urban campus” and advising them of the services offered by MIT Police.

An important function of the Community Policing Unit is to maintain information and statistics for the campus safety and security booklet. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (also referred to as the Clery Law) mandates that this publication be provided to the MIT community. The booklet was updated in line with federal regulations.

Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit continued to conduct presentations for new members of the MIT community. Human Resources included crime prevention as part of Essentials of Managing and Administrative Officer Fundamentals presentations. These presentations focused on resources and services offered by the MIT Police. In addition, presentations were given to incoming graduate resident tutors and at orientation-leader training sessions. The rape aggression training self-defense program for women continues to be well attended.

Criminal Activity

Bicycles, laptops/electronic devices, credit/debit cards, wallets, and cash were the most common items reported as stolen during this reporting period.

Detail Office

The Detail Office, located in the basement of W20, continued to schedule officers at MIT-sponsored events and construction sites and for VIP visits to ensure safety and security.

In addition, the Detail Office worked closely with several Institute departments, including but not limited to the Office of the President; the Office of Institute Events; the Office of Government Relations; the Student Activities Office; the Department of Facilities; and the Environment, Health, and Safety Office. The Detail Office also coordinates arrangements for outside visitors to the Institute with the US Secret Service and the US Military, as well as the Department of State Diplomatic Security, the Massachusetts State Police, the Cambridge Police Department, and the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office.

Training

The MIT Police Department, Harvard University Police Department, and Cambridge Police Department participated in a four-day annual in-service training program. Part of this training involves active shooter scenarios. Officers from these agencies work together in responding to these scenarios. This training showed its value when MIT Police and Cambridge Police officers responded to a hoax active shooter call on campus that happened during the past year.

In addition to the training programs individual officers attend throughout the year along with the annual required training, the entire department conducted or received training in the following areas:

- Transitional training to a new firearm and an addition of the patrol rifle
- Sexual assault training
- Active shooter training

Emergency Operations Center

MIT's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is designed to marshal the resources of the Institute to resolve emergency situations. MIT Police actively supports the EOC. Captain Carlson is assigned to the EOC and regularly attends monthly meetings and participates in emergency drills. Also, the department has assisted with the training of new EOC members, which is an added benefit in the planning of large-scale events throughout the Institute.

Fourth of July

MIT Police hosts a Cambridge Command Center during Fourth of July celebrations. This center coordinates the response to all incidents that occur in Cambridge during the event. The command center falls under the Unified Command Center in Boston and is staffed by law enforcement (federal, state, and local), emergency medical services, the National Guard, and representatives of other agencies. The Fourth of July celebration attracts visitors from local areas as well as visitors from all over the world. Public safety officials are prepared to handle crowd control, personal safety, disorderly conduct, and emergency medical situations.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

MIT Police has a representative on the Cambridge Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Since the committee's inception, MIT has participated in quarterly meetings and annual drills, and continues to work on emergency preparedness with the City of Cambridge. As a result of MIT's participation with LEPC and its close ties to Cambridge public safety, there is a strong working relationship with the City of Cambridge.

Infrastructure Upgrade

The department upgraded its portable radios due to the high rate of repairs needed (and that are no longer supported by the manufacturer), and due to incompatibility with new radio standards.

John DiFava
Chief of Police