

MIT Police

The MIT Police Department reports to John DiFava, director of facilities and security operations. Deputy chief John Driscoll handles the day-to-day operations of the department with captain David Carlson and the chief of staff, captain Albert Pierce.

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 our 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 operation and is of extreme importance in matters of planning and resource allocation.

While our main focus is and will continue to be on the 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.

Patrol Division

The MIT Police patrol division makes up 75 percent of our manpower. In 2008, this department sponsored two recruits at the Lowell Police Academy. The recruits graduated in November 2008 and were placed in patrol groups, one on the midnight shift and the other on the evening shift. 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 our community members in an effort to foster a willing, positive, and rewarding experience for all.

Police officers maintain emergency medical technician certification, which ensures quality response to medical emergencies. Additionally, there is a Special Response Team that is trained and equipped to respond to any tactical emergency situation. All members of this division are certified as active shooters. In addition, an Honor Guard made up of six members of the patrol division participates in parades and special events both at MIT and outside the Institute.

Special Services Division

The special services division is staffed by four 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, and assault and battery. All detectives are certified to investigate sexual assault crimes. Captain Albert Pierce, commander of this division, works with the MIT administration during critical incidents.

Community Policing

Policing is as much about education as it is enforcement. Members of the MIT Police Department sponsor many programs for the MIT community, including Toys for Tickets, a holiday program through which the department, along with the MIT Parking Office, waives parking tickets in exchange for a toy equal to or greater in value than the ticket. Toys are donated to local charities. Flipping over Finals is a late-night breakfast where the MIT Police, deans, faculty members, and often MIT president Susan Hockfield flip and serve pancakes to students before the spring final exams.

A grant from the Graduate Student Office provided an opportunity for the department to meet and have casual discussions with graduate students over a cup of coffee or meal. This program was particularly well received by the international student population.

The MIT Federal Credit Union supported the MIT Police in offering a child safety seat inspection program. Officers from the greater Boston area volunteered to inspect more than 40 vehicles to ensure that the child's car seat was properly installed. In addition, several programs were offered to the Technology Children's Center, including Stranger Danger, How to Contact the Police if an Emergency Occurs, and Pizza and Pictures (each child having his or her photo taken with a police officer and cruiser).

Throughout the year, several safety presentations were offered, including Surviving an Urban Campus. Presentations were also offered as part of New Student Orientation, Interphase, Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES), and the Sloan Scholars program.

From March 2008 to May 2009, an officer was assigned to the MIT Libraries. The primary role of this officer was to act as a liaison and to monitor all library facilities. In this assignment, the officer's role was to identify, prevent, and respond to any violations of the Libraries' rules of conduct, policies, and procedures. The officer developed an excellent working relationship with the Libraries staff, and the program was a great success for the Libraries and our department.

Detail Office

The Detail Office, located in the basement of W20, continued to schedule officers at construction sites and MIT-sponsored events 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, Government Relations, the Student Activities Office, Facilities, and Environmental Health and Safety. This office also coordinates the arrangements for outside visitors to the Institute with the United States Secret Service, United States Military, Department of State Diplomatic Security, Massachusetts State Police, Cambridge Police, and Middlesex Sheriff's Office. The office had the pleasure of providing security and working with other law enforcement agencies during the visit of the Dalai Lama.

Criminal Activity

As part of the national Violence Against Women Act, we collaborated with the MIT community and outside agencies to educate the community about sexual misconduct. In addition, our department continues to offer programs to reduce theft. In 2008, a total of 120 computers and electronic components, 3 motor vehicles, 69 bicycles, 39 debit/credit cards, and 27 purses, wallets, and backpacks were reported stolen, and 43 incidents of cash theft were reported.

Department Activity

MIT Operations Center

The MIT Police Department actively supports the Institute's emergency operations planning. Assigned members of the department attend scheduled monthly meetings and emergency drills.

Fourth of July

The MIT Police Department hosts a Cambridge Command Center during the Fourth of July celebration. This center coordinates 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. Police patrols faced the challenges of increased foot traffic, the closing of the Longfellow Bridge, and crowd control. The celebration took place with no serious incidents.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

A member of the MIT Police Department represents MIT on the Cambridge Local Emergency Planning Committee. Since the committee's inception, MIT has participated in quarterly meetings and annual drills. MIT will continue to work on emergency preparedness with the city of Cambridge.

Sponsoring a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow

The Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) sponsored a female fellow from Kosovo with a degree in civil engineering and architecture. While at MIT, she focused on urban and regional planning with an interest in criminal justice. As a result of her special interest in university policing, she observed our police operation and how MIT police officers responded to calls for service, and she attended large MIT student functions to learn how our officers supervise these events. She also reviewed the MIT Police Department's policies and procedures. While here, she developed a university model of campus policing to take back for implementation at universities in her homeland.

John Driscoll
Deputy Chief

More information about the MIT Police Department can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/>.