

MIT Police

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

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 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.

Patrol Division

Captain Jay Perault is the commander of the MIT Police patrol division, which makes up 75% of our manpower. The patrol division provides quality service and a uninformed 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 to foster a willing, positive, and rewarding experience for all.

Police officers maintain emergency medical technician certification, which ensures quality response to medical emergencies. 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 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, 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

The MIT Police have said for many years that policing is as much about education as it is enforcement. This objective of outreach from members of the MIT Police Department comes in many forms, including 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 equal to or greater in value than the ticket. All toys are donated to local charities. Another successful program is Flipping over Finals, a late-night breakfast where the MIT Police, deans, faculty members, and often MIT president Susan Hockfield serve pancakes to students on the Sunday before the spring final exams. This program is funded through donations from many departments and has been successful for 11 years.

The MIT Police Community Policing Unit received a financial contribution from the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education that provided us the chance to meet, greet, and have a meal with many members of the graduate student population we might not otherwise have had the occasion to meet. This grant has broken down many barriers with our international students in particular. One event made possible by the grant is the MIT Police and graduate student luncheon held during orientation week. We continue to provide the ever-popular Security Tracking of Office Products (STOP) tags, a loss prevention measure for laptop computers. This program has been offered since 1999 to reduce the theft of laptop computers.

Several safety presentations were offered throughout the year. Summer orientation programs included Interphase, Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science, and the Sloan Scholars program. In August and September in particular, new student orientations keep the Community Policing Unit busy informing the incoming population about “surviving an urban campus” and advising them of the services offered by the MIT Police.

An important function of the Community Policing Unit is maintaining 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 new federal regulations.

Detail Office

The Detail Office, located in the basement of W20, continued to schedule officers at construction sites, MIT-sponsored events, and 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, 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 visits of President Obama and the Dalai Lama.

Crime Prevention

As part of the national Violence Against Women Act, we continue to collaborate with the MIT community and outside agencies to educate the community about sexual misconduct. In addition, our department continues to offer crime prevention programs throughout the MIT community. We also offer a rape aggression defense program to female members of the community.

Criminal Activity

In 2009, a total of 132 computer and electronic components, 69 bicycles, 48 debit/credit cards, and 70 purses, wallets, and backpacks were reported stolen. A total of 45 incidents of cash theft were also reported.

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 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. Police patrols were faced with 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.

John Driscoll

Assistant to Chief DiFava

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