

MIT Police

The [MIT Police Department](#) is under the leadership of Chief of Police John DiFava. Assigned directly under the chief is Deputy Chief Steven DeMarco, who joined the department in fall 2019. The two remaining members of the command staff are Operations Captain Craig Martin and Administrative Captain Andrew Turco.

The administrative staff is comprised of Janice A. Barca, senior financial assistant, and Mary Harrington, senior administrative assistant. Beginning the second week of March 2020, administrative staff was required to work remotely from home.

The primary mission of the MIT Police is to provide for the safety and security to all members of the MIT community, including students, faculty, staff, and guests of the Institute. It is the responsibility of the MIT Police to provide a safe and secure environment. Department members continue to develop and maintain positive working relationships with other law enforcement agencies and universities through networking and collaboration.

This past year, the MIT Police Department has dealt with the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest on the local and national levels. The months-long closures of courts in the state, vacancies at off-campus residential facilities, and releases from correctional facilities correlated with increased calls for suspicious persons, trespassing, break-ins, and theft.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has made maintaining proper levels of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) a top priority within the department.

Operations Division

The Operations Division is composed of the Patrol Division and Special Services. It is headed by Captain Craig Martin.

Patrol Division

The [Patrol Division](#) is directed by Captain Martin, assisted by Sergeant Brian Sousa. The division is responsible for providing quality service and a uniformed presence throughout the Institute 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All of our police personnel are trained to focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment for faculty, students, employees, guests, and visitors. The daily presence of cruiser, motorcycle, bicycle, and foot patrols conveys our effort to work in partnership with the MIT community members to foster a positive experience.

This division is responsible for responding to all complaints, Institute alarms, medical calls, and reports of crime on campus. In addition, our department assists the Cambridge and Massachusetts State Police as necessary in areas adjacent to campus. All law enforcement personnel are first responders and respond to medical emergencies.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Institute closing, the Patrol Division took additional steps to ensure the safety and security of the MIT community. It

increased the number of officers of each day, evening, and midnight shifts to a minimum of six officers on patrol. When the limited access plan was implemented, a static, 24-hour access control and information kiosk was installed in Building 7. In addition to ensuring community members had the proper credentials before entering campus, the Building 7 desk officer issues PPE masks to help community members comply with Cambridge and MIT mask requirements. Further, the Division increased patrols of MIT fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups in Cambridge, Boston, and Brookline.

Sergeant Sousa also continued to collaborate with campus and community partners on the Kendall Square project and future MIT Police substation in Building E25.

Honor Guard

Traditionally, the MIT Patrol Division's Honor Guard is comprised of nine men and women who participate at special Institute events, invitational events, and local parades. During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the activity of the Honor Guard has slowed.

Detail Office

The Detail Office administers police details and overtime assignments under the supervision of Sergeant Sousa. This office works with Campus Activities, Conference Services, and other departments, labs, and centers (DLCs) to ensure the safety and security needs for all scheduled events. In addition, this office works closely with the MIT Department of Facilities in assigning police details to construction sites for the safety of the public.

Special Services Division

The [Special Services Division](#) is staffed by three detectives who report to Detective Sergeant Brian Delaney. 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 any crimes within the MIT community as well as within Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk counties. Detective William King is assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force in Boston. Occasionally, the unit is supplemented by patrol officers on temporary duty assignments.

In Fiscal Year 2020, detectives attended training to enhance unit capabilities relating to sexual assault investigations, understanding the impacts of trauma, improving interviewing techniques, collecting and preserving evidence, advanced crime scene training, responding to and investigating internet-based threats, and understanding prescription drug abuse. All detectives are certified to investigate sexual assaults.

Detectives are also available to any member of the MIT community needing assistance navigating the court system. Special Services continues to collaborate with numerous agencies at the local, state, and federal levels.

Of the cases investigated in FY2020, three are notable. In August, following a break-in at 792 Main Street, detectives identified and obtained an arrest warrant for the offending party. Following a Special Services investigation of a break-in at the Theta Xi fraternity on Bay State Road in Boston, MIT Police detectives identified a suspect and obtained an

arrest warrant. In January, following several break-ins and thefts at the Zeta Beta Tao fraternity in Brookline, Special Services identified a juvenile suspect, and the case was referred to a diversion program.

Office of the President

Sergeant Mary Beth Riley is assigned to the Office of the President. Prior to March, her daily responsibilities included providing MIT President L. Rafael Reif with transportation, security, and protection services at scheduled events on and off campus. She arranged and oversaw dignitary and VIP visits and coordinated all protection-related needs with advance teams and local, state, and federal agencies.

During the heightened media attention in the fall, Sergeant Riley assisted with increased security at the president's office and residence, the Office of the Corporation and senior officers' locations, high-profile Institute events, community meetings and forums, and Corporation meetings and events.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sergeant Riley has had increased responsibilities, assisted with coordinating communication between the president's residence at Gray House (Building E1) and the president's office, and worked with campus partners to increase the availability of PPE for the MIT Police.

Training and Administration

Captain Turco manages the training unit, community policing, crime analysis, and the administrative staff. He monitors and posts all required Massachusetts State Police training and monitors all certifications and required licenses. In addition, he schedules and maintains all building renovations, maintenance, and coordination and installation of equipment for the emergency command center.

In coordination with Suzanne Blake from Emergency Management, Turco creates and presents active shooter/violent intruder awareness trainings to MIT community members. In August, Turco and Blake presented their awareness program to the entire class of first-year students during orientation.

To promote social distancing during the pandemic, Captain Turco developed and implemented a remote roll call system in March that is still in use. The system utilizes Zoom software and moved roll call from a small room in the police station to where the officers patrol.

In May, Captain Turco collaborated with the Cambridge Police and other emergency response agencies to thank front-line healthcare workers for their dedication during the pandemic. MIT Police participated in a vehicle convoy past area hospitals and worked to include MIT Medical.

Captain Turco planned and hosted a Red Cross blood drive in coordination with the Office of the Provost and Campus Activities Complex in June. All donors were first responders in the greater Cambridge area.

Training Unit

Sergeant Jamie DiGregorio is the department's firearm and training instructor. He oversees the combined training with the Cambridge Police Department for in-service training, which includes basic first responder and CPR training, legal updates, and active shooter training. The unit also coordinates training around civil disobedience, command, first line supervisor, Smith and Wesson armorer, firearms instructor, and police report writing.

Through March, Sergeant DiGregorio conducted 51 hours of training, in 15-minute blocks, for sworn staff in the department's Use of Force Simulator. This training was then put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The department also attended yearly training related to exposure to bloodborne pathogens and responding to emergencies at the Institute's nuclear reactor facility. All department members completed Massachusetts State Police trainings related to suicide risk and intervention, human trafficking awareness, behavioral emergencies, guidelines for CPR, and diversity awareness.

Finally, the Training Unit was instrumental in offering guidance, planning, and establishing safety perimeters before and during January's Full Scale Active Shooter Exercise.

Community Policing Division

Sergeant David O'Connor heads the Community Policing Division. Officer Donald Miller, who is assigned to the graduate student community, reports to Sergeant O'Connor.

The division offers training, security surveys, and workshops such as Streetwise and Safe, avoiding online scams, and bicycle safety. These trainings take place in labs, classroom, offices, and residence halls and are available upon request. Until campus access was limited due to COVID-19, Sergeant O'Connor met weekly with community members and the staff of the Fraternity, Sorority and Independent Living Groups Office to promote risk reduction strategies.

The division has developed a Community Policing Committee made up of Officers Darren Deegan, Yesenia Gomez, and Andrew Avila. Officer Gomez, in collaboration with the Institute Community Equity Office, the MIT Undergraduate Association, and the Social Justice and Cross Cultural Engagement Center, planned a trivia night that included mixed teams of students and MIT police officers.

Sergeant O'Connor surveyed and provided safety and security feedback at the Bates Laboratory and the Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response Office.

Community Policing Office

Officer Miller is assigned during the evening shift to a satellite office located in the Sydney-Pacific residence hall. He attends meetings, collaborates with graduate student leadership, and presents safety workshops and programming at residence halls, labs, departments, and child care centers on campus. As part of our department's homeless outreach efforts, Officer Miller also addresses the needs and concerns of the residents of the CASPAR shelter.

Designated Infection Control Officer

In March, Sergeant O'Connor was appointed the designated infection control officer. In this role, he ensures that all MIT essential personnel have access to necessary PPE.

Crime Analysis

In March, the MIT Police Department hired Eliana Kafantis as its new crime analyst. She was in the office for less than a week before all MIT non-essential staff were instructed to work remotely. Kafantis met with stakeholders on campus remotely and expanded the frequency of the crime bulletins for the patrol division. Such bulletins include analysis of crime trends, both on and off campus, encompassing Cambridge and Boston.

After attending virtual training on the Clery Act, Kafantis took a larger role in the department's compliance with it, including reviewing incidents to include in our annual report to the Department of Education and lending guidance on incidents that may require timely warnings for the MIT community. She also has managed our department's social media presence, posting information about how different campus departments or individuals with the MIT Police Department are helping during the pandemic.

Emergency Management

The [MIT Emergency Management](#) unit is led by Director Suzanne Blake. The office consists of the director, three full-time staff, and one temporary employee. This unit handles preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, continuity, and communications (including the MIT Alert program) in the context of emergencies and pre-planned events at MIT. [MIT EMS](#), MIT's student-run ambulance service, also falls under MIT Emergency Management and reports to Blake.

In addition, MIT Emergency Management leads and coordinates the [Emergency Operations Center \(EOC\)](#) team, which activates for complex, long-duration emergencies as well as pre-planned events. The EOC is activated to ensure resource coordination, streamlined communications, and coordination with partners including Cambridge Fire and Police. The EOC team comprises staff members from several MIT departments to ensure varied expertise is available. It meets on a monthly basis and conducts regular exercises for activation; these meetings and exercises have been conducted remotely since March.

After months of planning and coordinating by Blake with MIT Police, MIT EMS, Cambridge Police, Cambridge Fire, and many other internal and external departments and organizations, MIT embarked on its first Full Scale Active Shooter Exercise in January. Held in Kresge Auditorium, the exercise tested police and EMS response to an active shooter incident, coordination between MIT and external partners, dissemination of an immediate MIT Alert message to the MIT community, and media management in the immediate aftermath of an active shooter incident.

From January to February, Emergency Management and MIT Medical convened the Coronavirus Operations Team to discuss and monitor the emergence of COVID-19. This group helped monitor incoming travelers and coordinate the self-quarantine of students traveling to MIT from at-risk areas. From March through June, Emergency Management

led the COVID-19 response for MIT and formed the COVID-19 Planning Team and its six supporting working groups: medical operations, student operations, academic continuity, research continuity, business continuity, and communications. These working groups were soon expanded to include the Space Planning Working Group, the PPE Working Group, and the Community Continuity Working Group. MIT Emergency Management continued to lead MIT's response to COVID-19 into the next fiscal year.

John DiFava
Chief of MIT Police