

MIT Police

The core mission of the MIT Police is to provide a safe and secure environment, as free of negative external interference as possible, so that members of our community may engage in academic pursuits and research endeavors with minimal distraction. The department is able to provide the highest quality police services by utilizing the best features of the traditional police organizational structure, modified to address the complex needs of the Institute and implemented with built-in flexibility. 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 MIT, the department is actively engaged in the development and maintenance of constructive relationships with the surrounding communities as well as with local and national peer universities. The ultimate goal of this agency is to achieve a standing in the campus police community that equals MIT's standing among colleges and universities in the areas of research and education.

Patrol Division

The backbone of any police agency is the patrol division, and the MIT Police is no exception. In terms of crime suppression and comfort to the community, the visual presence of a uniformed patrol officer is difficult to surpass. The patrol division provides total quality service throughout the MIT community, and our patrol officers are focused on maintaining a safe and secure academic and living environment. The constant presence of foot, bicycle, motorcycle, and cruiser patrols convey our effort to work in partnership with our community members in an effort to foster a willing, positive, and rewarding experience for all. Officers maintain emergency medical technician certification well beyond the standards mandated by the state, which ensures quality response to medical emergencies. Additionally, within the patrol division, there is a specially trained team in place to respond to and take action on tactical emergency situations. The patrol division is also represented by an Honor Guard, which participates in parades and special events both within and outside the MIT community.

Special Services Division

Detectives are responsible for investigating all part-one crimes. Part-one crimes 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. An on-call detective is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist the MIT patrol division during major incidents. The special services lieutenant works with the senior administration during critical incidents. A strong collaborative relationship with the local major university police departments, as well as with on-campus departments such as the Division of Student Life, helps us address various issues, including those related to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. During this reporting period,

the unit worked closely with US Secret Service, the US Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Cambridge and Boston police to afford protection for high-level visiting dignitaries.

Community Policing

Policing is as much about education as it is enforcement. Outreach from the MIT Police comes in many forms, including Toys for Tickets, a holiday program through which our department voids outstanding MIT parking tickets in exchange for new toys of equal or greater value. All toys collected are donated to local charities. Other successful programs are the welcome barbecue for freshmen, the Flipping over Finals late-night pancake breakfast, and a graduate student outreach meet-and-greet event.

The Community Police Office, located in the Stata Center, is an integral part of our community outreach effort. Security Tracking of Office Products (STOP) tags are offered to the community to deter the theft of laptop computers. In addition, the MIT Police detail office, located in the lower level of the Stratton Student Center, is convenient for students and members of the community who are scheduling events on campus and require a police presence.

Criminal Activity

We continued to see a decrease in crimes against persons in 2006. As part of the national Violence Against Women Act, we collaborate with the MIT community and outside agencies to educate the community about sexual misconduct. Our department continues to offer programs to reduce the theft of laptop computers, however the opportunity to steal them from MIT is an ongoing problem. In 2006, a total of 137 computers, 104 bicycles, 3 motor vehicles, and 104 credit cards were reported stolen, plus 82 incidents of cash theft were reported.

Department Activity

MIT Emergency Operations Center

The MIT Police actively supports the Institute's emergency operations planning and drills. This year the department participated in a pandemic flu tabletop exercise and in an emergency drill for the dispensing of medication during a simulated anthrax exposure. In addition, backup dispatch locations have been designated in case an alternative location is needed.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

An MIT Police member represents MIT on the Cambridge Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Since the committee's inception, MIT has participated in its drills (called Operation Poseidon), and the MIT Police will continue to work on emergency preparedness with the City of Cambridge through LEPC.

Fourth of July

The MIT Police 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 celebration. 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 the other agencies involved.

John DiFava

Director of Security and Campus Police Services

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