

MIT Police

On October 1, 2007, Chief John DiFava was promoted to director of facilities. The day-to-day operations of the department were delegated to Deputy John Driscoll. The staff was reorganized with the elimination of two lieutenant positions, and the promotion of one community policing lieutenant to captain.

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 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 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. MIT Police officers maintain emergency medical technician certification which ensures quality response to medical emergencies. Additionally, within the patrol division, there is a Special Response Team. This team is specifically trained and equipped to take action when called to respond to a tactical emergency situation. All members of the department received training to be certified as active shooters. 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

The special services division is staffed by four detectives and one community policing captain. An on-call detective is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist the MIT patrol division during major incidents. Detectives are responsible for investigating all part-one crime. 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 assaults crimes. The special services captain works with the administration during critical incidents. A strong collaborative relationship with the

local major university police department, as well as with on-campus department such as the Division of Student Life, helps us address various issues, including those related to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. During the reporting period, the unit worked closely with US Secret Service, the US Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the Massachusetts State Police, the Cambridge and Boston police, and the United States Postal Service.

Community Policing

Policing is as much about education as it is enforcement. Outreach from the MIT Police comes in many forms, including the Toys for Tickets, a holiday program through which our department, in conjunction with the MIT Parking Office, waives the violation in exchange for new toys of equal or greater value. All toys collected are donated to local charities. Other successful programs are the welcome barbeque for incoming freshmen, the Flipping over Finals late-night 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 office. 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 that require a police presence.

The crime prevention unit developed and distributed a series of four posters that address drugs, alcohol, laptop computer theft, and intolerance of hate issues. The Rape Aggression Defense program continues to be successful. Over 70 women participated and were instructed in self-defense techniques.

Bicycles that are abandoned on bike racks throughout the MIT campus are auctioned off at an annual bike auction organized by the community policing staff. This is one of the most popular events attended by the MIT community that included students, faculty, and staff.

Criminal Activity

We continued to see a decrease in crimes against persons in 2007. 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. In 2007, a total of 140 computers and electronic components, 103 bicycles, 5 motor vehicles, and 130 debit/credit cards were reported stolen, and 126 incidents of wallets and cash theft were reported.

Department Activity

MIT Operations Center

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

Fourth of July

The MIT Police hosts a Cambridge Command 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. Foot patrols were faced with the challenges of increased traffic, the closing of the Longfellow Bridge, and crowd control. Overall the 2007 celebration did not incur any 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 the quarterly meeting and yearly drills. MIT will continue to work on emergency preparedness with the City of Cambridge.

John Driscoll
Deputy Chief

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