

MIT Police

The [MIT Police Department](#) is under the command of chief of police John DiFava, who is also the director of facilities. Captain Albert F. Pierce Jr., chief of staff, is responsible for the daily operations and oversees the Special Services and Crime Prevention units. Captain David Carlson is responsible for training and administrative duties, captain Jay Perault is responsible for the day-to-day direct supervision of the patrol functions and staffs, and staff assistant John Driscoll is responsible for special projects and conducting specialized judicial training classes.

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 also 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 percent of our manpower. 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 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 nine 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 senior administration during sensitive critical incidents. The division also provides assistance to any member of the MIT community dealing with the Massachusetts court system.

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 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 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.

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.

Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit continued to conduct presentations for new members of the MIT community. Human Resources included crime prevention in two of its programs, Essentials of Managing and AO (Administrative Officer) Fundamentals. These presentations focused on resources and services offered by the MIT Police. In addition, presentations were given to incoming graduate resident tutors and at O-leader training sessions. The rape aggression training self-defense program for women continues to be well attended.

Criminal Activity

Bicycles, laptops/electronic devices, credit/debit cards, wallets, and cash were the most common items reported as stolen during this reporting period.

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.

As part of MIT's 150th anniversary, the detail office faced the challenge of coordinating safety and security details for several large-scale events, including the MIT open house, convocation, Toast to Tech, and the Festival of Arts, Science and Technology (FAST). In addition, the office worked with the cities of Boston and Cambridge and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts administration to fulfill all administrative requirements that were needed.

Emergency Operations Center

MIT's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is designed to marshal the resources of the Institute to resolve emergencies. The MIT Police Department actively supports the EOC. Two members of the department are assigned to the EOC and attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings and an emergency drill. Also, the department assists with the training of new EOC members, which is an added benefit in the planning of large-scale events throughout the Institute.

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. The Fourth of July celebration attracts visitors from local areas as well as visitors from all over the world. Public safety officials are prepared to handle crowd control, personal safety, disorderly conduct, and emergency medical situations.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

A member of the MIT Police Department represents MIT on the Cambridge Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Since the committee's inception, MIT has participated in quarterly meetings and annual drills. MIT continues to work on emergency preparedness with the city of Cambridge. As a result of MIT's participation with LEPC and its close ties to Cambridge public safety, there is a strong working relationship with the city of Cambridge.

John Driscoll
Assistant to Chief DiFava