

MIT Police

The MIT Police Department is under the command of Chief of Police John DiFava, who is also the director, facilities operations and security. Deputy Chief Jay Perault is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department. Captain Albert F. Pierce, chief of staff, works closely with administration in overseeing dignitary protection, the Special Services division, and the Crime Prevention Unit. Captain David Carlson continues to be responsible for training and administrative duties. Captain Craig Martin is responsible for day-to-day direct supervision of the patrol function.

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

As indicated, Captain Martin is the commander of the MIT Police patrol division, which makes up 75% of our human resources. 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.

On April 13, a memorial service was held for the one-year anniversary of the loss of Patrol Officer Sean Collier. This service was attended by members of MIT's faculty, staff and students, Sean's family and friends, and outside police agencies and Massachusetts dignitaries.

The Honor Guard, made up of nine members of the Patrol Division, participates in parades and special events at MIT and beyond. The Honor Guard and members of our department have represented this department and the Institute in events within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In April, on the year anniversary of the Boston Marathon incident, the Honor Guard mounted a wreath in honor of Patrol Officer Collier at a ceremony held on Boylston Street, Boston.

In May, National Police Week in Washington, DC, was held to honor fallen law enforcement members, including Patrol Officer Collier, whose name was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Chief DiFava, command staff, sergeants, patrol officers and members of the Honor Guard were in attendance.

Special Services Division

The Special Services Division is staffed by three detectives and a 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, drug offenses, and assault and battery. All detectives are certified to investigate sexual assault crimes. Captain Pierce, commander of this division, works with MIT's senior administration during sensitive critical incidents. The division also provides assistance to any member of the MIT community dealing with the Massachusetts court system. Special Services continues to collaborate with a number of outside law enforcement agencies, as their investigations on occasion require additional investigative expertise.

Members of the Special Services unit enhance their investigative skills by attending specialized courses. In December, a unit detective was promoted to patrol sergeant and a patrol officer was promoted to detective. In addition, temporary assignments are filled by officers, affording them investigative experience and further career advancement within the department.

Executive and Dignitary Protection and Institute Events

An assigned sergeant oversees the responsibilities associated with the process, planning, and implementation of executive and dignitary protection as required. Coordination of security for events at Gray House, and dignitary protection for high-ranking individuals visiting the Institute requires partnering with our local, state and federal law enforcement agencies as well as with the US Secret Service Department, Homeland Security, and the State Department. Continued partnership with the Office of Institute Events insures that the proper planning and processes are in place for the safety and protection for all large-scale and high-level Institute events.

Community Policing

With student safety in mind, the crime prevention sergeant worked with the Graduate Student Council to implement a new model of policing on the campus. An officer was assigned to patrol and serve as a resource to the graduate student community.

From a satellite office located in the Sidney Pacific graduate student residence hall, this assigned officer worked collaboratively with students in the northwest resident dormitories to proactively address public safety concerns.

Public safety presentations were offered throughout the year to educate the MIT community on safety and awareness. In addition, summer orientation programs were given to participants in Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science, Sloan Scholars Program, and InterPhase. In August and September, orientations were conducted for the incoming new students. These presentations provide information related to services and resources offered by the MIT Police department.

Crime Prevention

Presentations are made to new employees, graduate and undergraduate students, and visiting scholars and students. In addition, we issue crime bulletins and alerts to inform the community of incidents on and off-campus. The department's self-defense training program for women continues to be a very popular.

Detail Office

The Detail Office, located in the basement of W20, approves MIT student organization and department events and assigns police details to them. In addition, the Detail Office works closely with project managers within the Facilities Department to assign police details to construction sites to ensure the safety of the public. Security is also assigned for the protection of dignitaries and other important visitors to the Institute.

Training

In conjunction with instructors from the Cambridge Police Department and Harvard University, we conduct an in-service training program. This scenario-based training includes radiation protection, low-light with the patrol rifle, dealing with a disturbed person, and officer rescue.

In addition to the many training programs individual officers attend throughout the year, the entire department conducted or received training in the following areas:

- Active shooter situation
- Defensive tactics
- Quick clot and tourniquet application

Emergency Operations Center

The MIT Police Department plays a major role in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is designed to marshal the resources of the Institute to resolve emergencies. The Police Department actively supports the Institute's EOC by attending monthly meetings and participating in emergency drills. The EOC has also benefited the Institute by supporting large-scale events with an active command post.

Fourth of July

Boston's Fourth of July celebration, to which MIT's campus offers a front-row seat, attracts visitors from around Greater Boston as well as visitors from all over the world. A unified Command Center staffed by campus, local, state, and federal law enforcement

agencies is on site to coordinate and respond to incidents that may occur during the event. Public Safety officials are prepared to handle crowd control, personal safety, disorderly conduct, and emergency medical situations.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Our department is represented on the Cambridge Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Since the committee's inception, MIT has participated in quarterly meetings and annual drills for emergency preparedness with the City of Cambridge. As a result of MIT's participation with the LEPC and its close ties to Cambridge public safety, we enjoy a strong working relationship with the city.

John DiFava
Chief of Police