

MIT Police

The [MIT Police Department](#) is under the command of Chief of Police John DiFava. The MIT Police chief of staff is Albert F. Pierce, the captain of patrol is Craig Martin, the administrative captain is Cheryl Vossmer, the manager of finance and administration is Judith A. Freeman, and the senior financial assistant is Janice A. Barca. Sergeant Mary Beth Riley is primarily assigned to the Office of the President.

The primary mission of the MIT Police is to provide a safe and secure environment for all members of the MIT community—students, faculty, staff, and guests of the Institute. While our main focus is on the MIT community, department personnel continue to develop and maintain positive working relationships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and universities through networking and collaboration.

Emergency Communications Center

In December 2017, construction began on a new emergency communications center. The original dispatch center was dismantled and temporarily relocated. The E911 center has provided us with state-of-the-art communications and capabilities. Eight civilian dispatchers were hired and placed on an around-the-clock schedule. An open house was held in April for members of the MIT community.



The new MIT Police emergency communications center

Patrol Division

Captain Craig Martin is the commander of the MIT patrol division. This division comprises 42 patrol officers, 10 patrol sergeants, two administrative sergeants, and eight civilian dispatchers.

The patrol division is responsible for providing a continuous uniformed presence throughout the Institute. All police personnel are trained to maintain a secure environment for faculty, students, employees, guests, and visitors. The day-to-day presence of cruiser, motorcycle, bicycle, and foot patrols conveys our effort to work in partnership with the MIT community to foster a positive and safe environment.

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

MIT Police personnel take part and assist in public activities such as the Fourth of July fireworks celebration, the Cambridge Carnival, One World, and other events where numerous spectators or participants are present. The Honor Guard, made up of nine sworn officers from the patrol division, participates in special Institute events, local parades, and funerals.

Detail Office

The detail officer, under the supervision of the aide to the patrol commander, reviews and assigns police details for student events, Institute events, and internal needs. The Detail Office works with Campus Activities to address safety and security needs for all scheduled events. Also, the detail officer works closely with Department of Facilities project managers to determine the need for police details at construction sites to ensure the safety of the MIT community, vendors, and the public.

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 crimes within the MIT community as well as Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties. The division investigates all “part one” crimes, including but 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 apprises MIT senior administration of sensitive critical incidents.

In addition, any member of the MIT community needing assistance in navigating through the court system can contact the division. Special Services continues to collaborate with numerous outside agencies, including local and state agencies, Homeland Security, the United States Secret Service, the State Department, and federal law enforcement. Networking and communication with these agencies have proven beneficial.

Members of the division enhance their investigative skills by attending specialized training at accredited venues. Patrol officers are given the opportunity to be assigned to the unit for a period of one year, affording them additional law enforcement experience working as a detective in plain clothes.

Detective William King is assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force in Boston.

Administrative Training

Captain Vossmer manages all mandatory Massachusetts State Police training, including online in-service exams and firearms qualifications. In addition, she monitors licenses to carry firearms, driver's licenses, and Massachusetts State Police warrants. Captain Vossmer helped coordinate the construction of the emergency communications center with the assigned Facilities project manager, tradesmen, and information technology installation and support personnel.

Specialized Training

Administrative Sergeant Jamie DiGregorio coordinates training for all sworn police personnel. Each year, all police personnel undergo mandatory in-service training that includes first responder, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), firearms, active shooter scenarios, MIT nuclear reactor, and blood-borne pathogens. Other areas of training include civil disobedience, command training, first-line supervisor training, firearm instructor training, and police report writing.

Naloxone training (more commonly known as Narcan training) has been added to prepare police personnel to administer Narcan (the brand name for naloxone) in the event of a drug-related incident.

A firearms training interactive simulator was installed to provide training via video simulations. These simulations prepare and train police personnel by using possible real-life scenarios.

Crime Analysis

Patrol Officer Susan Fuller-DeAmato is responsible for the day-to-day analysis of crime trends and patterns on the campus and in off-campus areas encompassing Cambridge and Boston. The Crime Analysis unit provides complex and systematic research relating to on-campus trends in crime and disorder. The information collected enables the command staff to deploy resources in an effective manner. In addition, the unit works closely with Special Services to identify and apprehend suspects.

Fuller-DeAmato assists the community policing sergeant with the Institute's Clery Act compliance efforts, including updating the annual safety and security publication, issuing timely warnings, maintaining the daily crime log, and providing campus security training. The department maintains Twitter and Facebook accounts with the goal of keeping the MIT community informed.

Community Policing

The Community Policing division is staffed by Sergeant Andrew Turco and Officer Donald Miller, who is assigned to the graduate student community. The division has established a community policing committee made up of department members Darren Deegan, Yesnia Gomes, and Andrew Avila.

The division offers a number of workshops and services to the MIT community. The Streetwise and Safe workshop offers information to community members on how to protect themselves and their property from crime and how to avoid online and telephone scams. Comprehensive cycling-specific information is included in the Bicycle Safety workshop, which informs participants about local and state laws, offers guidelines on safer cycling, and provides advice on protecting their bicycles from theft. An active shooter/violent intruder awareness class in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management is also offered.

Members of the Community Policing division work through Alcohol and Other Drug Services Office to offer training to student social event planners on risk reduction and bystander intervention practices. Sergeant Turco holds weekly meetings with fraternity leaders to strategize on reducing improper behavior during social events.

Satellite Community Policing Office

In addition to MIT Police headquarters, Officer Miller is assigned to a satellite office located in the Sydney and Pacific dormitory between the hours of 3:30 and 11:30 pm. He attends meetings with graduate student life leadership, presents safety workshops at graduate residence halls, and addresses the needs and concerns of the residents of the Cambridge and Somerville Programs for Addiction Recovery shelter. As part of the bike patrol unit, he also is responsible for the Sydney and Pacific area.

Office of the President

Sergeant Mary Beth Riley is assigned to the Office of the President. Her day-to-day responsibilities include but are not limited to accompanying MIT president Rafael Reif on all scheduled on- and off-campus events to provide transportation, security, and protection. Additionally Sergeant Riley works with the staff at Gray House to ensure appropriate security for events hosted there. During dignitary and VIP visits, Sergeant Riley coordinates and oversees all necessary protection-related protocols with advance teams and local, state, and federal agencies.

Emergency Management

Suzanne Blake leads the MIT Emergency Management unit (MIT EM), which is responsible for emergency preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and communications (including the MIT Alert program). Blake manages three emergency management specialists, of which one is a senior specialist. MIT EM released a new website that provides an overview of its functions and activities, as well as helpful preparedness information for faculty, staff, and students.

MIT EM manages and staffs the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during pre-planned events and complex, long-duration emergencies. Over the past year, MIT EM activated the EOC for the OneWorld Dance Festival in May as well as for hooding and commencement in June. The EOC is activated to ensure resource coordination, streamlined communications, and coordination with partners (specifically Cambridge Fire, Cambridge Police, and Pro Ambulance). The EOC comprises staff members from MIT departments across campus to ensure that varied expertise is available in an emergency. The EOC team meets on a monthly basis and conducts regular tabletop exercises and drills focusing on activation procedures.

MIT EM also manages the snow closure and delay process for the Institute. This past winter, the unit managed the snow process for five winter storms, three of which caused MIT to close for one day each. MIT EM provided situational awareness of all storms affecting MIT's main campus, managed the decision-making process with MIT senior leadership for closures and delayed openings, and disseminated relevant communications to the MIT community following closure decisions.

MIT Emergency Medical Services (MIT EMS), the Institute's student-run ambulance service, is now part of MIT EM. After reporting to MIT Medical for many years, MIT EMS was brought into MIT EM so that there would be a single organizational structure for all of MIT's public safety functions. MIT EM will work with MIT EMS student leaders to ensure the continued success of the organization and to better integrate MIT EMS with public safety entities such as the MIT Police, Cambridge Fire, and the Cambridge Police.

John DiFava
Chief of Police