

Police Department

Kenneth Witkowski, Chief

The Mishawaka Police Department has the responsibility of providing the community safe and secure environments in which everyone can feel safe while out in public or in the confines of their home. The responsibilities of the MPD include: conservation of public harmony and order, deterrence, detection and solving of crimes, enforcement of state laws and city ordinances, providing non-law enforcement services to the public, assisting in the safe movement of vehicular traffic, and to provide other emergency services as needed.

The Mishawaka Police Department consists of 105 Police Officers and 24 Civilian Support Staff dedicated to the safety of Mishawaka City residents and visitors by enforcing the law, protecting property and reducing civil disorder.

The Department is divided into five divisions that include Uniform, Traffic, Investigative, Services, and Training.

Department Personnel	
Position	Number
Chief of Police	1
Division Chief	3
Captains	7
Lieutenants	12
Sergeants	20
Corporals	50
Patrol Officer	7
Probationary Officers	5

Uniform Patrol Division

The Uniform Patrol Division consists of six beats operating over three shifts around the clock. Each shift is comprised of about 23 officers and supervised by a Captain.

The Uniform Division provides public safety by maintaining order, responding to emergencies, and protecting people and property. Enforcing motor vehicle and criminal laws, and promoting good community relations are also a part of their responsibilities. This Division is usually the most visible in our community and may be seen arresting suspects or perpetrators of criminal acts, rendering aid to accident victims or other persons requiring first aid for physical injuries, and responding to complaints and emergencies. A Uniform Patrol officer's job can be tedious and demanding. These officers are required to document facts of crimes and testify in court concerning evidence or as a witness to a crime.

The Division uses the Uniform Crime Report Statistics (UCR) Program for reporting crime. This program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of

Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform national crime statistics. Today, several annual statistical publications are produced from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States. The City of Mishawaka reported the following crime in 2012:

2012 Mishawaka Crime Statistics	
Homicides	3
Rapes	22
Robberies	49
Assault	1,093
Burglaries	501
Larcenies/Thefts	2,139
Auto Thefts	158
Arsons	15

Officers were also dispatched to 1,575 false alarms in 2012, resulting in 259 citations written for reporting false alarms.

The Department had two resignations in 2012, and hired five new probationary officers. There were also 8 promotions within the Department during the year. 2012 also saw the retirement of Lt. Michael Samp.

Awards

Cpl. Robert Sieradzki was awarded Officer of the 1st Quarter for good instincts and perceptiveness in the investigation of a burglary. The criminal was quickly found and apprehended, taking him off the streets and preventing him from committing further crimes.

Four Officers were awarded the Officer of the 2nd Quarter. Cpl. Anthony Stachowiak received the award for his and his K-9 partner Max's persistence and determination in locating and capturing a subject, after a lengthy search. Their efforts paid off in the end with an apprehension of a convicted felon.

Cpl. Eric Petersen received the award for what was called "a smart, heads-up traffic stop that broke the case". This stop brought to justice an armed robbery suspect that was being pursued.

Cpl. Ryan Kuzmicz received the award for the quick location and traffic stop of a robbery suspect vehicle that ultimately led to the apprehension of the subjects.

Finally, Cpl. Jeremy Tyler received the award for his perceptiveness and quick thinking that led to the apprehension of a violent felon.

Officers Sgt. Dube, Cpl. Faltynski, and Cpl. Porter received distinction as Officers of the 3rd Quarter. Cpl. Porter self-initiated his own follow-ups on a series of previous thefts. As

a result of his self-initiation, three suspects were apprehended and charged with felony theft and criminal mischief. Sgt. Dube is responsible for catching suspects breaking into multiple cars in the Grape Road corridor. Cpl. Faltynski obtained information from a 7-11 armed robbery and was hyper-vigilant in his attempts to locate the suspects. Several days after the robbery, Cpl. Faltynski located the suspects in a lot adjacent to the same 7-11 store. Apparently, the suspects were planning to rob the store once again. The suspects were apprehended and were later linked to several other robberies in the area.

The Officer of the 4th Quarter award recognizes Cpl. Tyler for his initiative and keen sense of awareness in the apprehension of two felony suspects.

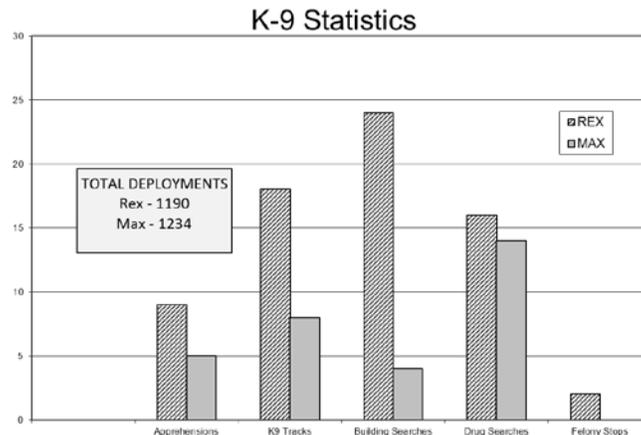
K-9 Unit



The MPD has also reorganized its K-9 program with two newer handlers and K-9's. Starting in 2013 the K-9 Unit will be separated from uniform shift strength and have their own separate division headed by Sgt. Thomas. This will allow the K-9 Division to change their shift reporting hours allowing overlap of shifts to be available when most needed.

K-9 Unit officers, before all else, are law enforcement agents. As such, they still are responsible for responding to calls for assistance, investigating criminal activity, writing and filing reports and related paperwork, apprehending and questioning suspects, and participating in community services and events.

In addition to these duties, K-9 officers are responsible for training and caring for their dogs, who serve as their partners. They also have to know how to handle their dogs in stressful situations that often result from sniffing out crime. The K-9 Unit's mission is to support Uniform and Detective operations in search of fugitive felony suspects, misdemeanor suspects armed with firearms, lost and missing persons, and recovery of illegal narcotics and evidence.



Traffic Division

Capt. Tim Spencer and Sgt. Scott Parker are assigned to this Division and are responsible for the collection, review, correction and transmission of all crash reports. The Division also investigates any traffic related case reports generated by the Department. This includes the review of case reports, and all follow-up investigations, the majority of which involve serious injury, fatalities, or are hit and run crashes. The Division also supplements case and crash reports and refers appropriate cases to the Prosecutor's Office. Additionally, the Traffic Division conducts traffic studies when requested by the Chief of Police or the Department of Engineering, reviews and makes recommendations on requests for handicap parking spaces in residential areas, and reviews and makes recommendations on applications for Taxicab permits that are issued by the City.

As re-constructionists, both officers assigned to the Traffic Investigations Bureau serve as Lead Investigators for serious crashes as well as any other traffic related issues that arise, in an on-call capacity 24 hours per day. Additionally, Sgt. Parker serves as a Squad Leader for the County-wide Fatal Alcohol Crash Team (F.A.C.T.). F.A.C.T. investigates serious injury and fatal crashes that occur within the boundaries of St. Joseph County that involve drug or alcohol impairment. Other Mishawaka Officers that serve on F.A.C.T. are: Captain Mike Arney, Lieutenant Tim Williams, Sergeants Bryan Fox and Mark Flemming and Corporals Ron Hantz and Bob Ashburn. Captain Tim Spencer serves as the F.A.C.T. Coordinator.

There were 1,749 criminal cases assigned to and investigated by the Traffic Bureau in 2012. There were 2,013 crashes reported: 1,598 property damage crashes, 413 injury crashes with 564 persons injured and 2 fatality crashes with 2 persons killed.

Operation Pull Over and "Click It or Ticket"

The Division received an *Operation Pull Over & Big City/Big County "Click It or Ticket"* grant from the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving. This grant, for \$171,500 pays overtime for officers to participate in focusing on Seat Belt Enforcement Patrols, Sobriety Check Points, and Saturation Patrols for impaired and dangerous drivers.

Total Traffic Stops	13,463		
D.U.I. Arrests	284	Criminal Misd.	204
Seat Belt Violations	2,833	Criminal Felony	72
Driving While Suspended	771	Speeding	2,623
Child Restraint Violations	253	Other Traffic	2,427
		Warnings	3,996

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce

The Division also received an D.U.I. Taskforce Indiana grant for \$92,500 to pay overtime allowing officers to participate in Sobriety Check Points, Saturation, and Wolfpack Patrols targeting Impaired and Dangerous Drivers.

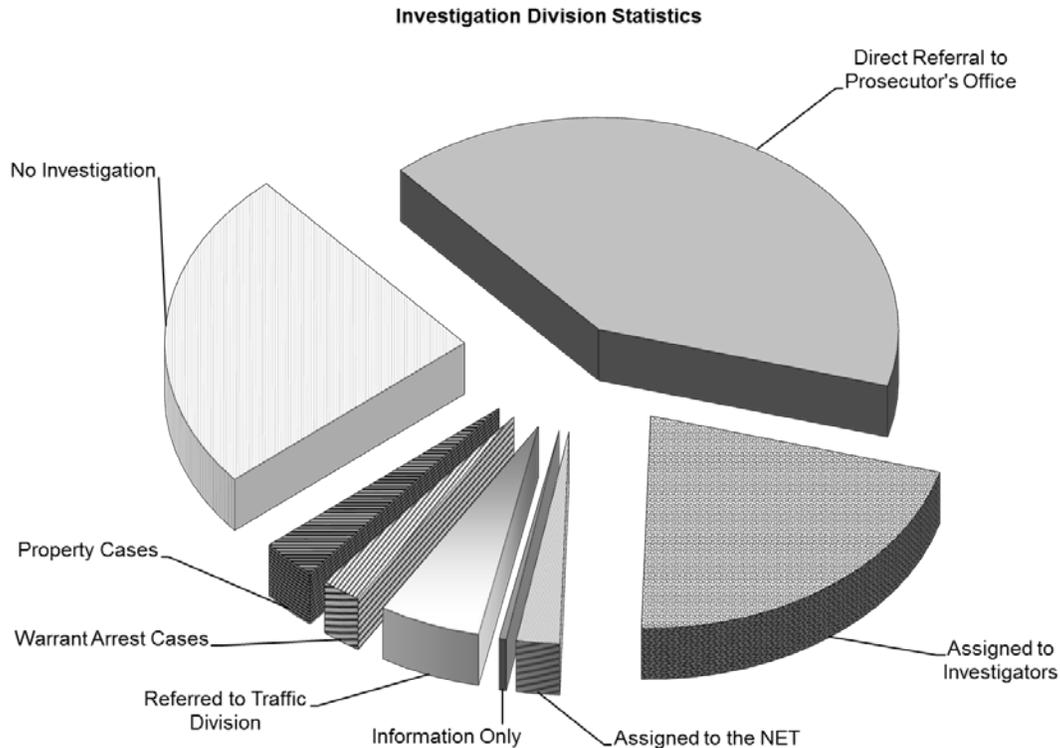
Total Traffic Stops	7,021		
Misd. D.U.I. Arrests	545	Criminal Misd.	234
Felony D.U.I. Arrests	43	Criminal Felony	83
Other Alcohol	73	Speeding	782
Driving While Suspended	437	Other Traffic	2,309
Underage Alcohol	73	Warnings	2,442

The Mishawaka Police Department is a “permanent fitting station” for insuring the proper installation of child car seats in vehicles. This program was established in 1999. Over the last two years the Division has checked 150 car seats, replacing 45. Since the establishment of the permanent fitting station the Mishawaka Police Department has checked 10,931 seats, replaced 2702 and participated in 370 safety clinics. The Division sponsored three Car Seat Safety Clinics, while assisting at 32 other clinics.

Lt. Tim Williams is a Child Passenger Safety Instructor for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In 2012 Lt. Williams instructed 3 Child Passenger Safety Technician Courses throughout Indiana including courses attended by Mishawaka Fireman and local nurses.

Investigative Division

The Investigative Division consists of a day and afternoon shift that is staffed by 9 Detectives and a Captain supervising each shift. The Division is tasked with the investigation of crimes that occur within the City Of Mishawaka. All cases are referred to the Investigations Division and are reviewed to determine if solvability factors are present. The case can be assigned to an investigator, assigned to an outside agency that specializes in specific crimes, or directly referred to the Saint Joseph County Prosecutors Office for review and prosecution. If no solvability factors are present, the case is cancelled and kept on file in case further information becomes available. Among other things, Investigators must obtain evidence from suspects, and prepare and serve search and arrest warrants.



The Department has an officer assigned to the County Metro Homicide Unit and the Metro Special Operations Section. In addition, two officers are assigned to the Special Victim's Unit.

Community Relations Unit

The Community Relations Unit is commanded by Capt. Robert Reppert with assistance from three Officers. The unit is divided into five entities; Community Relations Officers, a Department Training Officer, Street Crime Officers (SCU), D.A.R.E., and School Resource Officers (SROs). The Unit serves as a specialized enforcement unit that conducts special investigations, provides patrol and investigative support, and utilizes various measures to accomplish their goals and objectives.

The Community Relations Officers handle various public relationship events such as Neighborhood Watch meetings, MPD tours for boy scouts and schools, reading to kids, bike safety rodeos, and participating in Tri Ad Senior Citizens Organization. The unit is partnered with Nixle.com (a California-based Internet messaging-service provider). This provider offers a standardized, secure, and certified communication platform for local police departments, municipalities, and their agencies to communicate important neighborhood-level information to the residents of their communities. This has been a great success with improving how we get crime information and other important information out to the public. The unit also handles neighborhood complaints, such as drug houses, speeding, neighbor disputes, and other "quality of life" issues.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit consists of four Officers whose duties are to concentrate efforts in high crime areas of the city and work in conjunction with the MPD's Investigative Division to identify criminals and solve crimes. The Unit also seeks input from officers, detectives and crime analysts concerning pertinent data on the type of criminal activity, where the problem is most severe, where crime awareness and prevention activities would be most productive, and what type of program would be most effective in combating the problem. The Unit also identifies areas that generate repeat calls for service so problem-solving efforts can be initiated.

D.A.R.E.

The D.A.R.E. Program operated by Lt. Tim Williams, is an early intervention program that works with young students to encourage drug free lifestyle. The programs are presented to ten 5th grade classes in public and parochial schools in Mishawaka.



The Mishawaka D.A.R.E. program was awarded a grant of \$3,000.00 from the Drug Free Community Council to help pay for guest speaker Retro Bill, and graduation tee-shirts for the D.A.R.E. students.

Lt. Williams continues to instruct the middle school program, "Keepin' it REAL". 2012 was the fourth year Lt. Williams instructed the middle school program at St. Monica and Covenant Christian School. Lt. Williams awards students from each class an award for the best essay. The winning students from each semester compete against each other to be crowned City Champion. Two City Champion essays are chosen and sent down-state to compete for the State Championship. Madison Hess from Liberty Elementary and Riley Chapla from Twin Branch Elementary were named City Champions for having the best essays.

Lt. Williams also serves as President of the Drug Free Community Council and Healthy Community Initiatives (HCI) Board of Directors.

Stranger Danger

The Mishawaka Police Department provides a Stranger Danger program for local schools. Lt. Tim Williams talks about Child Lures, Internet Safety and Bullies. WNDU Channel 16 and United Way helped produce a Stranger Danger Video that is used to help educate students and care givers about the lures used to kidnap children. The 15 minute video features Jack Nolan (WNDU 16) along with local police officers.

School Resource Officers

Cpl. Steve Madison is assigned to John Young Middle School and Cpl. Ken Kahlenbeck is the School Resource Officer assigned to Mishawaka High School. The School Resource Officer serves as a liaison between the school community and the Mishawaka Police Department. The officer conducts short-term educational projects such as speaking to classes, the student body, parents and the school staff. The officer coordinates with the school administration to provide a safe and secure environment. Resource officers initiate and follow-up on cases that happen on and off school property involving students enrolled in school.

Services Division

Chief Ravotto, assisted by 6 Civilian Support Staff, provides administrative services for the Department. These services include the Department budget, management of the Property Room, and administration of the Training Division. The Division is also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Police Department facility along with the Department's inventory of officer equipment, cars and supplies. The Services Division is also responsible for maintaining Department records, processing reports and citations, data entry, updating dispositions on cases in the Records Management System, and for the preparation of statistics, including the monthly Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting.

The Division assists the public with record checks, accident and case reports, gun permits, and fingerprinting.

2012 Statistics

- Custodial Arrest Reports – 3,300
- Proxy/Citation Arrests – 2,850
- Code 1's (Information only) – 25,457
- Code 2 Reports – 6,128
- Crime Reports – 5,974
- Citations: UTT – 3,702
- Parking Citations – 1,034
- Warning Citations – 158
- Ordinance Citations – 28

Training Division

The Mishawaka Police Department's Training Division recognizes the importance for sworn officers to receive real-life training. This training is "scenario-based" and "hands-on." Officers are presented with situations they will observe on a daily basis and are trained by certified instructors to deal with and react to those situations. The officers are critiqued on how they respond to the situation. This type of training gives the officer

confidence and the self-assurance necessary to handle the situation when he or she is faced with it on the street.

Other examples of training the Division conducts include building searches, reacting to school violence and simulations, Combat Firearms Training, STOPS (Strategies and Tactical of Patrol Stops) Training, Surviving Ground Assaults for Patrol Officers, Crime Scene Processing and Investigations and Drug Recognition.

The Department also furnishes Instructors to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Plainfield, Indiana, to train approximately 800 police officers from counties all over the State of Indiana. MPD Instructors are held in high regard with ILEA and its staff. Chief Witkowski holds a seat on the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board which meets six times a year. The meetings are conducted at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Indianapolis.

Each officer must receive 24 hours of training as mandated by the State of Indiana. The MPD conducts regular Training Board meetings to identify any training needs, issues, or concerns that may need to be addressed. Training has been cited as the most important responsibility in any law enforcement agency. Training serves three broad purposes. First, well-trained officers are generally better prepared to act decisively and correctly in a broad spectrum of situations. Second, training usually results in greater productivity, self-reliance, and effectiveness. Third, it fosters cooperation and unity of purpose.

Mishawaka Police officers received 9,279 hours of training in 2012, averaging approximately 88 hours per officer. During the year 111 training classes were held.

The Mishawaka Public Safety Dispatch Center is supervised by Dispatch Coordinator Brian Billingsley. Fifteen full-time dispatchers and three part-time dispatchers provide 24 hour coverage of the Dispatch Center. Using a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, dispatchers receive emergency calls from the public requesting police, fire, medical or other emergency services. Dispatchers must determine the nature and location of the emergency, determine priorities, and dispatch police, fire, ambulance or other emergency units.

Dispatch Statistics		
	2012	Change from 2011
Total Dispatches	41,962	-3,166
Total Calls	101,901	-3,130
911 Calls	28,999	+8
Fire/EMS Dispatches	6,345	+334

To accomplish this, they must maintain contact with all units on assignment and maintain the status and location of police and fire units by monitoring several public safety radio frequencies.

Dispatchers also answer non-emergency calls for assistance and respond to requests for information regarding vehicle registration, driving records and warrants, and provide pertinent data. All Dispatchers are certified as Emergency Medical Dispatchers.

Special 2012 Accomplishments

The MPD purchased a computer software system called CrimeNet.com. This new system will enable all department personnel to visually track crime data. Each individual officer will have access to crime maps, crime statistic graphs and data. This will enable them to chart the so called hot spots geographically and also the time of day and days of the week when crime events are most prevalent. There is also a community element attached to the new system where civilians can track crime statistics and trends in their own area or surrounding community.

The year 2012 also saw the completion of the new Police Memorial located in the front of the MPD. The memorial is a beautiful monument that memorializes each Mishawaka officer that paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting this Community.

A much needed golf cart was purchased for the Citizen in Alliance with Police (CAP) program that was originally implemented in 2008. CAP's mission is to patrol parks and the Riverwalk, partnering with the MPD and the Parks Department. CAP is staffed with community spirited volunteers to help report on acts of vandalism, and to help those needing information or assistance in the City's Parks.

Mishawaka's Police Department is proud to serve and protect its citizens and community. A feeling of safety and security is vital to citywide efforts to keep Mishawaka moving forward.