

Police Department

Kenneth Witkowski, Chief

The Mishawaka Police Department recognizes the challenges that come along with a prospering community. The top priority of the Department remains to be the safety and protection of the community by providing professional and effective law enforcement services to its citizens. The Department will continue to target crimes against persons and keep community values intact. The specific duties 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 MPD is budgeted for 106 officers and 8 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	6
Lieutenants	13
Sergeants	20
Patrol Officer First Class	44
Patrol Officer Second Class	10
Probationary Officers	6
Recruits	4

Uniform Patrol Division

The Uniform Division, commanded by Uniform Division Chief Jason Stefaniak, is comprised of 71 Uniformed Officers, working six sections of the city, and divided into 3 separate shifts. Each shift is supervised by one Captain, one Lieutenant, and three Sergeants.

The overall goal of the Uniform Division is to improve the sense of safety and security within the city. Through daily interactions with the community, the Uniform Patrol Officer works to promote a positive working relationship with the public will help them enforce laws, maintain order, and preserve peace within the community.

The Uniform Patrol Officer's job is often tedious and demanding. They are called to fight and prevent crime wherever and whenever it occurs. They must be ready to arrest violent offenders and immediately render aid to helpless victims. They are required to document violent crash scenes, protect and maintain crime scenes, gather evidence, and testify in court. The Uniform Patrol Officer must perform under the worst conditions while maintaining their composure and professionalism. The Uniform Patrol Officer understands that they must treat each citizen they encounter with courtesy and respect. The Uniform Division utilizes the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) to report crime statistics.

Uniform Crime Report Statistics			
Offense	2016	2017	Change
Homicide	2	3	+1
Rape	33	8	-25
Robbery	64	54	-10
Assault	832	809	-23
Burglary	276	285	+9
Larceny-Theft	2,065	2,034	-31
Auto Theft	205	204	-1
Arson	5	5	0

New Officers

Dustin Boyd, Jacob Craft and Evan Stahley were all hired as Recruits in October of 2016. They graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in February of 2017 and were sworn in as Probationary Patrol Officers on February 21, 2017.



Officers Dustin Boyd & Jacob Craft, Mayor Wood, Officer Evan Stahley & Chief Ken Witkowski

- Recruit Brian Lagodzinski was sworn in as a Probationary Patrol Officer on April 25, 2017.
- Recruit Harold Yost was sworn in as a Probationary Patrol Officer on May 2, 2107.

Promotions

- Pfc. Scott Robinson, Investigative Division, was promoted to Sergeant on January 17, 2017.
- Psc. Daniel Braniff, Uniform Division, was promoted to Pfc. on February 2, 2017.
- Sgt. Robert Wilson, Uniform Division, was promoted to Lieutenant on February 3, 2017.
- Sgt. Jen Wilson, Uniform Division, was promoted to Lieutenant on February 3, 2017. On March 1, 2017, she transferred to the Community Relations Unit where she is in charge of Internal Affairs Investigations and is a New Hire Recruiter.
- Pfc. Robert Ashburn, Uniform Division was promoted to Sergeant on February 3, 2017.
- Pfc. Don Magnuson, Uniform Division, was promoted to Sergeant on March 1, 2017.
- Pfc. Steve Treber, Uniform Division, was promoted to Sergeant on March 1, 2017.
- Psc. Jonathan Phipps, Uniform Division, was promoted to Pfc. on March 18, 2017.
- Probationary Patrol Officer, Zach DeGeyter was promoted to Pfc. on August 2, 2017.
- Pfc. Brian Long, Uniform Division, was promoted to Sergeant on October 17, 2017.
- Sgt. Matt Porter, Investigative Division, was promoted to Lieutenant on October 17, 2017.
- Probationary Patrol Officer, Kelli Sells was promoted to Psc. on October 25, 2017.

Retirements

- Lt. Matthew Weber, Uniform Division, retired on January 3, 2017 after 34+ years of service.
- Lt. Ron Treely, Uniform Division, retired on January 3, 2017 after 34+ years of service.
- Sgt. Eugene Trippel, Uniform Division, retired on January 3, 2017 after 33+ years of service.
- Lt. Robert Pawlowski, Investigative Division, retired on August 17, 2017, after 40 years of service.

Resignations

- Pfc. Adam Northcutt resigned and accepted a position with the Elkhart Police Department on August 12, 2017.
- Probationary Patrol Officer Brian Lagodzinski resigned and accepted a position with the City of Elgin Police Department on December 31, 2017.

Recognitions

Officers of the 1st Quarter – Lt. Craig Nowacki and Psc. Zachary DeGeyter

In 2016, the Mishawaka Police Department Administration, City Attorney and Controller's Offices established a plan to purchase, develop and implement an online attendance system for the MPD. These efforts were made, in part, to streamline attendance and payroll, create a more efficient and accountable attendance system and to further move the MPD into the future.

After an extensive search, the Visual Computer Solutions Company, (VCS) was selected. The program was purchased and installed however, the project was far from complete. Lt. Craig Nowacki worked with the Administration, FOP and Controller's Office to ensure the program would meet everyone's needs. He took on this extremely time task, while maintaining his police training coordinator duties.

Lt. Nowacki devoted a large portion of time and commitment into learning and creating the program to fit the MPD's needs. His efforts and the knowledge it took in transforming the VCS program into a tailor-made program for the MPD is to be commended.

On April 10, 2017, VCS was officially launched and has been working as planned. It is the hard work and determination of officers like Lt. Nowacki that continue to prove the Mishawaka Police Department offers the City and its citizens the best service possible.

On January 20, 2017, Officer DeGeyter performed a traffic stop on Union Street. As he approached the vehicle, the driver drove away from the scene. Officer DeGeyter initiated a vehicle pursuit that led officers into Bendix Park. After crashing into a fence, the driver fled on foot, leaving his female passenger behind. After a short foot pursuit, the suspect was apprehended. The suspect was later charged with: Felony Resisting Law Enforcement, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Paraphernalia, Reckless Driving, Criminal Mischief, and Driving While Suspended. The driver was also wanted on a local criminal arrest warrant.

On February 25, 2017, Officer DeGeyter located a vehicle that was displaying a stolen license plate. When Officer DeGeyter stopped the vehicle, he positively identified the three occupants. Two of the subjects had active criminal arrest warrants. Upon further investigation, officers recovered 2 stolen handguns from inside the vehicle. The stolen handguns led to a larger investigation into a residence on Walnut Street in Mishawaka. Together with St. Joseph County SWAT, ATF, Drug Investigations Unit and the Nappanee Police Department, the resident on Walnut Street was served with a search warrant that led to the recovery of further stolen property, a counterfeit money operation and narcotics.

Since the first of the year, Officer DeGeyter has been responsible for 10 Operating While Intoxicated Arrests, several Resisting Law Enforcement Arrests including 3 vehicle pursuits, numerous arrests involving stolen property, possession of narcotics and Criminal Arrest Warrants. His return to the Mishawaka Police Department in 2016 was welcomed by all, and his efforts since his return should be commended.

Officer of the 3rd Quarter – Psc. Jeff Grzegorek

Officer Grzegorek was nominated by Uniform Division Chief, Jason Stefaniak. Chief Stefaniak brought to light several incidents from July to September, 2017 in which Officer Grzegorek played a major role. The following highlights are a just a few of those incidents:

On July 7th, Officer Grzegorek, while on routine patrol, stopped a vehicle in the area of Main and McKinley. During the stop, he located several thousand dollars in US Currency, 2 cell phones, and marijuana that was packaged to be sold. The driver was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana, and the passenger was arrested for an outstanding warrant.



*Police Chief Ken Witkowski,
Officer Jeff Grzegorek & Mayor Dave Wood*

On August 29th, while on routine patrol, Officer Grzegorek initiated a traffic stop on Logan Street. As he approached the vehicle, he immediately smelled marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed one 9mm handgun, Ecstasy pills, marijuana, and US Currency. The driver was found to have 3 local warrants and did not have a permit to carry a firearm. He was taken into custody where he faces multiple felony charges.

On September 23rd, Officer Grzegorek and additional officers responded to 502 E. Grove Street in reference to a loud party. Upon their arrival, they noticed several people inside the house, including several juveniles. During the course of the investigation, 6 adults were taken to jail. Charges included Visiting a Common Nuisance, Minor Consuming, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Arrest. Five juveniles were remanded into the custody of the Juvenile Justice Center. As a result, the owner of the property was served with multiple City Ordinance Violations.

These three incidents are only a fraction of responses or calls for service that Officer Grzegorek self-initiated. Others include, recovery of additional drugs and money, several felony warrant arrests, including an ATF warrant for possession of a firearm while being a convicted felon and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence. He also aided in the search and seizure of evidence that led to the successful prosecution of an armed robbery suspect.

Officer Grzegorek's actions throughout this period of 2017 should be commended. Many of the incidents noted were when Officer Grzegorek was performing his daily patrol duties. His willingness and self-motivation to initiate investigations display the proactive attitudes that make the Mishawaka Police Department what it is today.

Officer of the 4th Quarter – Lt. Kevin Will and Psc. James Bartlett

Lt. Will was recognized for his exceptional work in an investigation where he worked on a Conspiracy to Commit Robbery case. He coordinated with outside agencies, including SJCPD and FBI, along with the MPD, SCU, Uniform Division and the Detective Bureau. He also worked on a Burglary at Michiana Dodge where he was involved in locating a stolen vehicle and the arrest of a suspect.

On November 16, 2017, Officer Bartlett was advised of a “vehicle into a pond call” by dispatch. When he arrived at the scene, he could see that the rear end of the vehicle was the only part of the car not under water. When he exited his vehicle, he heard the screams of a woman stating that there was still someone in the submerged vehicle. The rear window was still above water, Officer Bartlett swam to the vehicle climbed on top of the roof and used his elbow to strike the rear window shattering it. Once the window was smashed, the vehicle began to sink at a rapid rate. The victim appeared through the back window and began to crawl out. Officer Bartlett, along with Fireman Mark Taylor, assisted in getting the victim completely out from the vehicle and then swam to shore.

Officer Bartlett conducted himself in a most proficient and skilled manner and acted without hesitation to save the life of another with no regard for his own safety. Because of his quick response to the situation he, no doubt, saved the life of the victim. His vigilance and bravery are to be commended.

Officer of the Year for 2016
Sgt. Chad Thomas and K-9 Rex
(award presented in 2017)

Sgt. Thomas and K-9 Rex finished up 2016 with several high-profile arrests. From the tracking and apprehension of car thieves, to the discovery of local burglars, the K-9 duo was responsible for several felony arrests throughout the 2016 holiday season. Their training, teamwork, and dedication continue to show how valuable both officers are to the City of Mishawaka.



Sgt. Chad Thomas & K-9 Rex

Indiana D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year

Lt. Williams was nominated by Mayor Dave Wood for Indiana D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year for 2017. On October 24, 2017, at the School City of Mishawaka School Board Meeting, Mayor Wood announced that Lt. Williams was selected as the D.A.R.E. Office of the Year for the State of Indiana.



*Chief Ken Witkowski, Lt. Tim Williams,
 Mayor Dave Wood, and Capt. Robert Reppert*

2017 Lifesaving Awards

Psc. James Bartlett

November 16, 2017 incident where Officer Bartlett saved the life of a gentleman trapped in his vehicle that was submerged in a pond. He was also recognized as Officer of the 4th Quarter for this incident.



Psc. James Bartlett



Psc. Daniel Braniff

Psc. Daniel Braniff

Officer Daniel Braniff was honored on September 11, 2017 at the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center's annual 9/11 Memorial Ceremony. Earlier in the summer, while off duty, Officer Braniff pulled a drowning child from a swimming pool saving her life.

MPD Firearms Training “Top Shot” Award

Sgt. Brian Long, Pfc. Joshua Watts and Psc. Josh Biggs



*Chief Ken Witkowski, Sgt. Brian Long, Psc. Josh Biggs,
Pfc. Joshua Watts, and Uniform Division Chief Jason Stefaniak*

K-9 Unit

The K-9 Unit’s mission is to support the Uniform Division, Street Crimes Unit and the Investigative Division. They aid in the search for fugitive felony suspects, armed suspects, lost and missing persons and the recovery of illegal narcotics and evidence. In addition to these duties, K-9 officers are responsible for training and caring for their K-9 partners.

In 2017, K-9 Officers Sgt. Chad Thomas and his partner Rex and Pfc. Anthony Stachowiak and his partner Max, continued to assist local agencies such as the South Bend and St. Joseph County Police Departments and the Indiana State Police. Both K-9 Officers also participate in the local schools with random searches of school grounds and lockers as well as providing demonstrations for local civic groups.

Traffic Division

Capt. Tim Spencer and Lt. Scott Parker are assigned to this Division and are responsible for the collection, review, correction and transmission of all crash reports. The Division 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 and makes recommendations to the City’s Traffic Commission.

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, Lt. Parker serves as a squad leader for the countywide Fatal Alcohol Crash Team (F.A.C.T.). This team 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 Captains Mike Arney and Bryan Fox, Lt. Tim Williams, Sgt. Mark Flemming and Pfc. Bob Ashburn. Capt. Tim Spencer serves as the F.A.C.T. Commander.

There were 1,353 criminal cases assigned to and investigated by the Traffic Bureau in 2017. There were 1,874 property damage crashes reported and 370 injury crashes with 506 injured and 2 fatality crashes with 3 fatalities.

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”

The Division received an Operation Pull Over and Big City/Big County “Click It or Ticket” grant from the Governor’s Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving. This grant, for \$143,778 pays overtime for officers to participate in focusing on seat belt enforcement patrols, sobriety check points, and saturation patrols for impaired and dangerous drivers.

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce

The Division also received a D.U.I. Taskforce Indiana grant for \$92,500 to pay overtime allowing officers to participate in sobriety checkpoints, saturation, and wolfpack patrols targeting impaired and dangerous drivers.

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”	
Criminal Misdemeanor Arrests	154
D.U.I. Arrests	174
Seat Belt Violations	825
Driving While Suspended	605
Child Restraint Violations	153
Criminal Felony Arrests	20
Speeding	2,031
Warnings	2,797
Other Traffic	2,453

Total Traffic Stops 9,212

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce	
Criminal Misdemeanor	96
Misdemeanor D.U.I. Arrests	303
Felony D.U.I. Arrests	18
Driving While Suspended	259
Underage Alcohol	14
Criminal Felony	10
Speeding	463
Warnings	610
Other Traffic	1,232

Total Traffic Stops 3,005

Investigative Division

The Investigative Division is supervised by Assistant Chief Dan Gebo and is composed of 16 officers that are tasked with the investigation of crimes that occur within the City of Mishawaka and St. Joseph County. The Investigative Division has six sub-divisions: Street Crimes Unit, Community Relations Unit, School Resource Officers, Special Victims Unit, Drug Investigative Unit, and the County Metro Homicide Unit. *(1 officer is assigned to the CMHU, 1 officer is assigned to the DIU and 2 officers are assigned to the SVU.)*

All criminal cases filed through the Mishawaka Police Department are referred to the Investigations Division and are reviewed and handled on a case by case bases. 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.

In 2017, the Division handled 7,439 cases. In 2016, there were 7,477 cases. A decrease of 0.51%. The Division handled and solved numerous of high profile and serious criminal cases, along with misdemeanor crimes. Through interviewing suspects and witnesses, collecting and combing through the evidence found at crime scenes, and reviewing case reports, cases were solved. Without the hard work of our detectives and the assistance of other outside agencies, these crimes would have gone unsolved or not convicted.

2017 Investigation Division Statistics (case referrals)

Investigative Division Statistics	# Cases	% + / - 2016
Total cases direct referred to Prosecutor, JJC, FVU, etc.	2,704	- 0.37%
Total cases assigned to Detectives	1,466	
Total cases referred to Street Crimes, Community Relations, SROs	243	+ 57.79%
Total cases referred to Traffic Division	511	- 8.59%
Total cases - No Investigation	2,042	+ 4.34%
Total warrant arrests (not referred)	228	+ 7.045
Total property only cases	220	- 14.73%
Total cases w/information. only (not referred)	25	
Total # of cases reviewed by Investigative Division in 2017	7,439	

To keep in communication with outside agencies, Mishawaka Police Investigators attend a weekly crime intelligence strategy session to share and talk about crime trends, incidents and suspects being investigated. This meeting is attend by all area law enforcement agencies, including the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office, U.S. Prosecutor's Office and the community correction officers.

In 2017, the Detective Bureau added Detective Sgt. Brandon Ruth to the St. Joseph County Cyber Crimes Unit. With the growing trend of technology and the increase of online crimes and the use of computers, the Bureau believes it is important to have skilled investigators to handle these types of cases. One of the exemplary investigations conducted by Detective Ruth involved a college student who reported to police she was receiving sexually graphic, offensive, and threatening text messages via anonymous communication applications.

Through issuing multiple search warrants to electronic providers he unmasked and identified the suspect. A search warrant was conducted on the suspect's residence and, through further follow-up, he discovered he had been sending these types of explicit messages to hundreds of victims. Through Detective Ruth's investigative techniques with electronic warrants and the forensic analysis of digital devices, he brought justice to a number of citizens who had been victimized by the suspect. The St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office charged the suspect with 16 criminal counts related to stalking and harassment.

In 2017 the City of Mishawaka showed a 16% decrease in robberies from 2016. The Detectives assigned robbery cases solved 49% of them. The national average for robbery clearance rates is 25% to 30% for cities. Some of the high-profile robberies that occurred in the City of Mishawaka in 2017 were committed on businesses, persons, and banking institutions. In the month of January two individuals went on a robbery crime spree, responsible for committing seven armed robberies to different businesses throughout St. Joseph County and LaPorte County. One of the robberies occurred at a local pizzeria in Mishawaka. In cooperation with several local police agencies these suspects were caught and apprehended. The suspects were federally indicted and are now serving time in federal prison.

In September, a victim reported he went to a trailer park to visit a person he knows. Once inside the trailer, several subjects pointed handguns at his head and started beating him. They then took the victim to another trailer and continued beating him. The police were called by a person that knew something was going on. The police arrived and took the suspects in custody without incident. Handguns and drugs were recovered from the scene. Suspects were charged with criminal confinement, battery resulting in bodily injury and conversion.

In November, the Detective Bureau received a tip that a group of known criminals were going to execute an armed bank robbery on a specific day and time. With the cooperation of the FBI, South Bend Police, St. Joseph County Police, the St. Joseph County Prosecutor, and U.S. Prosecutor, a plan of action was taken that prevented this crime from happening. This case ended with several arrests and recovery of guns and thousands of dollars of stolen property. This case shows that local and federal police agencies can work together to accomplish their mission! The Mishawaka Police Detective Bureau, also had other high-profile cases that are not listed. These cases were anything from high dollar frauds, shoplifting rings, to aggravated assaults. A high percentage of these cases were solved by the efforts of the uniformed officers handling the initial call, to the investigators following up the case to be presented to the Prosecutor's Office.

In 2017, there were personnel changes in the Detective Bureau. Detective Lt. Robert Pawlowski retired from the department with 40 years of service. Detective Lt. Bradley Haney transferred from St. Joseph County's Special Victim's Unit (SVU) to the Detective Bureau.

Community Relations Unit

Community Relations Unit adheres to a philosophy and organizational strategy that promotes a partnership with citizens to work together to identify and solve community crime and disorder problems with the goal of improving the overall quality of life in the community. This form of Community Policing rests on the belief that the citizens and the police department, only by working together, can improve the quality of life in the community. It challenges all unit personnel to find

ways to develop new proactive initiatives aimed at solving community problems, targeting, and identifying criminal and quality of life issues within the City of Mishawaka.

The CRU is commanded by Capt. Robert Reppert with assistance from six officers. The unit is divided into three entities; Community Relations Officers, DARE, School Resource Officers (SROs) and a newly implemented position for 2017, an IAD/New Hire Recruiter. The Unit serves as a specialized enforcement unit that handles neighborhood complaints, provides patrol, and investigative support utilizing various measures to accomplish their goals and objectives.



Pfc. Faltynski, Sgt. Flemming, and Capt. Reppert of the Community Relations Unit patrolling the Riverwalk

The Community Relations Officers handle various public relationship events such as Community Outreach Programs, Neighborhood Watch meetings, National Night Out, MPD tours for boy scouts and schools, reading to children and bike safety rodeos.

The Unit also assists Code Enforcement, Park Patrol, the Uniform and Traffic Division, Drug Unit, Investigative Division identifying vacant houses to deter scrapping, and assisting outside agencies at the local, state and federal level when requested.

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 a drug-free lifestyle. The programs are presented to ten 5th grade classes in public and parochial schools in Mishawaka.

Lt. Williams continues to instruct the middle school program, “Keepin’ it REAL.” In the spring of 2017, Lt. Williams instructed the middle school program at Mishawaka Catholic (St. Monica) and Covenant Christian School.

Lt. Williams awards students from each class for the best essay. The winning essays from each semester compete against each other to be crowned City Champion. Two student’s essays were chosen in 2017. Samantha Gruber from Mishawaka Catholic and Renee Rosswurm from Queen of Peace were named City Champions. The Mishawaka D.A.R.E. program has had 4 State Champion essay winners since 2004.

In 2017, Lt. Williams and the D.A.R.E. program welcomed Disney Channel and country singer/songwriter Celeste Kellogg to all School City of Mishawaka schools from May 8th-12th. Ms. Kellogg also held a special nighttime concert at Bethel College on May 10th.

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 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 from WNDU along with local police officers.

Kid Print IDs

The D.A.R.E. program had several requests for Kid Print IDs. Since debuting the equipment, more than 800 IDs have been made at local and private events such as Summerfest, AAA Credit Union, Centier Bank, University Park Mall, United Methodist Church, Lexus of Mishawaka, Diabetes Walk, Cub Scouts and LaSalle Elementary School.

School Resource

Sgt. Steve Madison is assigned full-time to John Young Middle and Pfc. Bruce Faltynski is the School Resource Officer assigned full-time to Mishawaka High School. Pfc. Nathan DeVreese is assigned full-time to rotate between all School City of Mishawaka elementary schools. Lt. Tim Williams, a part-time School Resource Officer, serves as a liaison between the school community and the Mishawaka Police Department. These officers conduct 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.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) is a special investigatory unit staffed by two Sergeants and a Lieutenant. The primary function of the Unit is to investigate “vice” type crimes and to address various quality of life issues as they arise within the City. The SCU works in conjunction with the Investigative Division and the Community Relations Unit to identify criminals and solve crimes within neighborhoods. With the assistance of the community, other units within the MPD, and crime analysts, data pertinent to the type of criminal activity and location is determined. The SCU determines 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.

CAP Program

Civilians in Alliance with Police (CAP) program partners with the Mishawaka Police and Parks Departments with community volunteers to help report on acts of vandalism in the parks and along the Riverwalk. 2017 marked 10 years that the CAP Program has been in existence with a record breaking 50 volunteers signing up in 2017. The volunteers are given basic training in first aid and on what to do if they encounter a problem. After completing this training, they are named as a member of CAP, equipped with a Mishawaka Police radio and sent out in a golf cart to patrol the downtown parks and Riverwalk.

They also assist with events throughout the season such as fireworks, festivals, Memorial Day Parade, park concerts, IMEA Lineworkers Rodeo, etc. These volunteers are a very dedicated and loyal group of people that truly care about the City of Mishawaka. We at the MPD are thankful for their commitment to the CAP Program and appreciate their service.

Services Division

The Services Division is assisted by 5 Civilian Support Staff and one officer, and 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.

Throughout the year the staff handles numerous requests for copies of reports, criminal background checks, fingerprints, gun permit applications, motor vehicle checks and parking ticket payments. The staff also assists other governmental and police agencies when they request reports and information for their investigations.

Services Division Statistics	
Custodial Arrest Reports	972
Proxy/Citation Arrests	1,412
Code 1's (Information only)	29,039
Code 2 Reports	5,839
Crime Reports	5,399
Citations: UTT	1,768
Parking Citations	710
Warning Citations	10
Ordinance Citations	17
Red Tags	184
Call for Service	42,891

The Services Division is 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 Services Division is also responsible for the management of the IT Division.

Property and Evidence stores and transacts numerous property and evidence items each year. Each of these items are counted and inventoried as part of a chain of custody. Every transaction of property, whether it is to go to court, to a lab for testing, be returned to the owner, or destroyed, is documented with the date, time and reason.

In 2017, the two-way portable and mobile radios were replaced citywide. They were replaced with the most current technology.

The radio system was consolidated with the State (IPSC) System. The main purpose was to facilitate PSAP radio operations. Having a unified radio system allows all public safety personnel to be dispatched from any radio console. It also increased coverage for all public safety across the county and decreased the radio system maintenance cost shared across all agencies in the county.

The consolidation and co-location of dispatchers with St Joseph County and South Bend at the new County 911 Dispatch center opened space in the Police Department. This space was repurposed for the City's Information Technology Department. City IT will be able to leverage the battery and generated power backup the space provides, helping to ensure the City's ability to maintain city services during power outages. The Office of Information Technology will benefit from a 24/7 building and the location within the Police Department meets future requirements for security. IT moved to the MPD in the Spring of 2017.

Police Officer Scheduling System (POSS) was implemented in March of 2017. It is uniquely designed to accommodate the City and FOP working agreement rules. The system will provide a consistent uniform method for awarding overtime while maintaining officer's schedules and time off banks. It has the ability to recognize the need for overtime, assemble a list of eligible officers

and order them according to working agreement rules. The system is capable of performing this task in seconds where previously it took a supervisor several minutes.

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 well 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.

Training Highlights from 2017

In 2017, the MPD met and surpassed the state mandated minimum 24 hours per officer by providing an average of 44.3 hours per officer. 107 Officers received a total of 4,740.5 hours of Training/Classes in 2017.

The transition to VCS Scheduling was a heavy task for training in the year. Officers were trained on the use of the system in various steps. Videos and guides were designed allowing officers easier access to adapt to the new system, which was very different from the years of using notebooks to track overtime and days off.

Officers had to transition to New World CAD dispatching software in 2017. Officers were met with on an individual basis for training to ensure their ability to log into the system and operate within the context of it. Problems that arose from the initial use were logged to the PSAP Help Desk to alleviate those issues and help ensure as smooth as possible transition from PMDC.

Two instructors attended training for ALERRT Active Shooter Training and Rescue Task Force Instructor. The new protocols are going to be instructed on during the 2018 training year affording officers new tactics to successfully engage threats in the unfortunate event of an active shooter situation. The training also taught instructors scene safety to assist Fire and EMS units with the evacuation of injured parties needing to be treated.

The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Advanced Interrogation once again held training at the Mishawaka Police Department. We are proud to announce that they actively seek us out as a training location due to the high numbers that enroll in the class and then attend at our department. Louis C. Senese is the VP of John E. Reid and Associates had even added additional spots at no cost to our department for our officers due to our department being so accommodating to him. This excellent high-quality training is a staple for good interviewing and interrogation and is a source we plan on retaining for the Mishawaka Police Department.

The Basic Tactical Officer Course was once again employed with new probationary officers. In conjunction with the MPD/SJCPD SWAT team and a host of instructors, probationary officers were taught the fine points of building clearing tactics, shooting and engaging threats. This course has become a staple every year for newer officers and filed training officers comment on the new set of skills it provides probationary after they have taken the week-long course.

Indiana Drug Enforcement Agency brought training to the Mishawaka Police Department twice in 2017. Patron Saints of the Mexican Drug Cartel was instructed by Robert Almonte who is a retired Deputy Chief and former US Marshall for the Western District of Texas. He has received numerous awards for his work including several from the White House. His knowledge and undercover work involving the drug trade and Mexican Cartel trained officers on spotting drug trafficking as well as gang affiliation signs officers should watch out for.

The Department was also fortunate enough to have Peter F. Boyce train De-escalation and constitutional policing in the 21st Century. Peter F. Boyce is a lawyer with over 30 years of experience representing and training police officers. His class looks at a wide range of topics impacting law enforcement including constitutional policing, crisis intervention, risk avoidance and the use of force. The class was a revelation for some officers.

PFC James Bartlett trained at a Grant Writing School dedicated to uncovering ways for police departments to gain access to equipment. The training provided him with different avenues to gain access to grants. We feel this is a good step to help alleviate burdens that the cost of equipment places on the City. Grant funding could be used to purchase equipment for the training department to more effectively instruct officers. PFC Bartlett has a desire expand his responsibilities for the betterment of the department.

Fair and Impartial Policing was instructed in 2017. Officers of MPD received bias training to help identify and contain any bias they have. Bias training is good introspection for officers to have to help them police more effectively in today's environment.

Staples of training are emergency vehicle operation, firearms and physical tactics which continue to be trained on beyond what ILEA wants as a requirement. Several combat shoots (tactical and qualifying) were afforded to officers during the year. Physical tactics instructors stepped up and had a varying amount of topics covered in numerous physical tactics courses offered such as handcuffing low-light, and low-light engagements.

Agency360 is the software supplier for our field-training program and they maintain it on their servers. We elected to do their upgrade to our system in 2017 at no additional cost. This upgrade greatly improves on how the field-training officers report on probationary officer's progress in the field-training program. Alerts and objective notifications help the field training officer track the progress of the trainee and ensures they are meeting levels they should be functioning at. The new upgrade also ties me in as the coordinator of the actions and provides me with alerts and better handling on their progression through the program.

Memorial Service

Every year in May the MPD holds a Memorial Service for those officers that have passed. It takes place at the Police Memorial in front the MPD. This Service coincides with the annual National Police Week held in May. In attendance are the families of the deceased officers, Mishawaka's Mayor and Dignitaries, the Chief of Police, MPD officers and their families and honor guard, retirees, support staff, surrounding police agencies and citizens of Mishawaka.

Women's Self-Defense Classes

Self-defense classes for women were held several times throughout 2017 and were instructed by Division Chief Jason Stefaniak, Sgt. Rich Freeman, Sgt. Brian Long and Pfc. Dave Ruiz. It proved to be a very popular class with a maximum amount of attendance. These classes will continue throughout 2018.

Self-defense is a set of awareness, assertiveness, verbal confrontation skills, safety strategies, and physical techniques that enable someone to successfully escape, resist, and survive violent attacks.



*Division Chief Jason Stefaniak instructing
MPD's Women's Self-Defense Class*