

Police Department

Kenneth Witkowski, Chief

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. The responsibilities of the Department include: Conservation of public harmony and order; Deterrence, detection and solving of crimes; Enforcement of state laws and City ordinances; Provision of non-law enforcement services to the public; Assistance in the safe movement of vehicular traffic.

Department Personnel	
Position	Number
Chief of Police	1
Division Chief	3
Captains	7
Lieutenants	12
Sergeants	21
Corporals	54
Patrol Officer	1
Probationary Officers	6

Uniform Patrol Division

Mark Tavernier, Chief

The Uniform Patrol Division consisting 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 crime national 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 crime in 2011 as follows:

2011 Mishawaka Crime Statistics	
Homicides	2
Rapes	12
Robberies	68
Assault	737
Burglaries	517
Larcenies/Thefts	2234
Auto Thefts	144
Arsons	17

Officers were also dispatched to 1609 false alarms in 2011, of which 268 citations were written for reporting false alarms.

Two of the Division’s former officers passed away in 2011. Retired MPD Officers Paul “Frank” Wilson and John Filippone. Officer Wilson also worked as a dispatcher until his death last March. Both men served their community proudly for and will be missed.

The Department had only one resignation in 2011, but hired six new probationary officers. There were also 14 promotions with in the Department during the year.

Awards

Our fallen officer, Cpl. James Szuba was named Officer of the Year, 2010, recognized in 2011. The following is an excerpt from the Chief’s letter to the Board, awarding Cpl. Szuba as Officer of the Year, 2010.

My colleagues and I are proud to honor our fallen officer: Cpl. James Szuba as Mishawaka Police Department’s Police Officer of the Year – 2010. As we all know, Cpl. Szuba gave the ultimate sacrifice while responding to assist another officer, whom had reported a dangerous driver that was fleeing at a high rate of speed, resulting in the loss of Cpl. Szuba and K-9 Ricky’s life. That day is a day we shall never forget as his young life was taken from us by such a senseless crime. We, as a Department, are still mending from this tragedy as are the Szuba family. We miss Jim and Ricky terribly. Words cannot express our grief. Our Department will never be the same because of it; however, as difficult as it may be, we shall move and be forever grateful and proud of their service and dedication to our City. When it came time to name the 2010 Police Officer of the Year, it was quite obvious to everyone at the



Department that Cpl. Szuba be named with this honor. We will never forget Jim and Ricky. Jim's name will proudly be displayed on our "Police Officer of the Year plaque" that hangs in the MPD's front lobby for all of us to see and remember.

Chief Ken Witkowski participated in the annual National Police Week which took place in Washington D.C.. During the visit he attended the 23rd Annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Chief Witkowski was also the official escort for our fallen officer's Cpl. Jim Szuba's wife, Debbie at the Peace Officers Memorial Day Service where Cpl. Szuba was honored and remembered.

Awards

On May 24, 2011, Corporals Matt Smith, Dan Holt and Roman Johnson were awarded Officers of the First Quarter at the Board of Public Works Meeting. Their awards were given for exceptional police work and professionalism in the line of duty. Cpl. Anthony Stachowiak and his K9 Partner "Max" were awarded Officers of the Second Quarter. Cpl. Stachowiak and Max successfully tracked and apprehend a suspect in hiding. Max is the Mishawaka Police Department's newest K9 to join the force on January 1, 2011, and since that time the two of them have proven to be a hard-working, focused and determined team.

In December Detective Lt. Doug Grow, Sgt. Cindy Reed and Cpl. Brian Costa were awarded Officers of the Third Quarter. This award was given for the successful apprehension of a fleeing suspect in possession of drugs and an automatic weapon.

The officer of the 4th Quarter award recognizes Detective Lt. Robert Sherbun, Detective Lt. Kevin Will, Cpl. Dan Holt and Patrol Officer Scott Robinson. In November, 2011, they were instrumental in the apprehension of a couple of subjects that were involved in several burglaries in the City and surrounding areas after good observation, surveillance and investigation. The subjects were arrested and charged with burglary and implicated in the other burglaries.

Dispatcher Sheri Wass was named Dispatcher of the Year, 2010. Ms. Wass maintains a calm and professional demeanor in the communications center no matter what the situation.

The D.U.I. Taskforce was given the "Large" D.U.I. Taskforce award by the Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving and received the Chairman's Award. The D.U.I. Taskforce has maintained the top 2 positions in the state since 2002.



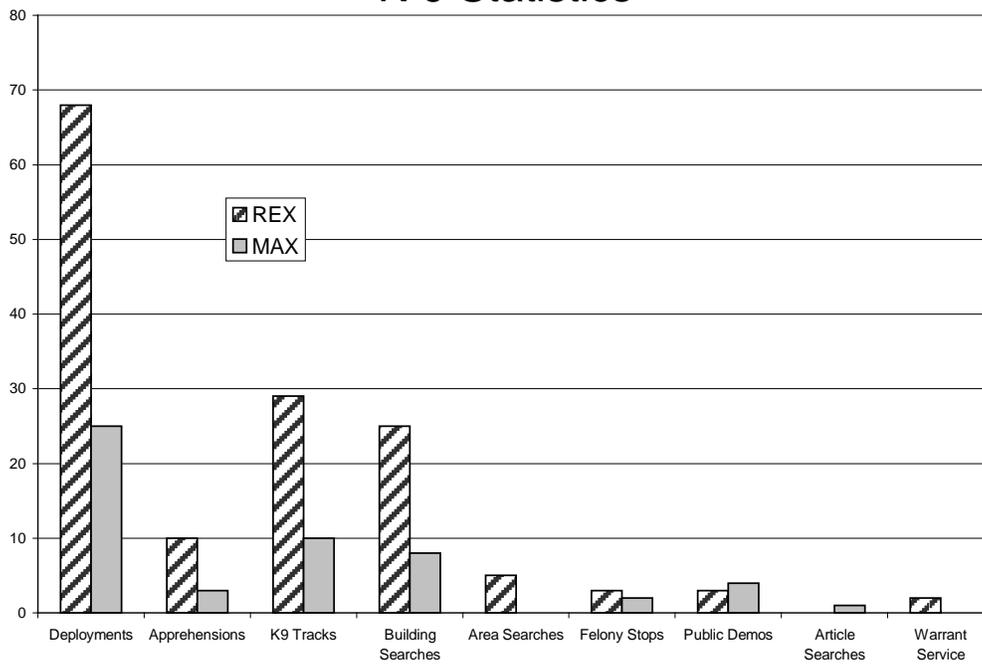
K9 Unit

K9 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 K9 Unit's mission is to support Uniform and Detective operations in search of outstanding felony suspects, misdemeanor suspects armed with

firearms, lost and missing persons, and recovery of illegal narcotics and evidence.

Sgt. Chad Thomas and K9 Rex are currently assigned to the Uniform Division on the Midnight Shift. He and his new K-9 partner Rex started their partnership in January, 2011. Cpl. Thomas and Rex are trained in patrol. Cpl. Thomas is also a member of the SWAT Team and is a certified Less-Lethal instructor. Cpl. Anthony Stachowiak and K9 Max are also assigned to the Uniform Division on the Afternoon Shift. They are the newest members of the Unit having started in January, 2011 and have been trained in patrol tactics. They were recognized as Officers of the Second Quarter for 2011 for their outstanding work in apprehending a reported armed suspect.

K-9 Statistics



Traffic Division

Capt. Tim Spencer and Sgt. Scott Parker are assign 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 are serious injury or fatal crashes or 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 reconstructionists, 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.

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”

With a \$171,500.00 grant awarded by the Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, the Division conducted Operation Pull Over and the Click It or Ticket campaigns in 2011. The following are statistic recorded from these operations.

Total Traffic Stops:	12,753		
D.U.I. Arrest:	294	Seat Belt Violations:	2717
Criminal Felony Arrests:	40	Child Restraint Violations:	238
Criminal Misd. Arrests:	116	Other Traffic:	1948
Driving While Suspended:	718	Speed:	3311

Seat Belt Percentage for Mishawaka as of 12-31-11:
 96% wearing seat belts while driving passenger vehicles
 91% wearing seat belts with pick up trucks included

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce

The Division was awarded \$95,000.00 from the Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce to pay overtime for officers. This grant was used for Sobriety Check Points, and Saturation and Wolfpack Patrols targeting Impaired and Dangerous Drivers. Officers working the D.U.I. Taskforce averaged a D.U.I. arrest every 2.89 hours. In November the Taskforce was given an award by the Governor’s Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving and were presented the Chairman’s Award. The D.U.I. Taskforce has maintained the top 2 positions in the state since 2002. The following statistics are a result of these operations.

Total Traffic Stops:	7,322		
Misd. D.U.I. Arrests:	381	Other Traffic:	1503
Felony D.U.I. Arrests:	34	Speeding:	1601
Other Alcohol:	63	Crim. Felony:	34
Driving While Suspended:	447	Crim. Misd.:	156
Underage Alcohol	33	Warnings	3070

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Aggressive Driving Grant

The Division also received an Aggressive Driving Grant for \$40,000.00 to pay overtime for officers to participate in Sobriety Check Points, Saturation and Wolfpack Patrols targeting Impaired and Dangerous Drivers. Officers working the Aggressive Driving grant averaged 4.1 contacts per hour and 2.8 traffic tickets every hour.

Total Traffic Stops:	6,992		
Misd. D.U.I. Arrests:	24	Other Traffic:	694
Felony D.U.I. Arrests:	4	Speeding:	2355
Other Alcohol:	19	Criminal Felony:	13
Driving While Suspended:	298	Criminal Misd.:	49
Underage Alcohol	10	Warnings	2,297

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 2 years the Division has checked 250 car seats, replacing 65. Since the establishment of the permanent fitting station the Mishawaka Police Department has checked 10,781 seats, replaced 2659 and participated in 338 safety clinics. The Division sponsored 10 Car Seat Safety Clinics, while assisting at 48 other clinics.

Lt. Tim Williams is a Child Passenger Safety Instructor for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Lt. Williams has instructed 3 Child Passenger Safety Technician Courses throughout Indiana.

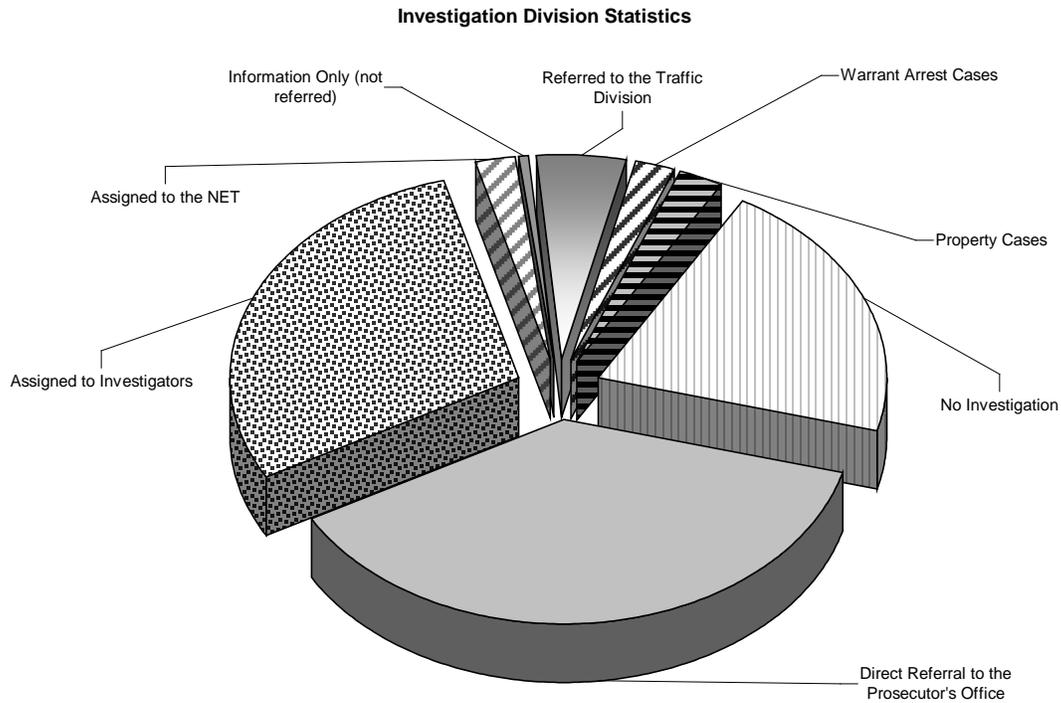
There were 804 criminal cases assigned to and investigated by the Traffic Bureau in 2011. There were 2,060 crashes reported: 1,662 property damage crashes, 396 injury crashes with 529 persons injured and 2 fatality crashes which claimed two lives.

Investigative Division

Dan Gebo, Division Chief

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. In 2009 the Mishawaka Police Department restructured the Neighborhood Enforcement Team by eliminating positions and renaming the unit. The unit is divided into five entities; Community Relations Officers, a department training officer and Street Crime Officers (SCU), DARE 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 three 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 analyst 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.

DARE

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 life style. The programs are presented to all twelve public and parochial elementary schools in Mishawaka. Schools that have 5th grade D.A.R.E. are: Battell, Beiger, Emmons, Hums, LaSalle, Liberty, Twin Branch, St. Bavos, St. Monicas, St. Joseph, Queen of Peace and Covenant Christian School.



The Mishawaka D.A.R.E. program was awarded a grant of \$5,000.00 from the Drug Free Community Council to help pay for awards and graduation tee-shirts for the D.A.R.E. students.

Lt. Williams was certified at the 2009 D.A.R.E. conference to instruct the new middle school program, "Keepin' it REAL. 2011 was the third year Lt. Williams instructed the middle school program at St. Monica and Covenant Christian School. Lt. Williams awards students from each class an Essay 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. Lina Marchi and Kelly Lentsch, from Twin Branch were named City Champions for having the best essays. Lina Marchi's essay was chosen as the Indiana D.A.R.E. Officer's Association State Champion Essay.

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

Bicycle Safety Program

St. Joseph Community Pediatrics and Lt. Williams team up to provide a bicycle safety program to all the 3rd grade students in Mishawaka. In 2011 Mishawaka 3rd graders received approximately 980 bicycle helmets. The helmets are furnished by St. Joseph Community Pediatrics of Mishawaka.

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 (WNDU16) along with local police officers.

School Resource

Cpl. Steve Madison is assigned to John Young Middle and Cpl. Jeff Giannuzzi 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 of the school property involving students enrolled in school.

Services Division

Steve Ravotto, Chief

Chief Ravotto, assisted by 5 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.

Training Division

Sgt. Bryan Fox, Training Officer

The Mishawaka Police Department's Training Division identifies the need 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 to deal and react with those situations by certified instructors. The officers are critiqued on how they respond to the situation. This type of training gives the officer confidence and self-assurance to handle the situation during training before 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 9,090 hours of training in 2011, averaging approximately 87 hours per officer. During the year 198 training classes were held.

The Mishawaka Public Safety Dispatch Center is supervised by Dispatch Coordinator Brian Billingsley. Fifteen full-time dispatchers and two 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.

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

Dispatch Statistics		
	2011	Change from 2010
Total Dispatches	45,128	-46
Total Calls	105,031	-1,880
911 Calls	28,991	+1,625
Fire/EMS Dispatches	6,011	+ 254

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.

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