

## **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 providing 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.

<b>Department Personnel</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Number</b>
Chief of Police	1
Division Chief	3
Captains	7
Lieutenants	12
Sergeants	20
Corporals	50
Patrol Officers	10
Probationary Officers	1
Recruits	1

### **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 is 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 crime facts 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 2013:

2013 Mishawaka Crime Statistics	
Homicides	0
Rapes	20
Robberies	61
Assault	895
Burglaries	305
Larcenies/Thefts	2,259
Auto Thefts	140
Arsons	27

Officers were also dispatched to 1,694 false alarms in 2013, resulting in 284 citations written for reporting false alarms.

The Department hired one Police Recruit and a Probationary Officer in 2013. There were also nine promotions within the Department. 2013 also saw the retirements of Lt. Michael Thompson and Cpl. Larry Burcham.

The year 2013 marked the ten-year anniversary of the “in the line of duty” deaths of Officers Thomas Roberts and Brian Verkler.

#### Awards

Cpl. Jeff Price was awarded *Officer of the First Quarter* after pulling a man from his half-submerged car that had gone into a frozen pond. Cpl. Price conducted himself in the most proficient manner and acted without hesitation to save the life of another with no regard for his own safety. The man was moments away from suffering from hyperthermia causing him to become unconscious or worse.

Four officers were awarded the *Officer of the Second Quarter*. Sgt. Louis Beehler of the Investigative Division received the award for his outstanding and tireless investigation of three suspects involved in numerous scams and thefts throughout St. Joseph County. The suspects were ultimately arrested and indicted.

Cpl. Frank Ennis and Officer Sam Nan received the award for locating and apprehending a suspect for an Armed Robbery shortly after the crime took place. The suspect was charged and later convicted of Armed Robbery.

Sgt. Michael Dube received the award for initiating a felony traffic stop after observing an occupant of the car fitting the description of a suspect that had just robbed a Quick Mart by displaying a handgun to the store clerk demanding he hand over all the money. After the suspect was detained, a firearm was located inside the vehicle. The store clerk also made positive identification of the suspect. The suspect was charged with Armed Robbery awaiting trial.

Cpl. Brandon Ruth received the award for *Officer of the Third Quarter* for the quick apprehension of a subject that had gained entry into a home through a window, startling a young female who was home alone. She screamed and the suspect exited through the door. Cpl. Ruth immediately responded to the call and soon located a subject who fit the description of the perpetrator. After a short foot pursuit, the suspect was apprehended by Cpl. Ruth. The suspect later pled guilty and was charged with Residential Entry.

Corporals Glen Roach and Don Magnuson were awarded *Officers of the Fourth Quarter* after being recognized for their actions in two separate incidents.

Cpl. Roach, while on routine patrol, observed a suspicious vehicle located in a drive-thru at a McDonalds. It was not moving, as other motorists had to go around the vehicle. It was discovered that the driver was asleep. Cpl. Roach also noticed a handgun lying on the floor board. After removing the driver from the vehicle a further search was made of the vehicle in which marijuana and several pills of ecstasy were found. It was also learned that the suspect was a convicted felon in possession of a handgun.

Cpl. Magnuson was given the award for his quick action in responding to a broadcast over the radio describing a suspect (and vehicle) that had earlier burglarized a gas station. While checking Central Park, Cpl. Magnuson observed a vehicle matching the description and upon approaching, the vehicle attempted to leave. Cpl. Magnuson then stopped the vehicle and upon confronting the driver it was determined that the suspect was the person involved in the burglary. The suspect was taken into custody.

Cpl. Jennifer Wilson was given a life-saving award for coming to the rescue of a 4-year-old boy that was unresponsive at a day care facility. He had been taking a nap and could not be awakened. The child was not breathing when Cpl. Wilson arrived and did not have a pulse. She gave rescue breaths and performed one-handed chest compressions. After several compressions the child was revived and started to breathe on his own. The Medics soon arrived and took over administering care to the child. After being examined at the hospital he was released.



*Officer of  
The Year*



*Dispatcher of  
The Year*

Cpl. Jeremy Tyler received the *Officer of The Year* award in recognition of his outstanding hard work and dedication. He was recognized for the way he performs his duties in an exemplary fashion and can always be found diligently patrolling his assigned area. He does not hesitate to go that extra mile in locating a suspect or solving a crime. Cpl. Tyler has great vision in recognizing suspicious criminal activity and a knack for knowing what is about to happen next, preparing him for the unexpected. He is a vital member of the Midnight Shift Uniform Division, and the MPD as a whole. He displays dependability and an excellent work ethic on a day-to-day basis.

The *Dispatcher of The Year* was awarded to Rebecca Scheibelhut for her continued professionalism and excellent dispatching skills used on a daily basis.

## K-9 Unit

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. During 2013 the Mishawaka K-9 Unit (Sgt. Chad Thomas and K-9 Rex; Cpl. Anthony Stachowiak and K-9 Max) assisted multiple outside agencies. They were requested by ISP, SBPD, SJCPD and North Liberty for either narcotics detection and/or tracking/area searches.

The K-9 Unit was able to locate illegal drugs and/or fleeing suspects for one or more of these agencies. One of the highlights of the year for the Unit was K-9 Rex locating a suspect who had just sexually assaulted a teenage victim and then fled the scene. Cpl. Stachowiak and K-9 Max have assisted several officers with drug detection on traffic stops resulting in the recovery of illegal drugs during 2013. Both K-9 Teams became re-certified in narcotics with the International Police Working Dog Association. The K-9 Unit continues to be proactive in assisting the Uniform Division by responding to calls for service. The Mishawaka K-9 Unit logged over 500 hours of combined K-9 training as a unit, either from monthly maintenance training or K-9 schools.

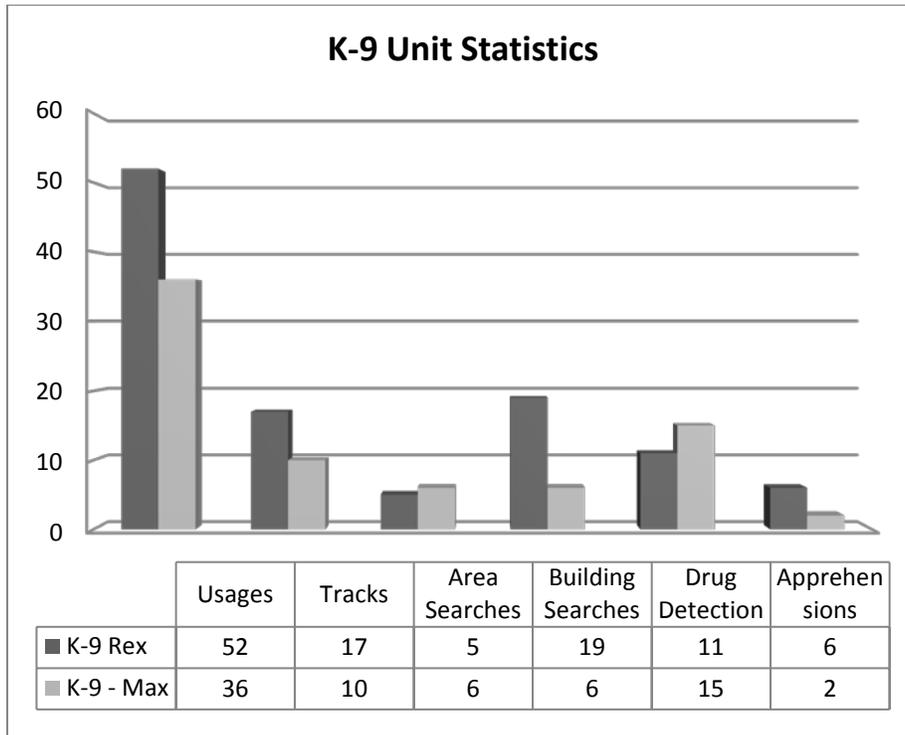


*K-9 Unit officers*



*K-9 training*

Total K-9 Deployments: Rex - 110 · Max - 75



**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 trained 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, Lieutenants Tim Williams and Bryan Fox, Sgt. Mark Flemming, and Corporals Ron Hantz and Bob Ashburn. Captain Tim Spencer serves as the F.A.C.T. Coordinator.

There were 867 criminal cases assigned to, and investigated by the Traffic Bureau in 2013. There were 2,078 crashes reported: 1,683 property damage crashes, 395 injury crashes with 520 persons injured. There were no fatal crashes.

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.

D.U.I. Arrests	173	Criminal Felony	40
Seat Belt Violations	2,209	Speeding	2,870
Driving While Suspended	733	Other Traffic	3,086
Child Restraint Violations	101	Warnings	2,603
Criminal Misd.	126		
Total Traffic Stops			11,941

Dangerous Driving

The Division received an Aggressive Driving grant. This grant, for \$19,250 pays overtime allowing officers to participate in aggressive driving patrols targeting impaired and dangerous drivers.

D.U.I. Arrests	16	Criminal Felony	4
Seat Belt Violations	115	Speeding	706
Driving While Suspended	72	Other Traffic	291
Child Restraint Violations	20	Warnings	470
Criminal Misd.	30		
Total Traffic Stops			1,724

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 Check Points, Saturation, and Wolfpack Patrols targeting Impaired and Dangerous Drivers.

Misd. D.U.I. Arrests	220	Criminal Misd.	195
Felony D.U.I Arrests	25	Criminal Felony	55
Other Alcohol	24	Speeding	864
Driving While Suspended	357	Other Traffic	2,121
Underage Alcohol	25	Warnings	1,349
Total Traffic Stops			5,210

## **Investigative Division**

The Investigative Division consists of a day and afternoon shift that is staffed by 10 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 Investigative 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 St. Joseph County Prosecutor's 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 nine officers. 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 Triad Senior Citizens Organization.

### *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

Total cases Direct Referred to Prosecutor, JJC, FVU, etc.	3,112
Total cases assigned to Detectives	* 1,420
Total cases referred to Community Relations	160
Total cases referred to Traffic Division	432
Total cases No Inv'd	2,009
Total warrant arrests (not referred)	196
Total property only cases	231
Total cases w/ infr. only (not referred)	10
<b>Total # of cases reviewed by Investigative Division in 2013</b>	<b>7,570</b>
*Totals different due to one case assigned to two detectives	

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.

The Community Relations and Street Crimes Units share a philosophy and organizational strategy that promotes a partnership with citizens, working together to identify and solve community crime and disorder problems with the goal of improving the overall quality of life in the community.

### *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.



The Mishawaka D.A.R.E. program was awarded a grant of \$3,000 from the Drug Free Community Council to help pay for awards, guest speaker Retro Bill, and graduation t-shirts for the D.A.R.E. students.

Lt. Williams continues to instruct the middle school program, "Keepin' it REAL". 2013 was the fifth year Lt. Williams instructed the middle school program at St. Monica and Covenant Christian School. Lt. Williams presents an

award for Best Essay to a student in each class. 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. Kaylee Kern from Liberty Elementary and Rosa Trippel from Mishawaka Catholic 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 WNDU's Jack Nolan 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.

### *CAP Program*

The Civilians in Alliance with Police (CAP) program partners the Mishawaka Police and Parks Departments with community volunteers to help report on acts of vandalism in the parks and along the Riverwalk. The volunteers are given basic training in first aid and on what to do if they encounter a problem. After completing this training, they become a member of CAP, are equipped with a Mishawaka Police radio, and patrol the downtown parks and Riverwalk using golf carts.

### **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.

#### 2013 Services Division Statistics

- Custodial Arrest Reports – 1,978
- Proxy/Citation Arrests – 2,534
- Code 1's (Information only) – 24,966
- Code 2 Reports – 5,740
- Crime Reports – 5,181
- Citations: UTT – 3,382
- Parking Citations – 1,216
- Warning Citations – 231
- Ordinance Citations – 35

### **Training Division**

The Mishawaka Police Department's Training Division recognizes the importance of sworn officers receiving 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 how to deal with, and react to those situations. The officers are critiqued on how they respond to the situations which gives the officer greater confidence and the self-assurance necessary to handle the situation when he or she is faced with it on the street.

The Division also conducts training on building searches, reacting to school violence and simulations, Combat Firearms Training, Strategies and Tactics Of Patrol Stops (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 given a broad array of situations. Second, training usually results in greater productivity, self-reliance and effectiveness. Third, training fosters cooperation and unity of purpose.

Mishawaka Police officers received 6,484 hours of training in 2013, averaging approximately 63 hours per officer. During the year 290 training classes were held.

#### *Public Safety Dispatch Center*

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

<b>Dispatch Statistics</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>Change from 2012</b>
Total Dispatches	40,768	- 1,194
Total Calls	98,556	- 3,345
911 Calls	29,271	+ 272
Fire/EMS Dispatches	6,425	+ 80

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 2013 Accomplishments**

The Department implemented a Cross-Fit Program. This system has widely been accepted as the most effective way for Law Enforcement personnel to get in shape, maintain fitness and build strength.

An additional patrol beat was added in the northern sector of the City to help out in the heavily visited retail shopping area. Another new Police beat will be created beginning early in 2014 for the Riverwalk and downtown area.

Ten new cars were added to the fleet replacing older vehicles.

The squad car fleet had a cosmetic change in the overall look and color scheme of the graphics. The look is bolder with a more professional look while still keeping in mind officer safety by using a reflective material in some of the side lettering.



*New Patrol Vehicles*

An all-terrain vehicle was purchased and will be used by sworn officers to patrol the downtown parks and Riverwalk area.