

Police Department

Kenneth Witkowski, Chief

The Mishawaka Police Department has the responsibility of providing safe and secure environments for the community. 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 Mishawaka Police Department consists of 105 Police Officers and 24 Civilian Support Staff dedicated to the safety of City of Mishawaka 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.

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 making arrest, rendering aid to accident victims, 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.

Department Personnel	
Position	Number
Chief of Police	1
Division Chief	3
Captains	7
Lieutenants	12
Sergeants	20
Corporals	52
Patrol Officer	6
Probationary Officers	1
Recruits	2

The City of Mishawaka reported the following crime in 2014:

2014 Mishawaka Crime Statistics			
	2013	2014	Change
Homicides	0	0	-
Rapes	20	24	+4
Robberies	61	40	-21
Assault	895	898	+3
Burglaries	305	244	-61
Larcenies/Thefts	2,259	1,983	-276
Auto Thefts	140	125	-15
Arsons	27	5	-22

Reductions in nearly all crime areas occurred last year with significant reduction in Larcenies and thefts. Officers were also dispatched to 1,810 false alarms in 2014, resulting in 365 citations written for reporting false alarms.

The Department hired two Police Recruits and a Probationary Officer in 2014. There were also 8 promotions within the Department during the year. In 2014, Sgt. Louis Beehler and Cpl. Robert Sieradzki retired. Also, Lt. Wes Thompson resigned from the Department and accepted a police officer position with Peoria Police Department in Arizona.

Awards

Sgt. Eric Beckham, who is assigned to the Investigative Division, Metro Special Operations Section (MSOS), was awarded Officer of the First Quarter for his leadership skills and responsibilities that he took on in 2014. When the Lieutenant assigned to MSOS was pulled from the Unit, Sgt. Beckham was asked by the Administration of the SBPD to assume these responsibilities including being the person in-charge/command of MSOS.

Sgt. Beckham took the responsibility very seriously and, although the administrative responsibilities took a lot of his time, he continued to work cases and cultivate and run confidential informants.

Five officers were awarded the Officers of the Second Quarter; Sgt. Paul Robinson and Corporals Jon Bogart, Don Magnuson, Adam Northcutt and Jason Barthel.

Sgt. Robinson was recognized for his assistance in the ultimate capture of a murder suspect.

Corporals Bogart, Magnuson, Northcutt and Barthel were recognized for the apprehension of a suspect that fired a weapon in the parking lot of Sky Bar at the 100 Center.

Corporals Matthew Porter, Scott Robinson, Nathan Wojtysiak and Zach DeGeyter were awarded Officers of the Third Quarter.

Cpl. DeGeyter was recognized for the superb job he did in locating and apprehending several subjects who had broken into the Village Mart Marathon Station and stole cash from the register and numerous packs of cigarettes.

Corporals Porter, Robinson and Wojtysiak were recognized for the outstanding job they did in locating and apprehending a dangerous individual who had committed an armed robbery aggravated battery. These officers, when encountered with great personal risk to their own safety, acted with bravery and great personal restraint during this deadly force situation.

Lt. Joe Kasznia, Sgt. Chad Thomas, Corporals Steve Roeder, Don Magnuson, Scott Robinson and Dave Ruiz were awarded Officers of the Fourth Quarter in 2014.

Lt. Kasznia, Sgt. Thomas and Corporals Roeder, Magnuson and Robinson were instrumental in the location and capture of two individuals who committed larceny from a vehicle. The stolen property was returned to the victim in this case. The officer's dedication to duty and team work philosophy brought this incident to a positive end.

In a separate incident, Cpl. Ruiz was recognized for locating a suspect vehicle involved in a homicide that had occurred in South Bend. The Dispatch Center relayed information on the vehicle and approximately 40 minutes later Cpl. Ruiz advised that he had located the vehicle at a Mishawaka apartment complex. Commander Corbett of the Metro Homicide Unit was contacted and arrived at the scene. The suspect was eventually located along with a possible murder weapon and some stolen property that was in the vehicle.



Sgt Louis Beeler

Sgt. Louis Beehler received Officer of the Year in 2014. He was recognized not only for his tireless investigation of three suspects involved in numerous scams and thefts throughout St. Joseph County but also for the work he has performed on a daily basis. He can always be counted on to gather enough evidence and complete a very precise report. His

investigations have been thorough, leaving no stone unturned.

Sgt. Beehler was challenged with a health issue in 2013 and since then has faced it with courage and determination. He has made great strides in his recovery and continues to improve as time goes on. The bravery he displays in dealing with this challenge on a day-to-day basis is to be admired. Sgt. Beehler retired on July 3, 2014.



Kayla Oler

The Dispatcher of the Year was awarded to Kayla Oler. She was recognized for the way she handled a 911 call from a frantic husband whose wife was in labor. Kayla was able to keep the husband under control and provide the best help possible. The wife ended up delivering her baby at home. Kayla remained calm

and professional while providing aid and comfort to the new parents.

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.

Both K-9 Teams were 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.



Cpl. Stachowiak and K-9 Max



Sgt. Thomas and K-9 Rex

During 2014, the Mishawaka K-9 Unit continued to assist other local agencies including South Bend Police, St. Joseph County Sheriff, and Indiana State Police, with narcotics and/or tracking and area searches. The K-9 Unit also assisted the Mishawaka School Resource Officers with locker searches when requested.

The Mishawaka K-9 Unit had a few highlights which consisted of the following apprehensions. Cpl. Stachowiak and K-9 Max assisted SJCPD with locating an auto theft suspect who had fled from a stolen auto that SJCPD had stopped. Cpl. Stachowiak and K-9 Max were able to locate the suspect hiding in a wooded area. The suspect also had outstanding felony warrants.

Cpl. Stachowiak and K-9 Max also assisted in an apprehension of a suspect who had crashed into a private ambulance service building causing extensive damage. Cpl. Stachowiak and K-9 Max were able to locate the suspect who had fled the crash scene. The suspect was lying in a ditch in inclement weather and in need of medical attention.

Sgt. Thomas and K-9 Rex’s highlight for the year was when they were able to locate a suspect who had an outstanding felony warrant out of LaGrange County for strangulation and he came to Mishawaka and was stalking the victim. The suspect was located by K-9 Rex hiding near the victim’s house in the bushes. The suspect was wearing a camouflaged hunting outfit which covered his entire body from head to toe. The suspect ran after being apprehended by K-9 Rex and after a short pursuit K-9 Rex was able to stop the suspect who continued to fight with K-9 Rex and officers.



K-9 Unit Statistics			
	Sgt. Thomas & K-9 Rex	Cpl. Stachowiak & K-9 Max	Total
Usages/Deployments	76	15	91
Drug Detections	10	3	13
Apprehensions	9	3	12

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, reviews and makes recommendations on requests for handicap parking spaces, and reviews and makes recommendations on for taxicab permits applications 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.). 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: 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 1,261 criminal cases assigned to and investigated by the Traffic Bureau in 2014. There were 2,143 crashes reported: 1,758 property damage crashes, 385 injury crashes with 510 persons injured, and 0 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.

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”	
Criminal Misdemeanor	203
D.U.I. Arrests	140
Seat Belt Violations	2,337
Driving While Suspended	698
Child Restraint Violations	182
Criminal Felony	38
Speeding	3,393
Warnings	1,636
Other Traffic	1,724
Total Traffic Stops	12,954

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.

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce	
Criminal Misdemeanor	210
Misdemeanor D.U.I. Arrests	159
Felony D.U.I. Arrests	29
Driving While Suspended	220
Underage Alcohol	67
Other Alcohol	15
Criminal Felony	22
Speeding	679
Warnings	1,193
Other Traffic	1,475
Total Traffic Stops	4,069

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 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 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.

Investigative Division Statistics	
Total cases Direct Referred to Prosecutor, JJC, FVU, etc.	2,843
Total cases assigned to Detectives	1,332
Total cases referred to Community Relations	179
Total cases referred to Traffic Division	478
Total cases No Inv'd	1,734
Total warrant arrests (not referred)	190
Total property only cases	163
Total cases w/ infr. only (not referred)	12
Total # of cases reviewed by Investigative Division in 2014	6,931

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, National Night Out, MPD tours for boy scouts and schools, reading to children, bike safety rodeos, and participating in Triad Senior Citizens Organization and Project Life Saver. The Unit worked in partnership with TRIAD in collecting over 1 ton of medication in the TRIAD Pill Drop campaigns.

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

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.

Together the Community Relations and Street Crimes units share 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.

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.

Lt. Williams continues to instruct the middle school program, "Keepin' it REAL". 2014 was the sixth year Lt. Williams instructed the middle school program at St. Monica and Covenant Christian School. Lt. Williams presents 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. Maria Bennett from Mishawaka Catholic and Max Martin from Queen of Peace were named City Champions for having the best essays. Maria also finished second in the State of Indiana for the best essay.

Not only did Lt. Williams teach the D.A.R.E. class in 2014 but he also provided assistance throughout the elementary schools as needed. School City of Mishawaka was able to secure a grant that paid the salary of Lt. William's time spent in the elementary schools.

Lt Williams was awarded first place in Grapevine, Texas at the International D.A.R.E. conference for his police vehicle graphics design in the Patrol Division.

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 from WNDU, along with local police officers.

School Resource

Cpl. Steve Madison is assigned to John Young Middle 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

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. The volunteers are given basic training in first aid and 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.

Services Division

Chief Ravotto, assisted by six 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.

Throughout the year the staff handles thousands of 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.

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. This is handled by Sgt. Russ Haimbaugh who oversees all the technological functions of the MPD such as our records management system, computer aided dispatch, radio system, and in-car video system.

Parking enforcement is also a duty performed by Services. Municipal parking lots and downtown streets are patrolled by a civilian staff member who enforces parking violations. The Services Division takes great pride in serving the community and representing the MPD in a positive way.

Another function of the Services Division is securing grants for equipment and personnel. In 2014 the Services Division received the annual JAG grant in the amount of \$16,285. This grant was used to purchase equipment for officers to use in the field including, Tasers, Portable Breath Test, Radar Units and Radios.

The Services Division was awarded the COPS Grant in 2014 to add one new officer to the force. This three year grant, worth \$125,000, will go towards a new officer's salary and benefits for three years. After three years the City will become responsible for the new officer's entire salary package. This new officer will be hired in 2015 and the position will be used to add a School Resource Officer to work in the City's seven elementary schools.

The largest equipment purchase made by the Services Division was Department vehicles. In 2014 the Department spent the budgeted amount of \$270,000 for 10 squad cars. The goal for 2015 will be to again purchase 10 fully equipped vehicles from the budget. There are a total of 112 vehicles for the Department that the Services Division is responsible to maintain.

Services Division Statistics	
Custodial Arrest Reports	1,210
Proxy/Citation Arrests	3,100
Code 1's (Information only)	25,144
Code 2 Reports	5,396
Crime Reports	4,851
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 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.

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 5,689 hours of training in 2014, averaging approximately 56.32 hours per officer. During the year, 254 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.

Dispatch Statistics		
	2014	2013
Total Dispatches	41,525	40,768
Total Calls	69,348	98,556
911 Calls	29,550	29,271
Fire/EMS Dispatches	6,440	6,425

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.

The Future of the Public Safety Dispatch Center

Because of a State mandate, the four Dispatch Centers in St. Joseph County were required to combine into two Dispatch Centers by December 31, 2014. Assistant Chief Steve Ravotto and Sgt. Russ Haimbaugh are the MPD's designees assigned to assist the working group in preparing for the consolidation. Many hours were spent meeting with members of the other County Public Safety Agencies discussing protocols and needs for the new center.

The new Dispatch Center will come outfitted with new computer technology. The Services Division will be responsible, through Sgt. Haimbaugh and Training Coordinator, Sgt. Jason Stefaniak, to train the MPD staff with the new procedures that will be implemented through the new computer software system.

With the Dispatch Center moving out of the Police Station the Department's security system will be enhanced. Added door security as well as a new lobby phone system will be installed. Officer access to the prisoner garage bays will be changed. The Department's video security system will continue to be monitored by the Dispatch Center and officers on station.

Special 2014 Accomplishments

- **Awarded the COPS Grant for the hiring of one officer.**

This a three-year grant worth \$125,000 for the officer's salary and benefits. After three years the City will become responsible for the new officer's entire salary package. This new officer will be hired in 2015, and the position will be used to add a School Resource Officer to work in the City's seven elementary schools.

- **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Awards St. Joseph County Partnership**

The St. Joseph County Traffic Safety Partnership consisting of Mishawaka Police Department (as the host agency), St. Joseph County Police, South Bend Police, Lakeville Police, Walkerton Police, New Carlisle Police and Notre Dame Police Departments were awarded a plaque with the designation of Top Performing DUI Taskforce Agency for 2014 and \$8,000 to purchase traffic safety equipment.

Officers from this taskforce had one DUI arrest for every 4.5 hours worked during impaired driving overtime patrols. Their efforts resulted in over 5,200 contacts including 245 DUI arrests by county agencies, in addition to another 173 during Operation Pullover blitzes.

- **New patrol vehicles**

Ten new units equipped with cages, light bars and computer and radio equipment were added to the fleet replacing older vehicles.

- **Police vehicle graphics design award**

Lt Williams was awarded first place in Grapevine, Texas at the International DARE conference for his police vehicle graphics design in the Patrol Division.

- **A Riding Tech Program was established**

A Riding Tech Program was established on the Midnight Shift in the Uniform Division. This program was designed to improve the quality of evidence collection conducted at crime scenes, to standardize the way evidence is collected and, most importantly, to identify suspects through the means of forensic evidence collected at scenes.

Cpl. Scott Robinson is the “officer in charge” of the Riding Tech Program. Cpl. Robinson, along with four fellow Midnight Shift officers worked throughout the year bettering their skills with each crime scene processing they completed. Each officer has attended high quality forensic schools and, together with their highly motivated attitudes and work ethic, have become an asset in the Uniform Division.

- **M.R.A.P. Donation**

St. Joseph County Metro S.W.A.T. Team, comprising of officers from the Mishawaka and St. Joseph County Police Department, entered into the federal program and was selected to receive a donated United States Military M.R.A.P. vehicle valued at \$733,000. The acronym M.R.A.P stands for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle

The vehicle’s primary police function will be that of a rescue vehicle. The M.R.A.P is well suited for safe transport of innocent victims from an active shooter situation that may occur in our schools, workplace, or many retail sites. Direct delivery of emergency medical personal to a violent ongoing situation is a great asset to our community



The M.R.A.P will also be used to protect officers and bring a safe resolution to armed situations that may arise in our community.