

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.

“...dedicated to the safety of City of Mishawaka residents and visitors ...”

The Mishawaka Police Department is budgeted for 106 officers. In 2015, the MPD consisted of 105 Police Officers (with one opening) and 8 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 Division is comprised of 71 uniformed officers, working six sections of the City, divided into 3 separate shifts. Each shift is supervised by one captain, one lieutenant, and 3 sergeants.

The overall goal of the Uniform Division is to improve the sense of safety and security within the City. The Uniform Patrol Officers know that they are the face of the Police Department. Through daily interactions with the community, these officers work to promote a positive working relationship with the public. They understand that a strong relationship with the public will help them enforce laws, maintain order, and preserve peace within the community.

Department Personnel	
Position	Number
Chief of Police	1
Division Chief	3
Captains	7
Lieutenants	12
Sergeants	18
Patrol Officer First Class	50
Patrol Officer Second Class	6
Probationary Officers	8

The Uniform Patrol Officer’s job is often tedious and demanding. They are called to fight and prevent crime wherever or 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. They understand 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. 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.

Uniform Crime Report Statistics

Offense	2014	2015	Change
Homicide	0	2	+2
Rape	24	21	-3
Robbery	40	45	+5
Assault	898	872	-26
Burglary	244	302	+58
Larceny-Theft	1,983	1,878	-105
Auto Theft	125	132	+7
Arson	5	12	+7

Promotions

Uniform Division Chief Mark Tavernier retired from the Mishawaka Police Department in May of 2015. Chief Tavernier was a 27-year veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department and spent the last 11 years as Uniform Division Chief. In June, **Jason R. Stefaniak** was promoted to Uniform Division Chief. Chief Stefaniak is a 16-year veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department and spent the last 3 years as the Department's Training Coordinator. Division Chief Stefaniak spent the majority of his career in the Uniform Division and assigned to the midnight shift. He was a team member on the St. Joseph County Metro SWAT Team for 10 years and assisted in training in firearms, emergency driving and physical tactics.

Since Division Chief Stefaniak left as training coordinator, **Sgt. Craig Nowacki** was chosen to take his place. Sgt. Nowacki, a 17-year veteran of law enforcement, brings a new sense of leadership and organization to the Training Division. Sgt. Nowacki successfully completed the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Instructor Development course in 2015.

The midnight shift received new leadership in 2015 as well. **Bryan Fox** was promoted to Captain of the midnight shift in August of 2015. Captain Fox spent most of his career in the Community Relations / Street Crimes Unit and brings a new perspective to the Uniform Division. His leadership and knowledge has already inspired the midnight shift officers to actively fight crime in new ways.

The midnight shift also saw 2 sergeants promoted in 2015. Officers **Matthew Smith**, a 16-year veteran, and **Richard Freeman**, an 11-year veteran, were promoted to Sergeant in late 2015. Both officers have spent their entire career in the Uniform Division and bring a veteran sense of leadership and responsibility to the shift.

The Uniform Division lost one of its most productive officers, Officer **Brian Costa**, to the Street Crimes Unit (SCU). In September, Officer Costa was promoted to Lieutenant where he leads the highly active unit. SCU's main focus is to disrupt street level narcotics possession and distribution. SCU also aids the Detective Bureau with major criminal investigations and coordinates crime fighting strategies with neighboring jurisdictions.

New Officers

In 2015, the Mishawaka Police Department hired 8 new officers. Officers Jeff Grzegorek and James Bartlett attended the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in March of 2015. Officers Keith Holzer and Tyler Heckaman attended ILEA in July of 2015. Officers Andrew Sark, Kendy Majors, Chad Winger and Joshua Biggs attended ILEA in September of 2015. All of the new officers successfully completed the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and are proving that Mishawaka continues to hire the best available people to serve the community.

Recognition

On April 25, 2015, **Officer Scott Robinson** was named Officer of the Year for 2014. Officer Robinson has been with the Mishawaka Police Department for 4 years and is presently assigned to the Uniform Division on the midnight shift. In his short career with the MPD he has proven to be a very accomplished young officer.

His supervisor, Capt. Robert Wilson, describes Officer Robinson as a self-driven, hard-working and extremely knowledgeable officer. The scope of his knowledge rivals that of a veteran officer. When dealing with the community, Officer Robinson consistently conducts himself in a professional manner, whether the contact is with victims of crimes or an arrestee.

In 2014, Officer Robinson was very proactive. He responded to 993 calls for service and completed 220 case/arrest reports. Much of his case load was a result of self-initiated activity. As a result of his hard work during 2014, he was sent to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) to complete four weeks of highly comprehensive training to become an ILEA certified crime scene technician. Upon his successful completion of this training Capt. Wilson placed him “in-charge” of the midnight shift’s newly-formed riding technician program.

As the midnight shift’s riding technician expert, he has processed several crime scenes during 2014. The most notable one was for an armed robbery / home invasion. As a result of his outstanding crime scene work on this case he received a letter of commendation and Officer of the Third Quarter award. Officer Robinson also received a second letter of commendation and Officer of the Fourth Quarter award for his outstanding crime scene processing in a larceny from auto case.

Since becoming a part of the riding technician program, Officer Robinson has been instrumental in educating and assisting his fellow technicians, and because of his leadership, the program is doing very well.



Mishawaka Mayor Dave Wood with newly Sworn Officers Winger, Sark, Majors and Biggs

Lt. Robert Pawlowski was awarded the **Officer of the First Quarter** in 2015. On the afternoon of March 6, 2015, **Lt. Robert Pawlowski's** quick and courageous actions allowed for the apprehension of a dangerous criminal. After hearing and observing gunshots, Lt. Pawlowski coordinated a perimeter that ultimately contained the perpetrator within his own apartment. The arrest resulted in the seizure of 3.5 lbs. of marijuana, 1.1 ounces of cocaine and 2 handguns.

On the afternoon of April 15th, the Mishawaka Police Department made their most impressive arrest of the year. A robbery to the Jared's Galleria of Jewelry had just occurred and a large amount of jewelry was stolen. At the direction of a key witness from the community, **Officers Kyle Miner and Joshua Watts** were able to intercept the suspects as they attempted to transfer vehicles and flee the city. Upon approach, both officers maintained composure and were able to arrest 6 suspects and recover over \$249,000 in stolen merchandise. This arrest led to the successful closure of multiple robbery cases throughout the Midwest. Both officers received recognition as **Officers of the Second Quarter** in 2015.

Officers **Brian Long, Jeremy Tyler, Scott Robinson, and Greg Vandall** were named **Officers of the Third Quarter** in 2015. On September 17, 2015, Officer Long responded to an aggravated battery scene where a victim had been stabbed multiple times. Officer Long had recently received training as a Crime Scene Technician and was able to photograph, collect, and document key pieces of evidence that led to the arrest of the suspect. On September 25, 2015, Officers Tyler and Vandall responded to an alarm to the First Source Bank on Grape Road. Using proper tactics and investigative techniques, the officers were able to arrest the suspect who remained inside the bank. As a result of the arrest, Officer Scott Robinson, the Department's most highly trained crime scene tech was able to collect key pieces of evidence that led to the successful prosecution of the suspect.

Members of the MPD **Street Crimes Unit** were awarded **Officers of the Fourth Quarter** in 2015. Since September, **Lt. Brian Costa, Sgt. Eric Beckham, and Pfc. Ryan Corbett** teamed up to successfully dismantle 7 active meth labs, arrest 21 people on felony charges and recover narcotics including: marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamines. As they continue to work with neighboring agencies, their goal in 2016 will continue to fight crimes wherever they may occur.

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.

K-9 Unit Officers, before all else, are law enforcement officers. 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.

In 2015, the 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 Police Department, the St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department, the Indiana State Police, and the US Marshalls. Both K-9 Officers also participate in the local schools with random searches of school grounds and lockers as well as providing demonstrations for students.



Sgt. Thomas and K-9 Rex

Officer Anthony Stachowiak and his partner Max were active in 2015. In April, they responded to a burglary scene where the suspect was still present. After fighting with first responding officers and a failed TASER attempt, K-9 Max took control of the situation. After crawling through a hole in a fence, Max took control of the suspect and immediately ended the confrontation. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with burglary and resisting law enforcement.

In September, Officer Stachowiak and Max were called to assist the Indiana State Police on a traffic stop. When officers developed a suspicion that there were illegal narcotics inside the vehicle, Max was brought in to find them. Once inside the vehicle, Max was able to locate a hidden bottle that contained heroin. The narcotics were recovered and the suspects arrested.

In December, while on routine patrol, Officer Stachowiak and Max entered a vehicle pursuit that was initiated by the Mishawaka Street Crimes unit. The long pursuit that led officers into South Bend eventually ended with the deployment of stop sticks. Once stopped, the suspect refused to exit the vehicle and Max was brought into assist. After taking control of the suspect's lower leg, Max pulled the driver out of the vehicle and continued control until the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect was later charged with numerous felonies.



Cpl. Stachowiak and K-9 Max

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 and makes recommendations to the City's Traffic Commission.

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 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 serving on F.A.C.T. are: Captains Mike Armev and Bryan Fox, Lieutenant Tim Williams, Sgt. Mark Flemming and PFC Bob Ashburn. Captain Tim Spencer serves as the F.A.C.T. Commander.

There were 1,620 criminal cases assigned to and investigated by the Traffic Bureau in 2015 (a 28% increase over 2014). There were 2,413 crashes reported (a 12% increase over 2014): 2,025 property damage crashes (an increase of 15%), 387 injury crashes, and 1 fatal crash.

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 \$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.

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”	
Criminal Misdemeanor	131
D.U.I. Arrests	71
Seat Belt Violations	1,204
Driving While Suspended	493
Child Restraint Violations	102
Criminal Felony	32
Speeding	3,205
Warnings	2,801
Other Traffic	2,005
Total Traffic Stops	10,044

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce	
Criminal Misdemeanor	193
Misdemeanor D.U.I. Arrests	178
Felony D.U.I. Arrests	31
Driving While Suspended	245
Underage Alcohol	74
Other Alcohol	25
Criminal Felony	25
Speeding	735
Warnings	1,049
Other Traffic	1,421
Total Traffic Stops	3,976

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.

Investigative Division

The Investigative Division is composed of 16 Detectives 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 Victim’s Unit, Narcotics Unit, and County Metro Homicide Unit. The Department has an officer assigned to the County Metro Homicide Unit. In addition, two officers are assigned to the Special Victim’s Unit.

All cases, with the exception of homicides, 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.

In 2015, the Detective Bureau handled and solved numerous 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 by the detectives and the assistance of other outside agencies these crimes would have gone unsolved or not convicted.

In 2015, City of Mishawaka saw an increase in meth lab cases. These cases give investigators a challenge during the investigation due to volatility and dangers that persist in the active labs. Mishawaka Police rely on the Indiana State Police to assist with the cleanup and the disposal of toxic chemicals. On October 29, 2015, Mishawaka Police responded to a fire in the 100 block of S. Merrifield Ave. The cause of the fire was determined to be caused by occupants who were manufacturing meth and during the cooking process there was a chemical reaction that caused an explosion. The two suspects inside the residence received several burns, due to the explosion and fire.

In 2015, the Detective Bureau achieved many of its goals set at the beginning of the year. Some major achievements were getting the interview room recording system upgraded and organizing and training all evidence technicians on the department.

Investigative Division Statistics	
Total cases Direct Referred to Prosecutor, JJC, FVU, etc.	2,647
Total cases assigned to Detectives	1,325
Total cases referred to Community Relations	205
Total cases referred to Traffic Division	534
Total cases - No Investigation	2,123
Total warrant arrests (not referred)	209
Total property only cases	203
Total cases w/ information. only (not referred)	23
Total # of cases reviewed by Investigative Division in 2014	7,269

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 one ton of medication in the TRIAD Pill Drop campaigns.

The Unit also assists Code Enforcement, Park Patrol, the Uniform and Traffic Divisions, Drug Unit and the Investigative Division in identifying vacant houses to deter scrapping, and assisting outside agencies at the local, state and federal levels 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. SCU also identifies areas that generate repeat calls for service so problem solving efforts can be initiated.

Together the Community Relations/SCU 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". 2015 was the seventh 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. Grayden Artusi from Mishawaka Catholic and Grace Surber from Covenant Christian were named City champions for having the best essays. Grace Surber's essay was chosen as the D.A.R.E. Indiana State Champion Essay. Grace is the third State Champion from the Mishawaka D.A.R.E. program since 2004.

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

PFC. Steve Madison is assigned full-time to John Young Middle and Pfc Ken Kahlenbeck 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.

In 2014, Gov. Mike Pence announced more than \$9 million in grant funding to more than 250 local schools and school corporations across Indiana through the Secured School Safety Grant Program. From that amount, School City of Mishawaka was awarded \$25,000 to employ an SRO for all elementary schools. PFC. Nathan DeVreese filled that role beginning with the fall semester of 2015.

CAP Program

The Civilians in Alliance with Police program (CAP) partners with the Mishawaka Police, Mishawaka Parks Department and community volunteers to help report 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 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 6 Civilian Support Staff and one officer, 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 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. Sgt. Russ Haimbaugh oversees the technological functions of the MPD such as the records management system, computer-aided dispatch, radio system, and in-car video system.

Evidence and property is also a part of the Services Division. The Property Manager handles all the evidence and found property brought into the Department. The Property Manager is also responsible for the release and disposal of property.

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.

In 2014, the State of Indiana mandated that each county consolidate their dispatch centers. With consolidation comes change. Assistant Chief Steve Ravotto and Lt. Russ Haimbaugh have continued their work on this project with the new director of the dispatch center. The New World computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system was purchased and is being developed by the MPD, SBPD, and the SJCPD. This system will affect the way the MPD will receive information on their in-car computers from the dispatch center. There have also been changes made to dispatch protocol with the incorporation of priority dispatch software. These changes will ultimately be beneficial to police dispatching, but there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure the department's needs are met.

With the new dispatch center comes new computer technology and additional training. The Services Division will be responsible, through Lt. Haimbaugh and Training Coordinator, Sgt. Craig Nowacki, to train the MPD staff with the new procedures that will be implemented through the new dispatch software system.

The MPD contracted with the City's IT Department to install a new security monitoring system. Cameras were upgraded along with a new software system. After-hours access to the main lobby has been limited with the installation of a door security system along and new lobby phone.

Another function of the Services Division is securing grants for equipment and personnel. In 2015 the Services Division received the annual JAG grant in the amount of \$13,840. This grant was used to purchase equipment for officers to use in the field such as Tasers, portable breath test, radar units and radios. In 2015, we hired a new officer through the COPS hiring grant that was received in 2014. This position was used to add a 3rd officer to the School Resource Officer program. This SRO position is being used in the 7 elementary schools within the Mishawaka School Corporations system. This three-year grant, worth \$125,000, will go towards the officer's salary and benefits for three years. After three years, the City will become responsible for the new officer's entire salary and benefit package.

The largest equipment purchase made by the Services Division was Department vehicles. In 2015, the Department spent the budgeted amount of \$270,000 for 10 squad cars totally equipped with cages, light bars, and computer and radio equipment. The goal for 2016 will again be to purchase 10 fully-equipped vehicles from the budget. We will also transition the squad cars over to a new in-car computer system so the in-car computers can receive and transmit data back and forth with the dispatch center and the New World CAD system. There are a total of 112 vehicles for the Department that the Services Division is responsible to maintain. With the help of the Central Motor Pool our fleet receives the best service and our vehicles are always ready for the road.

As we move into 2016 there are a few goals the Services Division will look to achieve. One goal is to switch the Department's handguns over to the Sig Sauer P320 9mm from the Sig 40 caliber P226 we presently use. Through an agreement with Sig we will trade our P226's in for the P320's at minimal cost. Moving forward, we will see a savings of approximately \$275 per gun on new purchases. By using 9mm ammunition we will see a savings of approximately \$100 per case of ammunition we purchase. Long term these changes will show a dramatic savings for the MPD in the purchases of handguns and ammo.

A second goal is to transition the Department's electro-muscular disruption devices to the "PHAZZER". The Phazzer is a newer product that has been proven in the field to be very effective. The Phazzer's price will also be a savings for the department. At one-third the cost per unit from what we currently use, we will see a significant savings in our equipment line.

As always, the Services Division will continue to offer great customer service to the community, look for new grant opportunities, and provide the officers of the Mishawaka Police Department the tools they need to do their job.

Services Division Statistics	
Custodial Arrest Reports	1,114
Proxy/Citation Arrests	3,048
Code 1's (Information only)	25,314
Code 2 Reports	5,595
Crime Reports	4,851
Citations: UTT	3,198
Parking Citations	949
Warning Citations	209
Ordinance Citations	100
Red Tags	559

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), surviving ground assaults for patrol officers, crime scene processing and investigations and drug recognition.

In 2015, the Mishawaka Police Department continued to exceed Indiana State training standards by surpassing the state mandated minimum of 24 hours per officer. Mishawaka Police officers

received 5,360 hours of training in 2015, averaging approximately 55.25 hours per officer. During the year, 181 training classes were held. This was only possible by offering more "in-house" training than ever before.

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. Chief Witkowski holds a seat on the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board which meets six times a year at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Indianapolis.



Department Training

All training begins with the exceptional work of the 21 officers who serve on the MPD Instructor Staff. In 2015, the Department added 4 new instructors. Many veteran instructors were also able to obtain specialty certifications in 2015. From firearms and emergency vehicle operator instructors to background investigators and PR-24 instructors, the diversity of the instructing staff was ready to offer the latest training to the Department. Each officer received the mandated 2 hours of Physical Tactics training. From ground fighting and close quarters combat, to live sparring and striking techniques, officers had opportunities throughout the year to learn new and effective techniques. Officers Richard Freeman, Ron Hantz and David Ruiz will continue to teach physical tactics in 2016.

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.

The Police Department once again utilized the Tire Rack training facility in South Bend to complete the mandated 2 hours of Emergency Vehicle Operation. This year's training focused on low speed parking techniques, backing techniques, and skid control. Officers Ryan Corbett, Jason Barthel, Jeff Price and new EVO instructor Randy Wisler will continue keeping officers safe behind the wheel.

The firearms training program offered by the Police Department is one of the finest in the state. Officers had opportunities to shoot and train with their duty pistol, their department-issued shotgun, and their department-issued or personally-owned patrol rifle. Officer Michael Dube will serve as the Department's Range Master in 2016 and will be joined by Officers Richard Freeman, David Ruiz, and new instructors Franklin Ennis and Scott Robinson.

The Department sent 2 officers to the Reid Interview School and 2 officers to the Bow Mac Interview School. The four officers who serve in investigative capacities have used their interview skills to interview and interrogate suspects & witnesses throughout the year.

In 2015, Officer Randy Wisler began training officers in the use of the PR-24 side handle baton. This tool has regained popularity within the law enforcement community and still serves as an effective and intimidating weapon.

Supervisors in the Department began training in 2015 for the Pursuit Intervention Technique (P.I.T.) which was recently added to the Emergency Vehicle Operation Policy. Utilizing the South Bend Regional Airport, and joining the St. Joseph County Police, several officers had the opportunity to be P.I.T. certified in 2015. Thanks to the work of Officer Steve Madison, the donation from Nav Steel and the use of dedicated training cars, instructors Ryan Corbett, Jeff Price, Jason Barthel and Jason Stefaniak will continue to offer P.I.T. training in 2016.

In 2015, the Department once again participated in the South Bend Police Department Regional Police Academy. Training offered in this program ranged from legal updates, to crime scene photography and crime scene technician training. By offering the latest training in crime scene management, the technicians were able to have hands-on training in evidence collection, arson investigation and courtroom testimony. The Crime Scene Techs continue to be an effective asset to many investigations. The Department will continue their training partnership with the South Bend Police Department and SJCPD in 2016.

The St. Joseph County Metro SWAT Team was able to further their training in 2015 by attending the nationally recognized NTOA Advanced Tactics class in Ashtabula, OH. This top-notch training will enhance the SWAT Team's performance moving forward into 2016. All 10 MPD officers who serve on the SWAT Team benefited greatly from the training.

Sgt. Craig Nowacki will serve as the Mishawaka Police Department Training Coordinator in 2016. Sgt. Nowacki comes from the afternoon shift of the Uniform Division and brings great leadership and organization to the position. With Sgt. Nowacki leading the way, the MPD instructing staff will continue to offer the latest and more importantly, most relevant training to the Mishawaka Police Department.



Memorial Service

Mishawaka Police Department Memorial Service - 2015

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 Mishawaka's Mayor and Dignitaries, the Chief of Police, MPD officers and honor guard, retirees, support staff, surrounding police agencies and citizens of Mishawaka.

Special 2015 Accomplishments

COPS Grant Award

This grant was used to add a third officer to the School Resource Officer Program. This SRO position is being used in the 7 elementary schools within the Mishawaka School Corporation's system. This three-year grant, worth \$125,000, will go towards the officer's salary and benefits for three years. After three years, the City will become responsible for the new officer's entire salary and benefit package.

Awarded JAG Grant

Received the annual JAG grant in the amount of \$13,840. This grant was used to purchase equipment for officers to use in the field such as TASERs, portable breath test, radar units and radios.

New patrol vehicles

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

Goals for 2016

- Switch the Department's handguns to the Sig Sauer P320 9mm from the Sig 40 caliber P226 that are presently used.
- Purchase 10 fully equipped police vehicles.
- Transition our squad cars over to a new in-car-computer system enabling capability to receive and transmit data back and forth with the Public Safety Dispatch Center and the New World CAD system.
- Transition the Department's electro-muscular disruption devices from the "TASER" to the "PHAZZER."
- Purchase a software program to track our "in-house" employee attendance.