

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE



LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDDIE L. WASHINGTON, DIRECTOR

333 S. Grand Avenue

Lansing, MI 48913

www.michigan.gov/msp

The Michigan Department of State Police began as a temporary, wartime emergency force for the purpose of domestic security during World War I. On April 19, 1917, Governor Albert Sleeper created the Michigan State Troops, also known as the Michigan State Constabulary. This new force consisted of 5 troops of mounted, dismounted, and motorized units, totaling 300 men. Public Act 26 of 1919, and Public Act 59 of 1935, reorganized the Constabulary as the permanent, peace-time Michigan State Police (MSP). When Michigan citizens adopted a new constitution authorizing up to 20 state departments, Public Act 380 of 1965, established the MSP as one of these departments. Today, the MSP consists of over 2,500 enlisted and civilian employees.

The director of the MSP holds the rank of colonel and is appointed by the Governor. The director serves as State Director of Emergency Management and as Michigan's Homeland Security Director. In addition, either the director, or his/her designee, is a member of the Michigan Homeland Protection Board, Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) Advisory Board, State 9-1-1 Committee, Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, and Michigan Truck Safety Commission.

According to MCL 28.6, enlisted members of the MSP "...may serve and execute all criminal and civil process, when directed to do so by the Governor or the Attorney General, in actions and matters in which the state is a party." In addition to the department's responsibility for directly providing general police services statewide, the MSP is statutorily mandated to provide traffic patrol on freeways and state trunk lines. The MSP also has hundreds of other significant statutory responsibilities in areas such as crime reporting, traffic safety, and forensic science.

The MSP is a full-service law enforcement agency providing over 60 different services either directly to citizens or in support of other law enforcement agencies. The department's organizational goals are to:

- Prevent and investigate crime and enforce the law;
- Improve traffic safety;
- Provide for homeland security and emergency prevention, response, and recovery;
- Provide the highest quality specialized services; and
- Enhance organization performance and improve operational efficiencies.

Assigned to 63 posts statewide, uniform troopers perform a full range of law enforcement services including traffic patrol, the investigation of crimes, deterring criminal activity, and the apprehension of criminals and fugitives. In addition, MSP detectives conduct investigations in specialized fields such as homicides, fraud, felonious assault, and criminal sexual conduct. MSP motor carrier officers perform commercial motor vehicle enforcement and safety initiatives statewide.

The MSP has a variety of specialized teams that each receive advanced training and equipment and are available to assist other law enforcement agencies. These teams include the Bomb Squad, Canine Unit, Underwater Recovery Unit, Aviation Unit, and Emergency Support Team. In addition, the MSP provides leadership for over 20 multijurisdictional teams in areas such as narcotics, auto theft, computer crimes, and cold cases. Specialized detectives provide expert investigation in complex areas such as identity theft, tobacco tax, and methamphetamine.

The MSP provides 24-hour, forensic science services from 7 regional laboratories to all police agencies in the state. Each laboratory meets the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards and is accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors. In addition to crime scene response and processing, the laboratories provide analysis in the areas of bombs and explosives, firearms and toolmarks, drugs, toxicology, latent prints, trace evidence, DNA, questioned documents, polygraph, and bloodstain patterns.

The MSP is the repository for criminal justice records, including criminal history records, traffic crash records, firearms records, concealed pistol registrations, sex offender registry, missing persons, stolen property, mug shots, and fingerprints. The department also administers the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) to provide criminal justice agencies access to this information. In addition, the MSP uses Michigan Incident Crime Reporting to prepare the annual Uniform Crime Report that provides both a local-level and statewide description of crime in Michigan.

In addition to helping local governments plan and prepare for both man-made and natural disasters, the MSP coordinates state and federal resources to assist local jurisdictions with response and relief activities in the event of an emergency or disaster. The MSP coordinates all state-level homeland security initiatives and serves as the State Administrative Agency for federal homeland security grants.

The MSP Training Academy provides learning opportunities and training programs for both MSP employees and the criminal justice community in areas such as leadership development, narcotics investigation, pursuit driving, first aid, marksmanship, and Michigan law. In addition, the Precision Driving Unit annually conducts the nationally recognized Police Vehicle Evaluation.

Agencies housed within the MSP include the Auto Theft Prevention Authority, the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, and the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

