

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE



COL. JOSEPH M. GASPER, DIRECTOR

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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 five troops of mounted, dismounted, and motorized units, totaling 300 men. Public Act 26 of 1919 and Public Act 59 of 1935 reorganized the Michigan State 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 the departments. Today, the MSP consists of approximately 3,000 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 designee is a member of the Michigan Homeland Protection Board, Michigan Public Safety Interoperability Board, Michigan Intelligence Operations Center Advisory Board, State 9-1-1 Committee, Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, Michigan Truck Safety Commission, School Safety Commission, Auto Theft Prevention Authority, and Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

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 MSP personnel most visible to the public are the uniform troopers whose primary responsibilities include investigating crimes, deterring criminal activity, apprehending criminals and fugitives, conducting traffic enforcement to increase traffic safety, and participating in community outreach and prevention services activities. The MSP also has a cadre of highly trained detectives who conduct investigations in specialized fields such as homicides, fraud, felonious assault, computer crimes, fire investigation, and criminal sexual conduct.

The MSP has a variety of specialized teams that each receive advanced training and equipment and are available to provide direct service or to assist other law enforcement agencies. These teams include the Bomb Squad, Canine Unit, Marine Services Team, Aviation Unit, Emergency Support Team, Motor Unit, and Tactical Bike Team. The MSP also provides leadership for over 20 multijurisdictional teams in areas including narcotics, auto theft, computer crimes, and cold cases. In addition, MSP motor carrier officers perform commercial motor vehicle enforcement and truck safety initiatives statewide.

The MSP provides 24-hour, forensic science services from eight regional laboratories to all police agencies in the state. Each laboratory meets the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Quality Assurance Standards and is accredited by the American National Standards Institute-American Society of Quality National Accreditation Board.

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.

The **State Emergency Operations Center** (SEOC) is managed and maintained by the MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. The SEOC is responsible for facilitating the coordination of all state agency activities and resources during an emergency or disaster ensuring an effective and efficient state response. 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. Michigan's Homeland Security Advisor is the MSP Director.

The **MSP Training Academy** located in Dimondale provides learning opportunities and training programs for both MSP employees and the broader criminal justice community in areas such as leadership development, narcotics investigation, pursuit driving, first aid, marksmanship, and Michigan law. The MSP's Precision Driving Unit is internationally recognized for its annual Police Vehicle Evaluation program.

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

