

Amtrak Police Department

2023

Annual Report

2023 Amtrak Police Department Officer of the Year
New England Division Officer Kevin Saunders

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Our Mission

To “Protect America’s Railroad” by proudly safeguarding a nation in transit through ethical and respectful service.



Our Vision

To work with partners and stakeholders to deliver a safe, secure, and reliable passenger railroad system in the United States.

Message from Chief Dotson



I am proud to highlight the exceptional work and dedication of the Amtrak Police Department. 2023 was marked by significant advancements in our mission to ensure the safety and security of Amtrak's passengers, employees, assets and infrastructure.

Our department's commitment to public safety remains unwavering. Throughout 2023, we have enhanced our security protocols and fostered stronger relationships with the communities we serve. These efforts, particularly in counter-terrorism, human trafficking awareness, and outreach, have positioned us as a national leader in rail safety and policing

APD expanded the Operation RAILS SAFE program, which educates first responders nationwide in counter-terrorism and responses to critical incidents in the passenger rail environment, building on an already strong collaboration between our APD and first responders across the country.

WE strengthened our commitment to increasing awareness around human trafficking and in identifying and assisting victims. By educating our officers, employees, and the public to recognize key indicators of human trafficking, we have successfully identified and assisted victims in 2023.

Our department has also embraced technology to improve our operations. The integration of body cameras and the expansion of cameras to more stations have increased transparency and accountability within our ranks, fostering greater trust with the public.

As we look ahead, our focus will remain on continuous improvement and innovation. We will continue to enhance our training programs, and strengthen our partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the men and women of the Amtrak Police Department for their unwavering dedication and professionalism. It is their hard work and commitment that are the bedrock of our success.

To the communities we serve, thank you for your support and cooperation. Together, we will continue to make Amtrak a safe and secure mode of transportation for all.

Very truly yours,

D. Samuel Dotson
VP Corporate Security
& Chief of Police

Executive Summary

The 2023 Annual Report of the Amtrak Police Department showcases a year of significant accomplishments and ongoing challenges. Our commitment to passenger and public safety, community outreach, social service partnerships, and specialized training initiatives remains strong. In the face of evolving security concerns, our department continues to adapt, innovate, and serve with dedication.

Notable Successes

In 2023, officers and professional staff have made significant strides in ensuring the safety of our passengers, employees and the railroad system. We are proud to report a substantial decrease in the rate of crimes against persons, and crimes against property. This achievement is a testament to our commitment of maintaining a safe and secure environment for all who travel and work with Amtrak.

21.4%

Decrease in the rate of crimes against persons: 2022–2023.

9.86%

Decrease in the rate of crimes against property: 2022–2023.

8.43%

Decrease in the rate of Group B offenses: 2022–2023.

Ridership increased 22.18% in 2023. More people in or on our system and we achieved a lower rate of crime. All rate calculations are based on per 100k riders.

Continuing Education

Through collaborative training initiatives, we fostered a culture of knowledge exchange across departments. This comprehensive approach resulted in an enhanced skillset for both individual officers and the department.



Specialized Trainings
*Operation RAILS SAFE,
K9 Trainings*



U.S. Cities that received
RAILSAFE Partner Training



Security
Operations

Community Outreach

APD’s community outreach programs have been instrumental in building strong relationships. APD appreciates and supports the communities it serves through public education programs on safety and security focused on rail safety, participation in community events and partnerships with local law enforcement agencies.



Successful Community
Outreach & Special Events
*Human Trafficking Awareness
Events, Officers of the Year
Ceremony*



Safety Initiatives
Implemented
*OLI Training,
Operation Clear Track*

Foundational Pillars

This foundation of our strategic plan creates a strong culture of accountability and responsibility in the Department.



PILLAR 01
Protecting People & Infrastructure



PILLAR 02
Supporting Our People



PILLAR 03
Internal & External Partnerships



PILLAR 04
Optimizing the Business

The Amtrak Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of service to its passengers and employees. The department will continue to work with community organizations and leaders to identify and address public safety concerns. **We are honored to serve you.**

Core Values

To work in partnership with our employees, customers, and the communities we serve to build and maintain relationships founded on trust and mutual respect, while reducing crime, improving the quality of life and defending against terrorism from those who wish to do us harm.

Our core values provide a fundamental guideline for our purposeful actions as a department. They define us, say who we are and what we as an organization stand for.



Amtrak Police Department Core Values



Safety

We commit to providing a safe environment and experience for all.



Service

We commit to reducing the levels of crime, fear, and disorder through an evidence-based and data-driven approach that is fair, courteous, responsive, efficient, and effective.



Integrity

We pledge to uphold our position of trust by maintaining the highest ethical standards.



Respect

We respect all members of our community and organization. We foster an environment that encourages teamwork, innovation, and excellence.



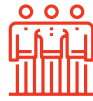
Fairness and Impartiality

We act with fairness, restraint, and impartiality in carrying out our duties. We work with the people to continually understand and overcome cultural influences and unconscious biases. We understand that our actions combined with the way we treat all people contributes to our "legitimacy" in the eyes of the public.



Professionalism

We treat the public and our colleagues with courtesy and respect. We understand that appearances, words, and demeanor contribute to the public's confidence. We are responsive and deliver services promptly and efficiently.



Teamwork & Collaboration

We work together as one organization in carrying out the mission of the Department. As individual members of the Department we are respectful to each other and work collectively to solve problems and serve our community. We dedicate ourselves to working with our stakeholders (internal and external) to find solutions to emerging challenges.



Diversity and Inclusion

We embrace the uniqueness of all members of our community and our organization. We recognize, value, and leverage diversity to create a work environment where all employees feel welcomed and empowered to contribute to their full potential.



Humility

We recognize our positions in the larger community as servant leaders. We do not consider ourselves more highly than we ought to; but rather, we seek continuous improvement in the service we provide to our community.



Efficiency

We keep abreast of standard procedures, legal issues, and innovative topics in modern policing through regular training. We exercise rigor in thinking strategically about identifying trends, exploring alternative solutions, and solving problems.



Wellness

We will care for our staff so they can care for those we serve.

Defining the Department's **Strategic Direction**



In 2020 the Amtrak Office of Inspector General issued a report "Safety and Security: Management of the Police Department Has Recently Improved but Foundational Decisions Are Needed on Its Role and Priorities."

Their report has served as the foundational road map for APD during the second half of 2020 and into 2021. The report's primary recommendation centered around building a consensus with Amtrak management around the core mission and appropriate staffing of the Department.

To identify APD's goals and strategies, police leaders, employees, and key stakeholders were interviewed and asked to share their observations and insights about the Department's current operations and its workforce. A series of discussions were held with members of the Amtrak Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

Also, in line with the Inspector General's Report, the Amtrak Police Department is engaged in a thorough review of its staffing models, including the efficient deployment of resources, the proper allocation of commissioned officers, professional staff, and contract security.

Out of these discussions the Amtrak Police department's Strategic.

APD Leadership and the ELT were in complete alignment with APD's mission and vision to safeguard Amtrak employees, customers, patrons and infrastructure through partnerships and best practices.

Members of the ELT were also asked what changes the Department should focus on over the next five years. Information gained during the strategy session interviews was analyzed for common themes, frequency of key topics, and highest priority focus areas.



Recommendations

Out of those meetings came the following recommendations which are foundational for the building of the Amtrak Police Department's Strategic Plan:

01

Safety and security begin at the time of ticketing (upstream).

02

Customer experience begins on property at the curb arrival.

03

APD liaison responsibility to coordinate with law enforcement partners.

04

Visibility on trains and stations as a deterrent and intervention in the event it is needed.

05

Intelligence-led policing (data) – deploy resources, drives decisions, and assessing threats.

06

Unique deployment of resources to address terrorism.

07

Use of K9 teams as screening tools.

08

Customer focus to provide calm and stability.

Additionally, to define the APD goals and objectives for 2022 – 2026, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) assessment was performed with APD commanders and stakeholders and combined with ELT feedback. As a result of the ELT feedback and the SWOT analysis four common themes emerged. The four themes are the foundational pillars upon which the strategic plan is built. The pillars are:



PILLAR 01

Protecting People & Infrastructure



PILLAR 02

Supporting Our People



PILLAR 03

Internal & External Partnerships



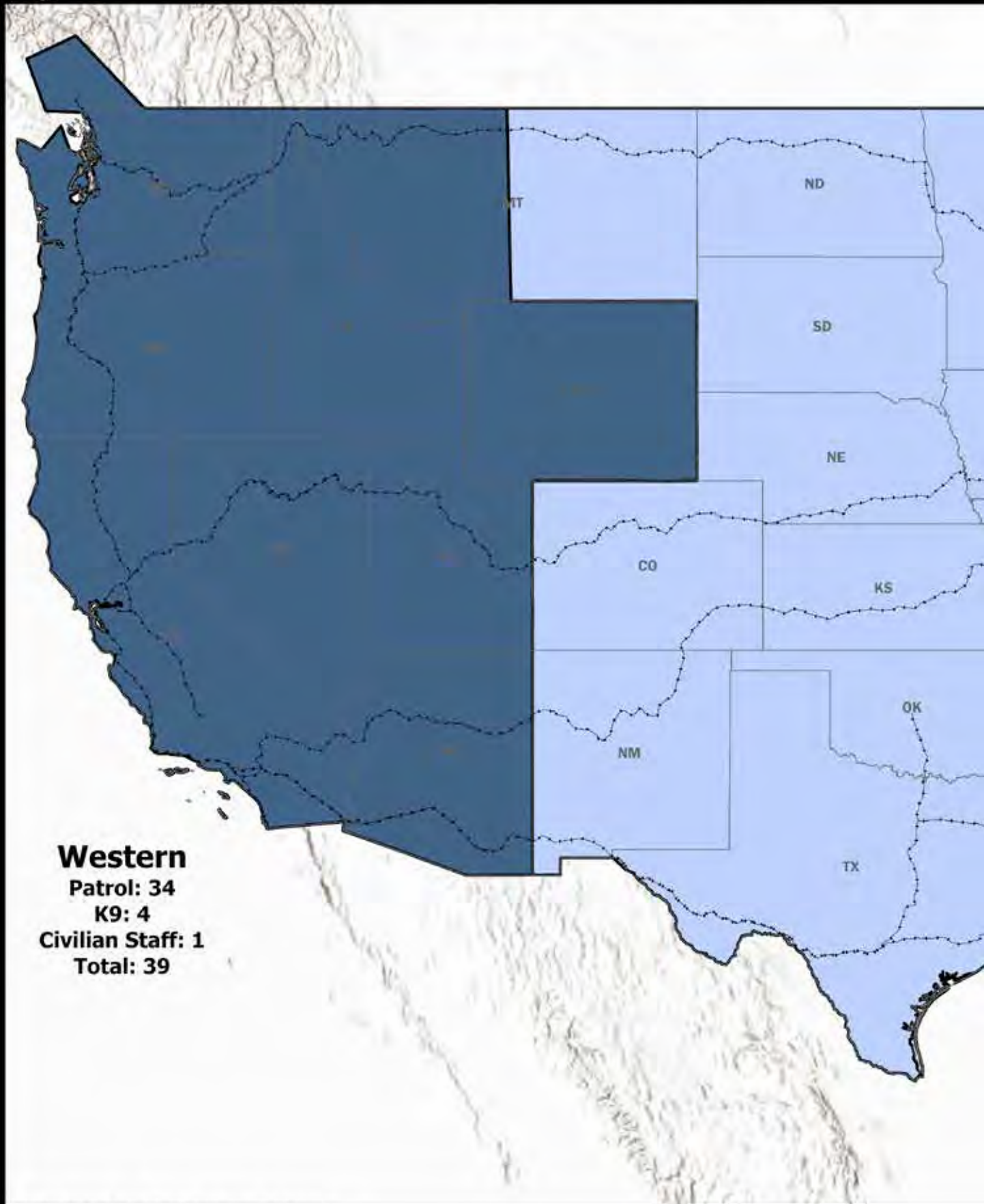
PILLAR 04

Optimizing the Business

This foundation creates a strong culture of accountability and responsibility in the Department and sets APD on a path providing public safety in collaboration with the communities we serve at the same time valuing both the long and complex history of policing in our country and embracing the calls for reform and the need to change.



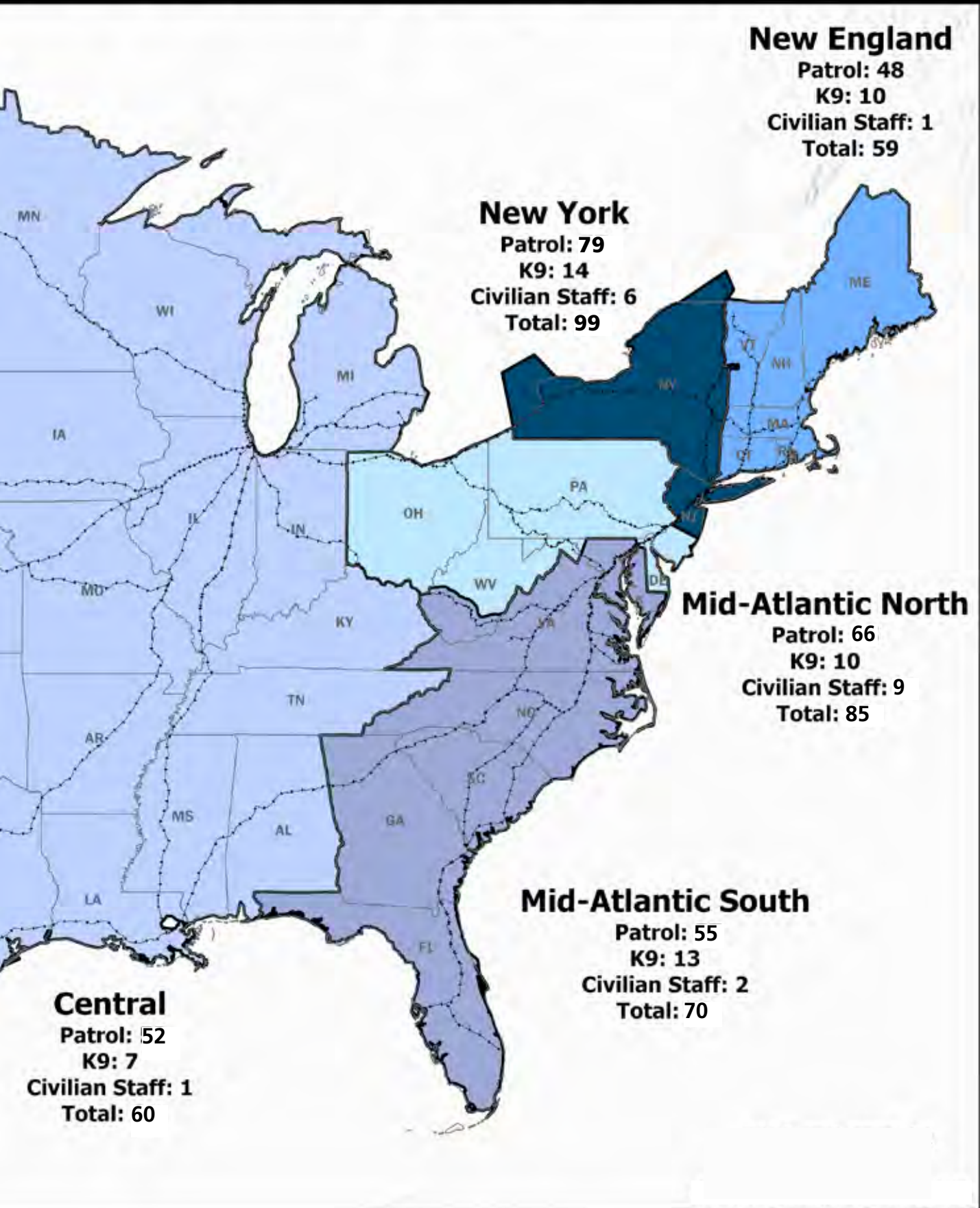
Amtrak Police Department



ent Staffing

Chief of Police - 3
Rail Operations & Emergency Mgmt - 2
Office of Intelligence & Analysis - 14
Office of Professional Responsibility - 16

Office of Administration &
Public Affairs - 7
Corporate Security - 18
Support Operations & NCC - 42



New England

Patrol: 48
K9: 10
Civilian Staff: 1
Total: 59

New York

Patrol: 79
K9: 14
Civilian Staff: 6
Total: 99

Mid-Atlantic North

Patrol: 66
K9: 10
Civilian Staff: 9
Total: 85

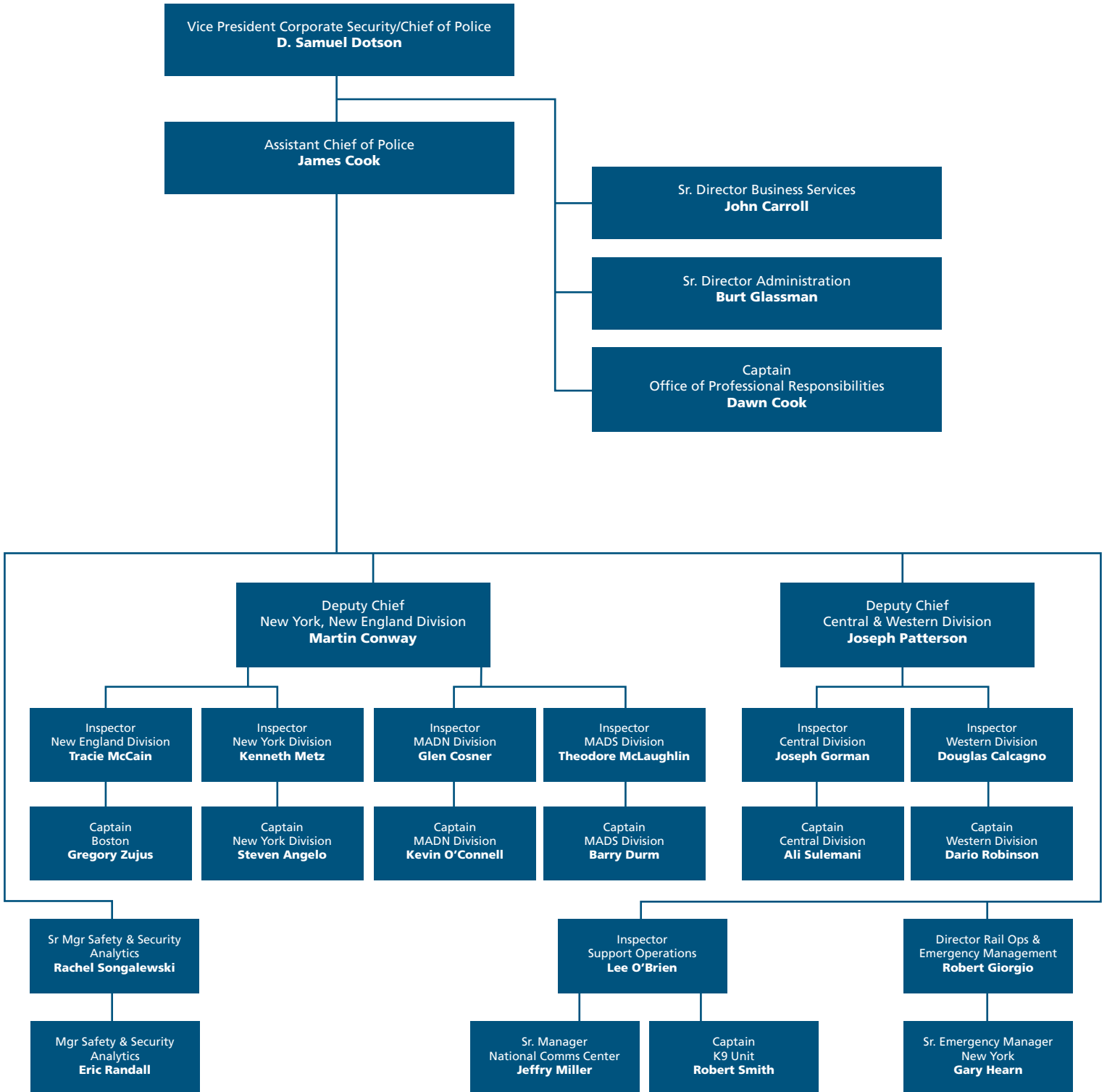
Mid-Atlantic South

Patrol: 55
K9: 13
Civilian Staff: 2
Total: 70

Central

Patrol: 52
K9: 7
Civilian Staff: 1
Total: 60

Staffing

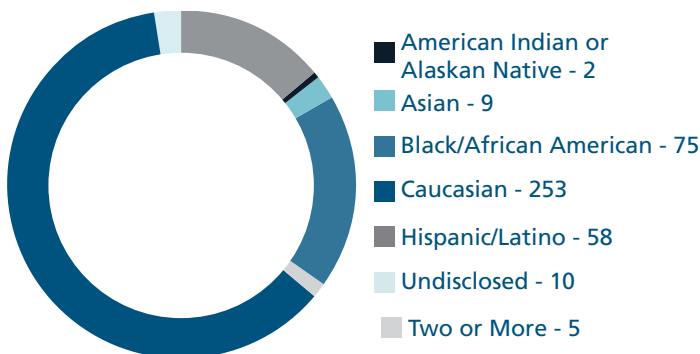


Based on the December 2023 Staffing Report*

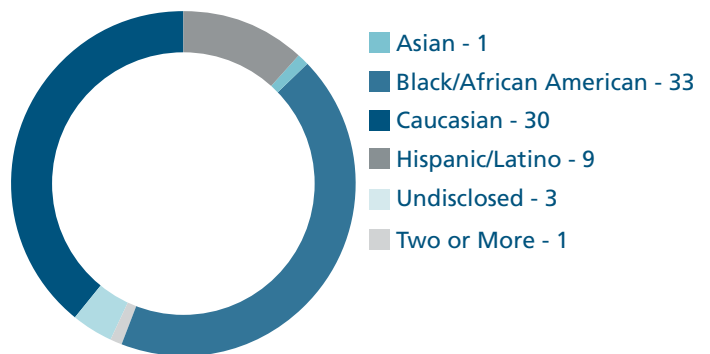
	Sworn	Civilian	Total
Chief of Police	1	1	2
Intel	4	10	14
Office of Professional Responsibility	16		16
Administration		7	7
Corporate Security		18	18
Support Operations & NCC	17	25	42
Assistant Chief of Police	1		1
New England - Patrol	48	1	49
New England - K9	10		10
Total New England	58	1	59
New York - Patrol	79	6	85
New York - K9	14		14
Total New York	93	6	99
Mid-Atlantic North - Patrol	66	9	75
Mid-Atlantic North - K9	10		10
Total Mid-Atlantic North	76	9	85
Mid-Atlantic South - Patrol	55	2	57
Mid-Atlantic South - K9	13		13
Total Mid-Atlantic South	68	2	70
Central - Patrol	52	1	53
Central - K9	7		7
Total Central	59	1	60
Western - Patrol	34	1	35
Western - K9	4		4
Total Western States	38	1	39
*Authorized numbers	Total	431	81
			512

Demographics

Male



Female



Budget and Expenditures

Division / Unit	Account	(\$k) Actual
New England	Salaries	317
	Wages Straight & Overtime	4,851
	Benefits	2,421
	Non-Labor Expense	375
	Total New England	7,963
New York	Salaries	526
	Wages Straight & Overtime	8,636
	Benefits	4,185
	Non-Labor Expense	1,301
	Total New York	14,649
Mid-Atlantic	Salaries	557
	Wages Straight & Overtime	13,921
	Benefits	6,342
	Non-Labor Expense	2,337
	Total Mid-Atlantic	23,157
Central/Western	Salaries	815
	Wages Straight & Overtime	9,120
	Benefits	4,499
	Non-Labor Expense	1,912
	Total Central/Western	16,346
K9 Program	Salaries	123
	Wages Straight & Overtime	7,247
	Benefits	3,381
	Non-Labor Expense	2,351
	Total K9 Program*	13,102
Chief, Intel, Support Operations, NCC & Corporate Security	Salaries	4,416
	Wages Straight & Overtime	5,845
	Benefits	4,533
	Non-Labor Expense	6,421
	Total Chief, Intel, Ops Support, NCC & Corporate Security	21,215
Total Amtrak Police Department	Salaries	6,754
	Wages Straight & Overtime	49,621
	Benefits	25,361
	Non-Labor Expense	14,697
	Total Amtrak Police Department	96,433

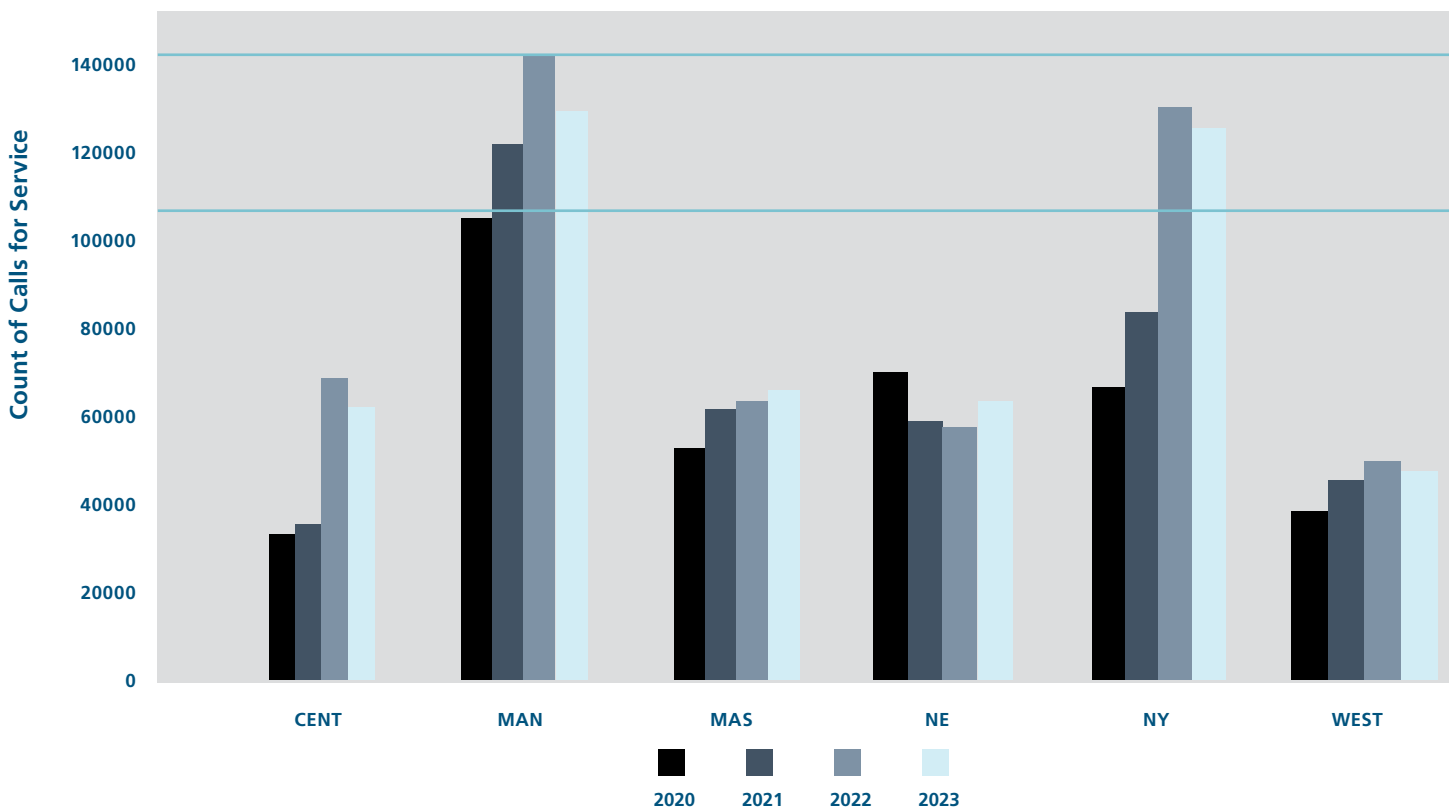
Police Response

Amtrak police officers respond to a variety of incidents, ensuring the safety of passengers and staff on trains and at stations. These incidents are known as “calls for service.” There are two main ways calls for service come about:

- Dispatched Calls: These calls originate from the public, who report suspicious activity or emergencies by the APD National Communications Center at 800-331-0008, sending a text message to APD11 (27311) or by calling 911. The dispatcher then relays the details to the nearest Amtrak police officers to investigate and respond accordingly.
- Self-Initiated Calls: Officers themselves initiate calls for service. During their patrols through stations and on trains, they might observe suspicious activity or potential threats. These proactive measures help prevent incidents and ensure a safe environment for everyone.

By responding to both dispatched and self-initiated calls for service, Amtrak police officers play a vital role in maintaining order and safety across the Amtrak network.

Total Calls for Service by Division January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2023



Amtrak Police Department Calls for Service

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Central Division	37,670	40,201	71,922	65,242
Mid-Atlantic Division North	116,907	135,778	158,570	127,937
Mid-Atlantic Division South	58,858	68,657	70,940	73,283
New England Division	78,294	65,440	64,613	71,464
New York Division	74,150	93,368	145,321	144,147
Western Division	42,557	50,419	55,279	53,648
Unknown*	3,574	2,544	2,083	1,907
Total	412,010	456,407	568,728	537,628

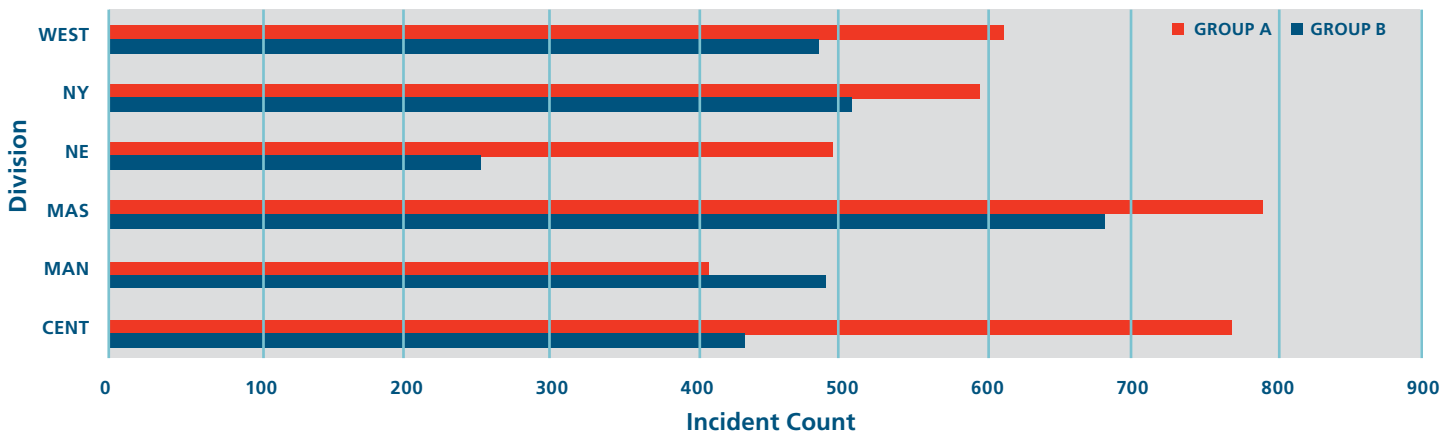
*Unknown encompasses calls for service for which sufficient geographical information was unavailable for the call location.

Incident-based Crime Data Reporting

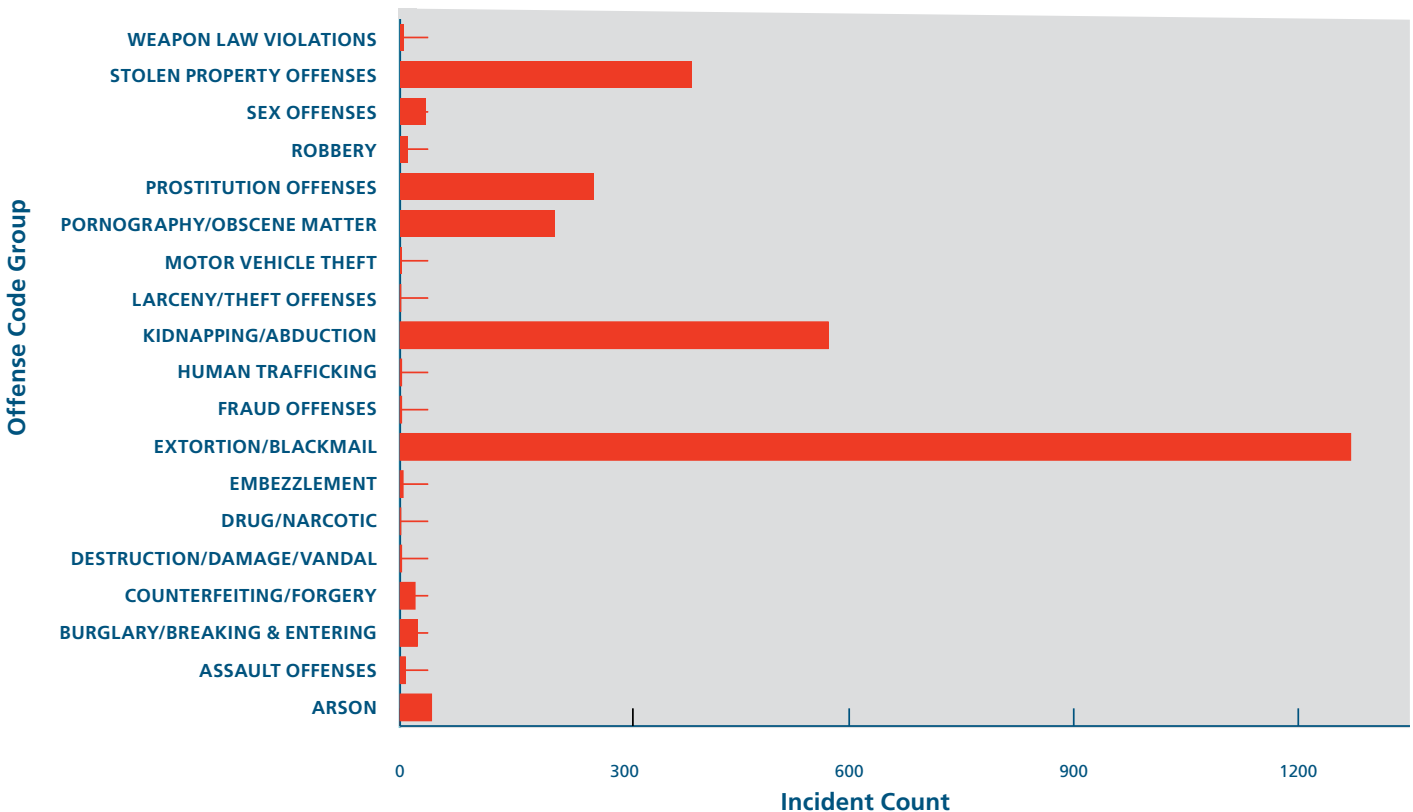
National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an incident-based reporting system created by the FBI in which law enforcement collects data on each crime occurrence. The goals of the NIBRS are to enhance the quantity, quality, and timeliness of crime data collected and to improve the methodology used for compiling, analyzing, auditing, and publishing the collected data, and to standardize the process nationwide to allow the FBI to collect and review consistent data.

NIBRS collects data on each incident and arrest within 22 crime categories made up of 46 specific crimes called Group A offenses. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, various facts about the crime are collected. In addition to the Group A offenses, there are 10 Group B offense categories for which only arrest data are reported. When used to its full potential, the NIBRS identifies with precision when and where crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators. Armed with such information, APD Officers can better define the resources it needs to fight crime, as well as use those resources in the most efficient and effective manner.

Group A and Group B Incidents by Division: January 1 - December 31, 2023



Group A Incidents by Code Group: January 1 - December 31, 2023



Office of Professional Responsibilities

Summary

The mission of the Office of Professional Responsibility is to ensure the Amtrak Police Department operates with the utmost integrity, accountability, and excellence. Through internal investigations, rigorous training, sound policy formation, and adherence to accreditation standards, we strive to maintain public trust and enhance the effectiveness of our department.

In 2023, the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) at APD continued to focus on enhancing the department's professionalism, accountability, and commitment to public service. Through our efforts around Internal Affairs, Training, Policy Formation, and CALEA Accreditation, we have achieved notable successes, including the resolution of numerous internal investigations, the introduction of new training programs, the updating of critical policies, and the attainment of accreditation milestones. These efforts reflect the department's ongoing dedication to upholding the highest standards within the department.

Internal Affairs Division

Internal Affairs is responsible for overseeing and investigating allegations of misconduct and violations of departmental policies by department personnel. Operating independently, Internal Affairs ensures impartiality and integrity throughout the investigative process.

In 2023, a thorough analysis of our internal affairs management system and processes was conducted. Upgrades were implemented to enhance tracking capabilities, offering deeper insights into emerging trends and facilitating more timely investigations and resolutions. The Amtrak Police Department (APD) remains dedicated to the ongoing review and improvement of its policies, practices, equipment, and training to ensure they align with best practices and evolving legal standards.

Allegations of Misconduct

In 2023, the APD saw a 30% reduction in the number of complaints, with 61 complaints received compared to 87 in 2022. Of the 61 complaints filed in 2023, 54 were related to misconduct, five involved discriminatory practices, and two concerned allegations of excessive force.

Once an investigation is concluded, a disposition is assigned based on the following categories:

- **Administrative Closure:** This disposition is used when the complainant refuses to cooperate, resulting in insufficient or no information to continue the investigation; when the complainant requests the matter be handled informally. When the officer under investigation has left the agency before the investigation's completion and there is insufficient evidence to determine a finding; or when the investigation is conducted by other entities, such as Amtrak Human Resources, Equal Employment Opportunity or Anti-Discrimination/ Anti-Harassment Investigations, or the Amtrak Office of Inspector General, where APD is not the investigating agency.
- **Exonerated:** This finding is applied when the investigation confirms that the incident occurred, but the actions of the accused were justified, lawful, and proper.
- **Non-Sustained:** This disposition is used when the investigation does not uncover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations.
- **Sustained:** This finding is used when the investigation uncovers sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations made in the complaint.
- **Unfounded:** This disposition is applied when the investigation indicates that the alleged acts did not occur.
- **Policy Review:** This finding is used when the allegation is confirmed to be true, but the actions of the officer were consistent with department policy, necessitating a review and analysis of the current policy and best practices.

Disposition	2022 Internal Affairs Investigations	2022 Percent of Investigations	2023 Internal Affairs Investigations	2023 Percent of Investigations
Administrative Closure	12	14%	12	20%
Exonerated	10	12%	7	12%
Non-Sustained	16	18%	10	16%
Sustained	29	33%	22	36%
Unfounded	20	23%	10	16%
Policy Review	0	0%	0	0%
Total	87	100%	61	100%

Disciplinary Action Taken - Investigations

In 2023, the trend reflects the Department’s stronger emphasis on accountability and maintaining the highest standards of conduct among department personnel.

The increased focus in disciplinary actions underscores the Department’s dedication to upholding its values of integrity and professionalism, ensuring that all personnel are held to the highest ethical standards.

This trend may also suggest improved investigative processes and a more rigorous approach to evaluating the outcomes of internal investigations, leading to more consistent and decisive disciplinary responses when violations are substantiated.

Discipline	2021	2022	2023
Demotion	0	0	0
Dismissal	3	0	0
Final Warning	2	0	1
Letter of Counseling	3	0	4
Letter of Instruction	0	1	4
Probation (Management)	0	0	0
Letter of Reprimand	2	4	5
Resignation	0	0	0
Retirement	0	0	0
Retraining	0	0	0
Suspension	2	1	12
Verbal Counseling	1	1	1

Use of Force Analysis

APD is dedicated to achieving our department’s mission with respect and minimal reliance on the use of force and places the highest priority on safeguarding of life, dignity, and liberty of all individuals. Officers demonstrate this commitment in their interactions with the communities they serve.

Officers receive training in rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, tactical disengagement, and other de-escalation techniques to reduce the need for force whenever possible. According to department policy, Amtrak officers are instructed to use only the amount of force that is reasonably necessary to resolve an incident, effect an arrest, or protect themselves or others from harm.

APD’s commitment includes a thorough review of all incidents. The 2023 Use of Force Analysis examined 193 incidents. These incidents were evenly divided between self-initiated activities and responses to calls for service. Many of these situations involved multiple officers using force and included several instances of force within a single event. In total, 358 officers were involved in these incidents, resulting in 361 applications of force throughout the year.

In 2023, APD officers engaged in 15,461 incidents that required a report to be completed. The analysis shows that only 1% of these contacts resulted in the use of force. However, it is important to note that officers responded to over 500,000 calls for service during this period, many of which involved public contact but did not necessitate a report. This indicates that the use of force was a rare occurrence within the context of the Department’s overall activity.

Reason	2021	2022	2023
Armed w/Weapon	9	9	15
Assaulting Citizen	4	6	4
Assaulting Officer	17	44	41
Fight	43	26	27
Damaging Property	2	4	1
Emotionally Disturbed Person	28	37	48
Medical Combatant	6	2	10
Preventing Injury to Self or Other	23	22	20
Resisting Arrest	121	178	195
Total	253	328	361

In 2023, the APD reported fifteen use-of-force incidents involving armed individuals, marking a significant 67% increase compared to 2022 and 2021. Resisting arrest incidents also rose by 10%, while assaults against police officers saw a slight decrease from 44 incidents in 2022 to 41 in 2023.

APD officers frequently encounter individuals facing mental health challenges, homelessness, and substance abuse, which is commonly seen in transportation facilities. These individuals often seek shelter and assistance on or near property owned or managed by Amtrak, expressing that they feel safer inside Amtrak stations than on the streets. Despite the presence of APD officers, some of these individuals feel the need to arm themselves for protection when officers are not immediately available or present.

A subject’s mental state remains a prevalent factor in many incidents requiring officers to take defensive action, often compounded by the influence of alcohol or drugs. Incidents involving emotionally disturbed individuals continued to rise, with a 30% increase from 2022.

The APD is dedicated to fostering strong relationships with local law enforcement agencies and social service organizations to address quality of life issues and challenges faced by unhoused individuals who frequent railroad property. APD officers are committed to upholding the constitutional rights of all persons while fulfilling their duty to ensure the safety and security of the traveling public and Amtrak property. The department recognizes the potential for volatility during interactions with the unhoused population, as well as with individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

To address these challenges, APD maintains a comprehensive training program. A key component of this program is the requirement for all sworn members to train and qualify with their duty weapons biannually, along with biennial training in Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) and defensive tactics.

ICAT is a specialized training program that equips first responders with the tools, skills, and options necessary to deescalate a wide range of critical incidents safely. It is particularly designed for situations involving individuals who are unarmed or armed with weapons other than firearms and who may be experiencing a mental health crisis or

other forms of distress. The training is grounded in the Critical Decision-Making Model, which guides officers in assessing situations, making safe and effective decisions, and documenting and learning from their actions. ICAT integrates various skill sets into a cohesive training approach, emphasizing scenario-based exercises, as well as lectures and case studies.

Force Type	2021	2021 Effective	2022	2022 Effective	2023	2023 Effective
Arm Bar	73	93%	111	94%	93	94%
ASP	3	100%	2	100%	3	75%
ECW (Taser)	22	55%	14	70%	19	68%
Hands	149	99%	150	97%	154	92%
Hand Strike	12	67%	5	100%	10	91%
Knee Strike	0	0%	1	100%	1	100%
Leg Sweep	8	100%	13	100%	21	88%
OC Spray	3	100%	1	100%	7	100%
Pressure Point	10	60%	12	92%	12	92%
Take Down	66	98%	39	98%	35	95%
Weapon Drawn	3	100%	4	100%	16	94%
Wrist Lock	74	96%	115	96%	92	97%

Weaponless defensive tactics, such as arm-bar escorts, hand strikes, and wrist locks, were predominantly used to apply handcuffs to individuals resisting arrest or failing to comply with officer commands. These tactics accounted for most of the force used to gain compliance over the three years covered in this report.

In 2023, the APD recorded a 36% increase in the use of Electronic Control Weapons (ECWs) compared to 2022. The analysis also revealed a 10% decline in takedowns, a 100% increase in hard-hand strikes, and a decrease in the use of the arm-bar technique. Additionally, there was a reduction in the application of wrist-lock techniques by officers to control subjects.

In 2023, more than 86% of individuals involved in use-of-force incidents were either uninjured or sustained only minor scrapes and abrasions, consistent with previous years. The deployment of body-worn cameras (BWC) continues to have a positive influence on officer behavior, serving as a constant reminder of the obligation to preserve life and use the minimum force necessary to overcome resistance.

The 2023 Use of Force Analysis indicates that there are no discernible trends or patterns related to injuries sustained by suspects or officers. Additionally, the data does not reveal any negative trends associated with race, age, or gender in the use of force incidents. The analysis confirms that APD officers are adhering to established policies effectively.

The practices outlined in the Use of Force policy, including thorough administrative documentation and incident reviews, are proving to be highly effective. Each Use of Force incident is reviewed by all levels of supervision, up to senior leadership, making it highly unlikely for any issues to go unnoticed.

The APD Use of Force policy remains appropriate, relevant, and effective. Our practices ensure rigorous adherence to the policy. Furthermore, our firearms, ECWs, and OC sprays are regularly inspected, remain in good condition, and are readily available to all officers. The analysis does not identify any equipment-related issues that require correction.

APD Training Unit

The Amtrak Police Department’s training unit is composed of two sergeants and 12 training officers, including one who serves as the department’s firearms coordinator. In 2023, the unit facilitated over 60,000 hours of training for APD members through both internal and external programs. By continuously reviewing best practices and emerging trends, the unit was able to update existing training programs, support the implementation of new initiatives, and plan for additional relevant training in the coming years. In 2023, the training unit launched several

key initiatives, including programs in Conflict Resolution, Leadership, and Tactical Training.

Conflict Resolution Training

The Conflict Resolution course was introduced for civilian Amtrak employees to enhance interpersonal and de-escalation skills and reduce incidents of assault. Developed by the Amtrak Police Department (APD) in collaboration with the Safety & Technical Training team, this program equips front-line employees with the tools necessary to identify and disengage from potentially violent situations. The content was carefully crafted to ensure employees are well-prepared to mitigate conflicts during their duties.

APD delivered this new course throughout the country in 2023, integrating it into the annual recurrent training for Transportation & Engineering (T&E) employees. The classes, led by experienced APD Officers, Detectives, and Sergeants, covered essential topics such as crime trends, safety techniques, indicators of human trafficking, and guidelines for involving the Amtrak Police Department in on board incidents.



During the 2023 calendar year, the APD training unit facilitated Conflict Resolution training for a total of 3,680 Amtrak employees—3,285 during recurrent training and 395 during new hire training. A total of 480 classes were conducted, utilizing 12 ATU/OPR instructors and 20 adjunct instructors.

Throughout the year, the program was continually evaluated based on feedback from participants, instructors, and stakeholders. This ongoing assessment allowed the training unit to update and refine the program, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness for the intended audience.

Leadership Development



In 2023, the APD launched the “GMU Foundations of Leadership” program, a leadership development initiative developed in partnership with George Mason University. This program was designed to enhance and refine leadership skills among APD personnel.

In April 2023, all APD Command Staff participated in this training, followed by Sergeants throughout the remainder of the year. The program provided participants with new tools for personal growth and professional development, equipping them with additional skills and strategies to navigate daily leadership challenges with integrity and resilience.

George Mason University brought in experienced instructors from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, enriching the learning experience. This shared training experience has given APD leaders a common foundation to build upon as they continue to advance the department’s strategic priorities and goals.

Investigators and Detectives Training Conference

The APD Investigators and Detectives training conference was held May 25-28. Topics covered during the event included:

- **Drug Interdiction Protocols:** The latest protocols and strategies for intercepting illegal drugs, and crucial knowledge to combat drug trafficking.
- **Safety and Security Analytics:** An overview of advanced techniques to analyze and leverage data for improved operational effectiveness.
- **Leadership Strategies:** Compelling management techniques and leadership strategies presented by Jason C. Redman, USN (Ret) the author of the memoir “The Trident: The Forging and Reforging of a Navy SEAL Leader” and the book “Overcome: Crush Adversity with the Leadership Techniques of America’s Toughest Warriors.”
- **Amtrak Legal Counsel Update:** Information from Amtrak’s legal counsel, to keep Officers informed about evolving legal aspects and regulations in their field.
- **A Human Trafficking Survivor’s Story:** Participants had the privilege of hearing from a survivor of human trafficking, providing a firsthand account of the importance of their work and the impact it has on individuals.

- Human Trafficking/Human Smuggling Investigations: An HSI human trafficking task force member shared insights into investigating and combating human trafficking and human smuggling.
- Human Trafficking Training Toolkit: Attendees were introduced to the a valuable Officer training resource designed in partnership between members of the APD and A21, a global non-profit, non-governmental organization that works to fight human trafficking.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment: Officers learned about behavioral threat assessment techniques to identify potential threats and take appropriate action to maintain safety.
- LeadsOnline: A powerful tool for investigating and tracking stolen property, helping the Officers in their efforts to combat crime.



Accreditation

The APD actively participates in the CALEA Accreditation Program for Law Enforcement, demonstrating our commitment to excellence and accountability. In 2023, we successfully completed our four-year reaccreditation review, reaffirming our dedication to maintaining the highest standards.

The CALEA Accreditation Program establishes a set of professional standards designed to ensure comprehensive and uniform written directives that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities. These standards support informed decision-making through thorough reports and analyses, preparedness for natural or man-made critical incidents, and the building and maintenance of strong community relationships. The program also includes independent reviews by subject matter experts and encourages the continuous pursuit of excellence through annual reviews and other assessment measures.

The accreditation process emphasizes best practices related to life, health, and safety procedures, which are considered foundational for modern law enforcement agencies. By adhering to these standards, the program provides a framework for addressing high-risk issues in a contemporary environment, ensuring that officers are equipped to meet basic community service expectations and effectively manage critical events.

Policy

The Office of Professional Responsibilities (OPR) oversees the formation of policies for the Amtrak Police Department (APD). This process is comprehensive, involving several critical steps, such as assessing the department's needs, researching and reviewing industry best practices, and consulting with key stakeholders. After these steps, the policies undergo a thorough review and once approved, are implemented. Officers are then trained on these new or updated policies to ensure they fully understand the expectations and procedures they must follow.

This is an ongoing process, as policies are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in laws, societal expectations, and emerging best practices. Continuous evaluation allows APD to remain responsive and adaptive to new challenges.

In 2023, APD maintained 118 policies covering various areas, including but not limited to use of force, criminal investigations, victim assistance, missing persons, and code of conduct. An analysis was conducted, resulting in updates to 16 of these policies. In 2024, further reviews and updates are planned, with collaboration across other Amtrak entities such as Human Resources, Labor Relations, Training, and the Legal Department to ensure alignment with Amtrak's mission, goals, and corporate policies.

To ensure transparency and public education, APD's policies were made available on a PowerDMS public portal ([Amtrak Police Department Policies](#)). This allows stakeholders and other community members to review the department's best practices and understand what they can expect from APD officers. These policies serve as formalized rules, guidelines, and procedures governing the actions, behaviors, and decision-making processes of officers, ensuring that their conduct is consistent, lawful, and aligned with the department's ethical standards.

Security Operations



Active Shield

On January 10 and 11, Amtrak Police personnel participated in a joint Active Shield multi-national counter-terrorism exercise with partner nations from RAILPOL, the European Association of Organizations responsible for policing the railways in Europe. Amtrak is an associate member of RAILPOL. The Active Shield exercise takes place twice per year and involves countries from across Europe and North America.

NY SECURE Deployment Exercises

Throughout the year, the APD New York Division conducts NY SECURE security and counterterrorism operations which include a visible presence of patrol officers and K-9 units as well as tactical intense patrol train rides along the Empire Line. Supporting agencies often include New York State Police, MTA Police and TSA Surface Inspectors.



VIPR Operation in Wells, Maine

Officer Chris Harkins and Detective Mike Lee participated in a TSA Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) Operation deployment in Wells, Maine on February 1. VIPR deployments are a joint operation conducted in partnership with TSA, APD, and other local partner law enforcement agencies to provide an increased visible deterrent to suspicious or criminal activity.

APD Participates in COBRA VIPR Operation

On June 10, Sergeant James Forsyth and Officer Conley Monk participated in a COBRA (Collaborative Operations Between Response Agencies) VIPR (Visible Inter-modal Prevention and Response) operation at the Bridgeport Conn. rail and ferry terminals.

COBRA security teams are a coalition of law enforcement and military organizations that serve as an effective quick response team in the event of an ongoing potential or impending threat to Connecticut transportation venues. In accordance with TSA Connecticut's COBRA initiative, partnering agencies participate in random and unpredictable visible security operations to deter potential terrorist activity at select locations and venues including several ferry and rail terminals.

The participating agencies in COBRA deployments regularly include: Amtrak and MTA Police departments, TSA employees from Connecticut and New York, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) law enforcement team, the Federal Air Marshals' New England VIPR team, the Federal Protective Service (FPS) police canine explosive detection teams, Naval Criminal Investigative services (NCIS), the Conn. and N.Y. National Guard Civil Support Teams (CST), the Connecticut State Police (CSP) Mass Transit Security Team (MTST), and the New York State Police.





APD Protects 30th Street Station During Protest

On Thursday, November 3, several hundred protesters gathered at 30th Street Station during rush hour, calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict. The group was loud, but peaceful.

As the protest evolved, individuals began to block entrances to several Amtrak gates. APD officers issued several warnings for the protesters to disperse, but they refused. APD and Philadelphia Police officers began arresting protesters who failed to follow the direction of officers and continued to block access.

By 9:30 p.m., the protest had mostly cleared the station, with approximately 120 arrests reported. Amtrak received great support from the Philadelphia Police Department, who helped APD ensure the safety of everyone involved.

APD Protects the President of the United States

On January 30, President Joseph Biden traveled to Baltimore, Md., to kick off a major project funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to replace the 150-year-old Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel. Amtrak Police Officers worked with partners from the U.S. Secret Service, MTA and Baltimore Police, and others to provide a safe and secure environment for President Biden's speech.



APD Provides Protection During Biden Visit to Bear Maintenance Facility

On November 6, CEO Stephen Gardner, President Roger Harris, Amtrak Board Chair Tony Coscia and members of our Executive Leadership Team joined President Joe Biden at the Bear Maintenance Facility for the announcement of grants awarded to Amtrak by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). USDOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg and FRA Administrator Amit Bose, federal and state officials, along with many Amtrak employees, were in attendance.

Chief Dotson and Officers from the Amtrak Police Department were on hand to provide protection for the President's visit which included the announcement of nearly \$10 billion in funding for Intercity Passenger Rail Program.



Special Events



APD Participates in Human Trafficking Awareness Events

On January 25, APD Communications Manager James Lewis was invited to attend a conference held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce titled, "Transportation Sector Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking."

During the conference, James participated in a panel discussion moderated by DHS Senior Advisor, Blue Campaign Thomas Ruck titled, "Promising Practices in Ground Transportation" along with representatives from Truckers Against Trafficking, Uber, and the National Coalition of Convenience Stores. Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.

Panel members answered questions regarding their approach to raising human trafficking awareness with employees and customers, the impact and importance of partnerships in their efforts, and the specifics of ongoing and future human trafficking awareness and prevention programs.

On January 26, James was invited to attend the Blue Lightning Initiative's (BLI) Combating Human Trafficking in Aviation Summit held at DHS headquarters in Washington, D.C. The summit featured subject matter expert presentations, partner representative panels, and a lived experience expert's perspective on best practices to combat the crime.

DOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking

On September 26, Communications Manager Jim Lewis presented on the Amtrak Police Department counter-trafficking efforts during the monthly meeting of the Department of Transportation's Internal Counter-Trafficking Steering Committee (ICTSC).

The ICTSC includes one or more representatives from each of DOT's Operating Administrations and covers all modes of transport. Afterwards, the modal Administration members of the Internal Counter-Trafficking Steering Committee shared their appreciation of a better understanding of the APD efforts to mitigate human trafficking in the railroad environment and that Jim was appointed to the Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking (ACHT) Policies and Partnerships Subcommittee by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Office of Aviation and International Affairs.

On October 3, the initial public meeting of the DOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking was held virtually. Jim Lewis and Senior Safety and Security Analyst Malik Barrymore were in attendance for the meeting. Jim and a group of representatives from DOT, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Truckers Against Trafficking, Port of Seattle, Michigan State Police, SEPTA, and others presented on various topics related to human trafficking mitigation efforts across the various forms of transportation. The meeting also covered the three subcommittees' descriptions, next steps, and the timeline for creating the next advisory committee report to be delivered to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg in 2024.



2022 Amtrak Police Department Officers of the Year Ceremony

On October 4, APD Officers and staff, family members and members of the Amtrak leadership team gathered at the National Law Enforcement Museum and Memorial in Washington, D.C. to recognize and celebrate the 2022 Divisional and Department Officer of the Year recipients.



New England Division Officer of the Year and Amtrak Police Department Officer of the Year - Investigator Alexandre Vilardo



In the realm of safeguarding Amtrak passengers and employees, certain individuals stand as exemplars of dedication and unwavering commitment. Investigator Alexandre Vilardo, a distinguished member of the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force in Providence, R.I., is a shining example of this dedication, actively combating one of our most pressing threats - narcotics transportation within our system.

Throughout the year of 2022, Investigator Vilardo demonstrated exceptional leadership, actively participating in numerous high-impact incidents that resulted in the apprehension of individuals involved in narcotics transport. His unwavering resolve and tireless efforts have significantly enhanced the safety of our Amtrak community.

A particularly noteworthy achievement took place in April 2022, when Investigator Vilardo played a pivotal role in the arrest of an individual in possession of heroin. This apprehension transcended immediate impact, as subsequent investigations revealed the suspect's connection to multiple overdoses in the Martha's Vineyard area. Investigator Vilardo's swift and decisive actions undoubtedly saved lives and fortified our community's safety.

The Amtrak Police Department recognizes Investigator Vilardo's exceptional service and profound contributions to the safety and security of Amtrak and extended our heartfelt congratulations and deepest appreciation for his



selfless service by recognizing him and the New England Division Officer of the Year. Investigator Alexandre Vilardo also received the highest honor by being selected as the 2023 Amtrak Police Department Officer of the Year.



New York Division Officer of the Year - Officer Takumi-Benjamin Morin



In 2022, Officer Takumi-Benjamin Morin was the recipient of four distinguished unit awards, and a lifesaving award, all of which involved Officer Morin working with his Amtrak Police teammates in pursuit of the common goal of providing exceptional service to our passengers and employees.

In one incident in May of 2022, Officer Morin and his partner were approached by an Amtrak foreman that had discovered a large amount of blood on a platform in New York Penn Station. Officer Morin and his partner followed a blood trail and located an individual suffering from a severe arterial bleed in his right hand. Officer Morin applied a tourniquet to the individual's upper right arm, stemming the flow of blood and preventing further blood loss. He also applied bandages and

wrapped the individual's right hand. He was instrumental in helping EMS crews take the individual to the hospital, saving his life.

In another incident in June of 2022, Officer Morin worked with his squad to rescue a female adult that had fallen onto the tracks in the station sustaining a significant head injury. Officer Morin and his team administered Narcan to the individual when they determined she was under the influence of a narcotic. Later in the year Officer Morin and his squad were instrumental in saving another individual's life who had overdosed on narcotics on board a New Jersey Transit Train, again by administering Narcan to revive the individual.

In addition to the medical cases, in 2022 Officer Morin was a key part of his team's efforts to locate and arrest a suspect that called in a bomb threat to New York Penn Station as well as the arrest of another individual suspected of stealing items from an employee's backpack within the station. Teamwork is a necessary component in law enforcement, and an Amtrak Core Value. For his efforts as part of the New York Division Team, Officer Takumi-Benjamin Morin was recognized as the New York Division Officer of the Year.

Central Division Officer of the Year - Investigator Michael MacDonald

Over the course of 2022, Investigator Michael MacDonald served as a shining example of the outstanding police work conducted every day by Amtrak Police Officers throughout the country.

Two incidents demonstrate Investigator MacDonald's commitment to excellence, and relentless follow through to ensure the protection of Amtrak customers and employees. In April of 2022, Investigator MacDonald's outstanding casework and follow-up resulted in significant criminal charges against an individual suspected of stealing multiple pieces of luggage from Amtrak passengers. After the individual's arrest by other APD personnel, Investigator MacDonald determined that the suspect was a convicted sex offender who was in violation of the terms of his registration, failing to register for over 10 years. Due in no small part to Investigator MacDonald's follow-up, the suspect was charged with failing to register as a sex offender (a class 3 felony), and theft of property.



On October 5, 2022, Investigator MacDonald arrested a pickpocket known to prey on victims throughout the Chicagoland area. Prior to the arrest, Investigator MacDonald had identified the offender on camera stealing a wallet from a patron in the food court of Chicago Union Station. Investigator MacDonald worked with multiple agencies to develop the identity of the suspect and to ascertain his whereabouts. As a result of his tireless work, Investigator MacDonald located and arrested the suspect resulting in Felony Theft from a Person charges. Investigator MacDonald later learned that the suspect had been arrested over 45 times for similar offenses.

During his distinguished career with the Amtrak Police Department Investigator MacDonald exemplified Amtrak's core values of doing the right thing, putting customers first, and excelling together. Investigator Michael MacDonald (retired), was recognized as the Central Division's Officer of the Year for 2022.

Western Division Officer of the Year - Officer Ronald Broussard



There is no greater reward in law enforcement than saving someone's life. On December 6, 2022, Officer Ronald Broussard encountered a woman in distress outside the in San Diego Amtrak Station. The individual told Officer Broussard that she wanted to walk in front of a train as a nearby trolley was fast approaching. Officer Broussard was able to verbally de-escalate the situation and establish a rapport with her while contacting the San Diego Police Department for assistance. His actions kept the individual from stepping onto the live tracks and in front of the trolley. The San Diego Police's Psychiatric Emergency Response Team arrived, and she was successfully taken away from the tracks and brought to a mental health services facility for evaluation and treatment.

On December 26, 2022, Officer Broussard was again confronted with a suicidal individual while working at the Solana Beach Station. An individual approached Officer Broussard and stated that he wanted to hurt himself by jumping in front of a train. Officer Broussard again was able to establish a friendly rapport and learned that the individual was feeling stressed and depressed due to recent personal losses. The individual was captured on Officer Broussard's body worn camera thanking him for being there and for helping him. The individual was transported to a mental health services facility for further evaluation. Officer Broussard directly saved the lives of two individuals in distress in 2022. For these reasons, Officer Broussard was named as the Western Division's Officer of the Year for 2022.

Mid-Atlantic North Division Officer of the Year - Officer Nazrudeen Rafman

Officer Nazrudeen Rafman joined the Amtrak Police Department in 2021, following a career with the Philadelphia Police Department. During 2022 Officer Rafman was involved in two incidents that demonstrated his diverse experience and professionalism as a police officer. In August of 2022, Officer Rafman was patrolling on the right-of-way in an area that had previously been targeted heavily by wire thieves. Officer Rafman observed an individual trespassing on Amtrak property who was stealing wire that controls the train signaling system. Officer Rafman successfully captured the individual, located a power saw used to cut the signal wire and recovered the stolen wire.



Later in November of 2022, Officer Rafman and his partner were dispatched to a call for an employee exhibiting signs of a personal crisis at the William H. Gray III 30th Street Station in Philadelphia, Pa. The employee had committed multiple operating policy violations and those close to him were concerned for his safety. Officer Rafman and his partner located the individual in an office space on the fifth floor and spent hours talking with the employee, establishing rapport, and gaining his trust. The officers determined that the individual was not exhibiting any signs of self-harm, or that he was a threat to others. They convinced the employee to return home and arranged a ride for him. Later that day, they contacted the employee again at his residence to ensure he was safe and okay. Officer Rafman and his partner displayed compassion and excelled together to ensure the safety of an Amtrak employee. Officer Nazrudeen Rafman's work during 2022 was exceptional, and for his efforts he was named as the Mid-Atlantic North Division Officer of the Year.

Mid-Atlantic South Division Officer of the Year - Investigator Juan Cardenas



During 2022, Investigator Juan Cardenas was involved in three significant incidents which were reflective of his reputation as an outstanding, and compassionate Police Officer.

In February of 2022, Investigator Cardenas and other APD personnel located a suicidal individual traveling on board Amtrak train 176. A friend had contacted APD stating that the individual had been contemplating suicide for months. Investigator Cardenas and his partner located the individual on the train, developed a rapport with him and convinced him to go to a hospital for treatment. On the way to the hospital the individual broke down and cried and thanked the officers for their compassion.

Washington Union Station. They quickly determined that the noise was a gunshot and that an individual had fired a round through the front doors of the station. A juvenile was located down the street from the station suffering from a gunshot wound to his foot. Two juveniles were located a short time later and found to be in possession of a loaded gun. Due in large part to Investigator Cardenas's efforts, both were charged with Assault with a Dangerous weapon, among other charges.

In September of 2022, Investigator Cardenas and his partner heard a loud bang inside the Main Hall of

Later in the fall of 2022, Investigator Cardenas encountered an Ecuadorian couple with a one-year-old son requesting assistance in finding a shelter for the night after arriving in Washington on a Greyhound bus. Investigator Cardenas was able to effectively communicate with the Spanish speaking couple and worked directly with an immigration outreach organization to find space in a shelter in Rockville, Md. Investigator Cardenas arranged for an Uber for the family, and waited with them to ensure they made it successfully to the shelter. Investigator Cardenas's actions are a perfect example of Amtrak's core value of "doing the right thing", always treating others as we would like to be treated.

Due to his outstanding work in 2022, Investigator Juan Cardenas was chosen as the Mid-Atlantic South Division's Officer of the Year.

National Communications Center Communications Officer of the Year - Communications Officer Victor Rodriguez

Dispatchers are the true unsung heroes of the Amtrak Police Department always working in the background to keep our officers, passengers, and employees safe. Communications Officer Victor Rodriguez is a 17-year member of the Amtrak Police Department and one of our most senior Communications Officers.

On January 5, 2022, Victor received a call from an individual contemplating suicide. Victor calmly and methodically communicated with the individual in a compassionate tone that displayed deep concern and care for the person's well-being. He was able to keep the subject on the phone long enough for APD to geolocate where the individual was calling from. Officers were then able to locate the individual and transport him to a medical facility where he received much needed assistance. Victor's actions directly resulted in the saving of a life and the most important reason he was



selected as the National Communications Center Officer of the Year. Victor is a 17-year member of the Amtrak Police Department and one of our most senior Communications Officers. His actions on January 5, 2022, are a fine example of living Amtrak's values of doing the right thing and excelling together.

Safety Initiatives



Operation Lifesaver Training in Clifton, Ill.

On February 23, Sergeant Douglas Balk provided Operation Lifesaver rail safety training to 54 students and four teachers during Driver's Education classes at Central High School in Clifton, Ill.

On March 13, Sergeant Douglas Balk provided Operation Lifesaver rail safety training to 24 students and one teacher during Driver's Education class at Bradley Bourbonnais High School in Ill.

Detective O'Connell Attends Transportation Day

On May 5, Detective Alissa O'Connell attended Transportation Day at the Early Learning Center in Selma-Smithfield, N.C. to speak about Amtrak and the part that rail travel plays in our nation's transportation system. Students at the school were studying all week about the different modes of transportation. Detective O'Connell spoke about trains and railroad safety and stressed to the students not to play on or near tracks. The Selma-Smithfield area was built around the railroad, with a historic Amtrak Station in Selma, N.C. which is still in operation today. Several Amtrak trains pass through the community and by the school every day.

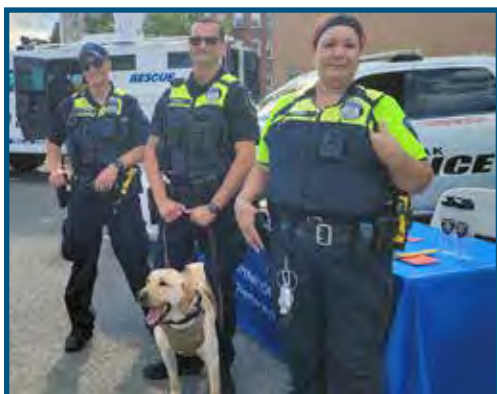


Grade Crossing Safety Enforcement Detail

On June 27, APD Sergeant Daniel Wharton and Officer Harry Stovall along with CSX Special Agents, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and Mobile Police Department members conducted a highway grade crossing safety detail in Mobile, Ala. The objective of the detail was to perform highway grade crossing signal enforcement at the highway crossing locations on the CSX NO&M Subdivision.

APD Participation in National Night Out

APD Officers participated in National Night Out events in various communities throughout the U.S. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.





Operation Clear Track

Operation Clear Track is the most extensive rail-safety law enforcement exercise conducted throughout North America. Its primary objective is to mitigate the occurrence of railway crossing and trespassing incidents that occur across both Canada and the United States. These unfortunate occurrences result in the tragic injury or loss of over 2,100 lives every year.

This significant undertaking was conducted on September 19, to coincide with Rail Safety Week, scheduled from September 18-24. Rail Safety Week includes many forms of community engagement to raise awareness about the importance of making safe choices near railroad tracks and at crossings.

Law enforcement agencies from Canada and the United States collaborate, pooling their resources and expertise to uphold and enforce railway crossing and trespassing laws. Beyond enforcement, Operation Clear Track emphasizes the importance of spreading rail safety awareness.

To achieve this, a multifaceted approach is used, including both virtual and face-to-face outreach activities. Amtrak Officers participate in direct engagement with the public to share rail safety information at railroad grade crossings and in stations, as well as placing an officer on a locomotive to conduct grade crossing compliance checks.

These outreach efforts are strategically designed to engage and educate individuals, including drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. The aim is to instill a sense of responsibility and vigilance, with the goal of reducing the frequency of rail-related accidents and preventing future tragedies.



Railroad Safety Presentation for the Boy Scouts in N.Y.

On October 28, Detective Curt Blizzard participated in a CSX lead Operation Lifesaver/Merit Badge event for the Erie County Region Boy Scouts. The event started with a rail safety presentation at the Niagara Falls Amtrak Station followed by a train ride on Amtrak Train 64.

During the trip, CSX SS Mike Johnson, FRA Inspector Steve Myers, and Detective Blizzard continued with the safety presentation and answered questions from the Scouts. After arriving at Depew, N.Y., the Scouts went to CSX's Frontier Yard for a tour of a freight locomotive. The next stop was the District Office of the Boy Scouts for the finale of the Operation Lifesaver presentation.



Specialized Training



Operation RAILS SAFE Partner Training

During 2023, Operation RAILS SAFE Partner Training was held in 13 cities across the United States. The training program strengthens coordination and integration between APD and partner agency members by sharing information regarding the proper response to incidents involving our trains.

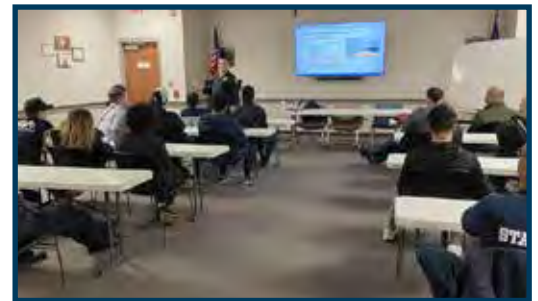
The goal of the program is to:

- Provide participating agencies, first responders and other Amtrak stakeholders with situational awareness and a better understanding of how to protect Amtrak’s passengers, employees, and critical infrastructure from acts of terrorism,
- Decrease Amtrak’s risk from and vulnerability to a potential attack by enhancing situational awareness of critical assets, establishing interoperability, sharing resources, and allowing for networking opportunities with like agencies, and
- Aid anti-terrorism efforts designed to protect the rail system and maximize resource planning and allocation, as well as establish and maintain critical relationships with partner agencies.



Emergency Response Personnel Training

On January 24, Sr. Emergency Manager Gary Hearn conducted the third in a series of follow-up training classes for emergency response personnel in West Windsor/Princeton Junction, N.J. Over 105 emergency responders have received this additional railroad emergency response follow-up training.



Tunnel Familiarization Training

On Saturdays in January, Sr. Emergency Manager Gary Hearn Gary Hearn, conducted familiarization training of the North River Tunnels for North Hudson Regional Fire-Rescue (NHRFR) at the Weehawken Tunnel Shaft, in Weehawken, N.J. NHRFR, along with the New York City Fire Department respond as part of our tunnel emergency response upon activation of our Emergency Action Plan for Penn Station and the New York Tunnel System, to help protect our employees and passengers when emergency incidents occur in the North River Tunnels. 83 NHRFR Chiefs, Officers and Firefighters received this training in January, with additional training to be scheduled.

APD Hosts Training in Portland, Oregon

On February 9, Amtrak Police hosted training in Portland, Ore., with 29 attendees from the FBI and Oregon State Police. A majority of the participants are assigned to the Evidence Response Team. The training received positive feedback. Amtrak employees that assisted with the training and orientation included Detective Steve Travers, Emergency Manager Kerinne Monaco-Hilliker, Road Foremen Jason Cox and Paul Parsons and Train Master Angela Zonfrello. Training topics included Passenger Train Emergency Response and Safety, Railroad Yard Safety and Hazards, Orientation of Train Equipment, and Evidence Response.



Multi-Agency Exercises Held in New York

To enhance security measures and ensure public safety, a two-day exercise recently took place in New York, providing training opportunities for various law enforcement agencies and stakeholders. This collaborative event focused on a tabletop exercise focused on a simulated active shooter incident at Sunnyside Yard, followed by a full-scale exercise at Moynihan Train Hall. The exercises brought together members from the Amtrak Police and Customer Service departments, the MTA Police Department, the New York State Police, the NYPD Bomb Squad, the New York Fire Department, Joint Task Force Empire Shield, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and various private sector partners that support security efforts at Moynihan Train Hall.

The tabletop exercise on May 9 lasted four hours and allowed participants to simulate and evaluate their response to a potential active shooter incident. It served as an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to strengthen their coordination, communication, and decision-making processes. By engaging in these simulations, the participating agencies can identify areas for improvement and develop strategies to enhance their collective response to such critical incidents.

Following the tabletop exercise, an overnight full-scale exercise at Moynihan Train Hall was conducted on May 10. This realistic, scenario-based exercise allowed the agencies involved to apply the lessons learned from the tabletop exercise in a practical setting.

By conducting drills in a lifelike environment, law enforcement officers could practice their tactical skills, coordination, and crisis management techniques. These exercises enabled the agencies to assess their operational readiness, identify any gaps in their procedures, and refine their response strategies accordingly.

Active participants in the exercise included Sergeants George Geron and David Morales-Leon, as well as Sr. Emergency Manager Gary Hearn. They were joined by Chief Sam Dotson, Assistant Chief Jim Cook, Deputy Chief Marty Conway, Inspector Ken Metz, Captain Robert Smith, and Director Rail Ops & Emergency Management Bob Giorgio. The presence of these experienced professionals underscored the significance of the exercise and highlighted the commitment of the Amtrak Police Department to ensuring the safety and security of the public.



Derailment Training Exercise

On May 25, Field Intelligence Officer Kevin Mawn attended a Derailment Training Exercise at Marine Corps Base Quantico. The event was hosted by the USMC and Prince William County Department of Emergency Management. The scenario for this exercise was that a Virginia Railway Express Train had struck a truck containing hazardous materials resulting in a mass casualty incident. The location of the "derailment" was on the Military base at a grade crossing a few hundred yards south of the Amtrak Quantico Station. Along with members of the NJTTF Rail and Pipeline group, Mawn was able to observe the drill and be updated on the resources available to APD if there is a similar incident in the area involving Amtrak. He observed the response and procedures of the Military on base as well as local Police, Fire and EMS.



APD/DHS/DOT Human Trafficking Awareness Training

On July 21, APD Human Trafficking Working Group members Sergeant Nick Ingram, Lead Criminal Data Analyst Bethany Tiernan and Communications Manager James Lewis joined counterparts from the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Transportation to deliver human trafficking awareness training to frontline employees in Washington, D.C.

Training content included identifying and reporting human trafficking, viewing the DHS Video: "Survivors of Human Trafficking", trends & modal success stories from APD and Nate Simon, Special Agent and National Program Manager, Homeland Security Investigations, and human trafficking rail-specific resources. The class members were engaged throughout the training, asked important questions, and took training materials back to their fellow employees to share what they had learned.



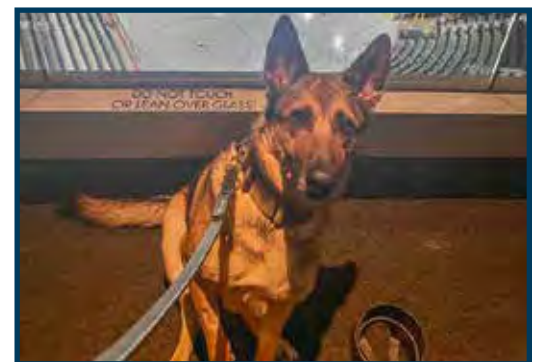
APD Staff Attend NS Awareness and Response Course

On July 27, Sr. Emergency Manager Gary Hearn and Director Rail Ops & Emergency Management Robert Giorgio attended the Norfolk Southern (NS) Railroad Operations Awareness and Response course hosted at their yard in Harrisburg, Pa. The purpose of the visit was to establish reliable communication between Amtrak and the NS Hazardous Materials technicians, to understand the type of chemicals involved and to assist leadership decision making when restoring passenger rail traffic through a derailment site. NS has built a freight trainset (NS Safety Train) that includes two classrooms, three tank cars and two flatbed cars with associated vales to simulate and control leaks. As a result of the East Palestine Ohio derailment, NS has expanded their outreach to local authorities and is planning to build a fixed training facility for first responders.



TSA-Sponsored K9 Training in Philadelphia

On September 14, TSA hosted a joint training exercise at the Wells Fargo Stadium in Philadelphia Pa., for fourteen teams who participated in a full day of K9 explosive detection training. K9 teams were exposed to multiple areas/environments to include stadium seating, large breezeways, suites, and train platforms. The training was highly informative and served as a great opportunity for Officers Chad Rockhill and Dan Moser to network with multiple agencies. Other participating agencies included NJ State Police, SEPTA and Philadelphia Police and Pittsburgh OSO (Pittsburgh International Airport).



APD/OIG Rail Tactics Training

On October 25-26 and November 1-2, members of the Training Unit provided Rail Tactics training to Special Agents from the Amtrak Office of Inspector General. One class was held in New York at Sunnyside Yard and the other was held in Chicago at the Lumber Street Yard. The training highlighted the existing partnership between APD and OIG and provided an opportunity to discuss tactics and best practices for law enforcement response to threats on board trains. The two-day event also included instruction from Senior Fire Safety Manager Gary Hearn, who provided an overview on railroad safety, train equipment, and emergency response to railroad incidents.



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