



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MPTC

Municipal Police Training Committee



IN-SERVICE 2026

The Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), an agency of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), serves the Commonwealth by establishing training standards, oversight, and policy guidance for policing professionals.

Overview

*"To bear on his back forever
The cruel strength of the crushing world
And the vault of the sky.
Upon his shoulders, the great pillar
That holds apart the earth and heaven,
A load not easy to bear."*¹

Such was the fate of Atlas, according to Greek mythology—to “carry the weight of the world” on his shoulders. The story symbolizes the heavy burden of responsibility and the constant struggle to maintain order. There are days when contemporary police officers can feel that “load not easy to be bear” as they face an array of challenges, all well documented in empirical research: cybercrime, critical incidents, recruitment and retention issues that leads to mandatory overtime, high levels of stress, fear of stigma or lack of trust in seeking help, negative media coverage, changing laws, empathy fatigue, burnout, on top of the grind of shiftwork and calls for service.

The 2026 In-Service theme is “**Frontline Decisiveness**.” The course offerings review not only the “nuts and bolts” content needed for officers to make decisions in real-time but also offer ample opportunities for discussion of “ripped from the headlines” scenarios, how they would handle it, evaluate the decision made, and then reflect on that experience. In short, the goal is to equip officers with the knowledge they need to help bear that load, maintain order, and do their jobs well. As one officer put it, “our laws are changing faster than we can keep up with, and both old and new laws we deal with on a daily basis deserve more discussion time.”² Thank you to the officers who answered the call for topics. This year's offering was assembled from their top survey choices and other statutory requirements.

Courses

Law & Procedure [3 hours]

*Authors: Sergeant Kevin Amaral, Brockton Police Department
Lieutenant Mark Baran, South Hadley Police Department
Steven Cromack, Ed.D., MPTC Curriculum & Instruction Specialist
Denise S. Flagg, MPTC Assistant Legal Counsel*

¹ Hamilton, E. (1969). *Mythology: Timeless tales of gods and heroes*. Warner Books.

² Officer 216. (2024). MPTC ACADIS In-Service Topic Request Survey.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Summarize the key legal standards for conducting seizures and searches, as well as their application to policing practices.
2. Analyze a BOP.
3. Explain the intersection between enforcement actions involving juveniles and the role officers play in protecting children.

Firearms Law Refresher [3 hours]

Authors: Jason Brennan, MPTC Firearms Statewide Coordinator

Judge Michael Fabbri (Ret.)

Denise S. Flagg, Assistant Legal Counsel, MPTC

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize new and updated language in definitions pertaining to firearms.
2. Explain who is eligible to obtain an LTC or FID and what a holder is authorized to do, as well as how to respond to:
 - a. expired LTCs/FIDs,
 - b. nonresident temporary LTCs,
 - c. suspended LTCs/FIDs.
3. Describe legal requirements for storing and transporting firearms in Massachusetts.
4. Recognize firearm registration and serialization requirements for firearms in Massachusetts.
5. Summarize relevant case law and updates to MGLs pertaining to firearms.

Crime Scene [3 hours]

Authors: Chief William Brooks, Norwood Police Department (Ret.)

Detective Lieutenant Robert Gallagher, Wellesley Police Department

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Richard, Massachusetts State Police (Ret.)

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to explain how to:

1. Safely and effectively gain control of the scene.
2. Manage available resources effectively.
3. Preserve evidence and secure the scene.
4. Document initial observations and actions correctly.
5. Avoid the “CSI effect,” which impacts investigation outcomes.
6. Conduct an effective canvas.

Police Response to Critical Incidents [3 hours]

*Authors: Chief Christopher Baker, Berkley Police Department
Steven Cromack, Ed.D., MPTC Curriculum & Instruction Specialist
Hannah Gianfriddo, MPTC Curriculum Specialist
Sergeant Paul Sicard, Westwood Police Department (Ret.)*

Learning Objectives

By the end of the class, participants will have participated in an exercise that develops the skills needed to:

1. Analyze a complex critical incident.
2. Determine flexible and adaptive courses of action.
3. Communicate clearly and effectively.
4. Evaluate the courses of action and reassess as appropriate.

Legal Update (Fulfills Legal Requirement) [6 hours]

Authors: Denise S. Flagg, MPTC Assistant Legal Counsel

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the latest changes in case law regarding the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments and general criminal and motor vehicle laws.
2. Evaluate and explain how to apply these changes to current policing practices.

Domestic Violence [3 hours]

Authors: Maura Landry, MPTC Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Human Trafficking Coordinator

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Review the legal precedents that shape the response to domestic violence.
2. Summarize trauma-informed officer response to, thorough investigation of, and documentation of domestic violence calls for service.
3. Assess risk to enhance the safety of those living in the home.
4. Evaluate why arresting the dominant aggressor upon probable cause is the preferred response to domestic violence.

SHIELD: Protecting Those Who Serve (Fulfills Officer Wellness Requirements) [3 hours]

*Authors: Jeremiah Goulka, Northeastern University School of Law
Sunnyou Kang, Northeastern University School of Law*

Learning Objectives

By the end of the three modules, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the effects of stress and burnout on officers' mental and physical health and wellness.
2. Identify signs and symptoms of problematic stress and burnout that officers should be aware of in themselves and their colleagues.
3. Select resources for Massachusetts officers to enhance their resilience or address mental health crises.
4. Discuss how overdose crisis response contributes to officer stress and burnout.
5. Discuss how accurate risk knowledge can reduce stress and burnout in overdose crisis response.
6. Apply best practices for reducing stress and improving safety in overdose crisis response.

7. Discuss how the cycle of addiction contributes to officer stress and burnout.
8. Identify the public safety and officer wellness benefits of task-shifting.
9. Identify opportunities and avenues for connecting individuals to treatment and other resources that support recovery.

Timeline

Instructor training for various classes will occur between **June and September 12, 2025**. In-person, In-Service classes at the academies will begin the week of **September 15, 2025**. The online offerings will be released as they become available.

In-service classes will run through May or June 2026, depending on the academy, and must be completed by June 30, 2026.

Delivery Option

Departments will be able to choose the following delivery methods of TY 2026 In-Service:

1. In-person (in-house or at an MPTC-operated academy)
2. Online through ACADIS
3. A hybrid of the two

More information and instructions regarding how departments can sign up for In-Service training are attached.

Officers assigned to the online versions of the training must complete it individually.

Delivery Sequence

Law & Procedure should be scheduled before Firearms, Crime Scene, Critical Incidents, and Domestic Violence. Ideally, it precedes Legal Update as well. MPTC recommends pairing the following classes together: Law and Procedure and Firearms, Crime Scene Investigation and Critical Incidents, Domestic Violence, and SHIELD Wellness Training.

Hours

Effective July 1, 2021, M.G.L. 6, § 116 reads in pertinent part that the MPTC Committee: "...shall identify training requirements and develop guidance for meeting those requirements through training provided by the committee or other independent educational entities."

550 CMR 2.07 requires all law enforcement officers to complete 40 hours of In-Service training annually. Based upon the topics approved by Committee vote, the required In-Service training courses for training year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) are:

Courses	Hours
Law & Procedure	Three (3) hours
Firearms Refresher	Three (3) hours
Crime Scene	Three (3) hours
Police Response to Critical Incidents	Three (3) hours
Domestic Violence	Three (3) hours
SHIELD: Protecting Those Who Serve (Officer Wellness)	Three (3) hours
Legal Update	Six (6) hours
Annual CPR/FA Requirement (M.G.L. c. 111, § 201)	Six (6) hours
Annual Firearms Requalification & Training	Eight (8) hours
Executing the Mission: Trauma Informed Policing [Online Only]	Two (2) hours
Total Hours:	Forty (40) hours

No more local option trainings must be completed. The Annual CPR Requirement, Firearms Requalification and Training, and the online Executing the Mission: Trauma-Informed Policing training are counted toward the 40 hours required by the CMRs.

All mandated In-Service training must be an MPTC-approved curriculum taught by MPTC-certified instructors. **Mandated courses taught by instructors who are not MPTC-certified when the class is taught will NOT get credit for the In-Service training requirements.**

Other Statutory Training Requirements

Annual Electronic Control Weapons (ECW) Requalification Requirement:

If officers carry a department-issued ECW, they are required to complete annual training. 501 CMR 8.06(2) requires that “all authorized officers who have completed the authorized training program pursuant to 501 CMR 8.06(1) must then complete an annual recertification training of no less than four hours consisting of:

- (a) A review of the authorized agency’s use of force policy and other policies and procedures related to electronic control weapons.
- (b) Updates regarding the electronic control weapon.
- (c) Testing to demonstrate knowledge of policies, protocols, use, and effects of electronic control weapons; and
- (d) A demonstration of proficiency with the electronic control weapon.

Instructor Training

All individuals wishing to instruct an In-Service class must become certified instructors in those topics. This includes departments that offer their own in-house In-Service training. **Any officer who attends an In-Service program not taught by an MPTC-certified instructor will not receive credit for the class.**

After completing the train-the-trainer class, those looking to teach the respective In-Service courses must apply for certification through ACADIS. **All MPTC In-Service instructors must have a minimum of five (5) years of law enforcement experience, OR, on rare occasions, a waiver from the Instruction Certification and Development Manager, and must be up to date on all prior in-service. Post-disciplinary records require additional approval from the chief of training.**

Additionally, when applying for instructor certification for In-Service classes, instructors must have completed either the 3-Day Academic Instructor Development or the 6-Day Instructor Development courses. The following topics have additional certification requirements beyond those stated above:

In-Service Course	Prerequisites:
Firearms Refresher	Firearms Instructor Certification or Significant Firearms Experience approved by Instructor Certification and Development Division
Crime Scene	Rank of Detective or Supervisor
Police Response to Critical Incidents	Supervisor

Information about becoming an MPTC-certified instructor is available on our website: <https://www.mass.gov/mptc-instructor-webpage>.

Any instructor who wishes to teach and get paid by the MPTC must also complete a state [contract application](#).

Recent Academy Graduates

Any officer graduating from a full-time recruit academy between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, is NOT required to complete training year 2026 In-Service.

Additional Questions

For any additional questions, please get in touch with your regional academy's program coordinator:

<i>Academy</i>	<i>Program Coordinator</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>Boylston/Marlborough</i>	Shannon Carney	shannon.e.carney@mass.gov
<i>East Falmouth</i>	Katie Varley	katie.a.varley@mass.gov
<i>Fall River</i>	George McNeil	george.m.mcneil2@mass.gov
<i>Haverhill (NECC)</i>	Laura Nichols	laura.nichols@mass.gov
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<i>Lynnfield</i>	Kevin Donnelly	kevin.m.donnelly@mass.gov
<i>Plymouth</i>	Joanne Heres	joanne.heres@mass.gov
<i>Randolph</i>	Lisa Ann Reich	lisaann.reich@mass.gov
<i>Milford</i>	Maura Landry	maura.m.landry@mass.gov