



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MPTC

Municipal Police Training Committee



TheDigitalBeat.exe

2027

IN-SERVICE SYLLABUS

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

In the U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Riley v. California* (2014)—a cell phone case—Chief Justice John Roberts observed that cell phones “are now such a pervasive and insistent part of daily life that the proverbial visitor from Mars might conclude they were an important feature of human anatomy.”¹

The 2027 In-Service theme, **TheDigitalBeat.exe**, reflects the reality that today’s officers patrol two beats: physical and digital. This year’s courses examine artificial intelligence and social media applications and their influence on criminal behavior and procedure. Also covered are sources of digital evidence, best practices for searching and seizing that evidence, as well as legal and ethical considerations. The offerings also review incident planning and response, along with refreshers on de-escalation, use of force, and key legal updates that shape policing practices used on the physical beat. The goal is to equip officers with additional tools for their “proverbial” belts as they navigate both beats.

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

AI & Policing [3 hours]

*Authors: Thomas Karns, MPTC Veteran Training Division Manager
Chief Reuben Quesada, Swampscott Police Department
Sergeant Brendan Reen, Swampscott Police Department
Deputy Chief Matt Shedden, Bunker Hill Community College Police Department*

Learning Objectives

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

1. Define artificial intelligence and its components.
2. Evaluate how artificial intelligence can be utilized by law enforcement and perpetrators.
3. Recognize behavioral and technical indicators that suggest AI may be involved in a crime or criminal communication.
4. Assess legal and ethical considerations when using artificial intelligence.

¹ *Riley v. California*, 573 U.S. 373, 385 (2014).

Digital Investigations [3 hours]

*Authors: Trooper Owen Boyle, MSP Cyber Crime Unit
Sergeant Matthew Daigle, MSP Cyber Crime Unit
Christopher Kelly, Director, Digital Evidence Laboratory, Office of the AG
Detective Sergeant Sergey Vasilyev, Harvard University Police Department*

Learning Objectives

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

1. Identify the possible sources of digital evidence, the types of data they contain, and proper report documentation.
2. Explain how to properly search, seize, and preserve digital evidence.
3. Evaluate case law on digital evidence searches and seizures to determine what investigative actions by officers are lawful.
4. Review investigative resources, points of contact, and further training.

Use of Force & De-Escalation [3 hours]

*Authors: Officer Cameron Deane, Cambridge Police Department
Officer Charles DiChiara (Ret.), MPTC Defensive Tactics Statewide Coordinator
Denise S. Flagg, MPTC Assistant Legal Counsel
Officer Benjamin Katz, Boston Police Department Police Department*

Learning Objectives

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

1. Review the new model use of force policy as well as its definitions.
2. Analyze a non-deadly use of force incident to determine whether the de-escalation tactics used were feasible.
3. Determine when to implement tactical and verbal de-escalation skills based on situational cues.
4. Analyze a deadly use of force incident to determine whether the de-escalation tactics used were feasible as well as whether the force was objectively reasonable.
5. Identify best practices to utilize when writing a report that includes a use of force incident.

ICS for Incidents & Events [6 hours]

*Authors: Lieutenant Jason Brennan, MPTC Firearms Statewide Coordinator
Deputy Chief Ian Cyr, UMass Amherst Police Department
Sergeant Richard Holcroft, MPTC ALERRT Level 1 Statewide Coordinator
Lieutenant Steven Luck, Swampscott Police Department
Chief Eric Shears, MPTC AAIR Program Statewide Coordinator*

Learning Objectives

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

1. Analyze the steps law enforcement should take to stabilize an evolving incident:
 - A. Communicate the situation
 - B. Determine resources
 - C. Prioritize necessary objectives
2. Summarize how to establish a proactive command structure that controls resource convergence and prioritizes critical tasks needed for operational success.
3. Assess incident conditions, determine when a cold zone unified command post is required, and identify the key components necessary for its effective operation.
4. Evaluate the importance of an operations plan and review its components.

Legal Update [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, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments and general criminal and motor vehicle laws.
2. Evaluate and explain how to apply these changes to current policing practices.

Controlled Substances Refresher [3 hours]

*Authors: Chief Peter Buck, MPTC Drug Recognition Expert Statewide Coordinator
Detective Lieutenant Steven Hean, Massachusetts State Police
Detective Antoine Ramos, Boston Police Department
Officer Kwin Silva, Fall River Police Department*

Learning Objectives

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

1. Compare and contrast the following types of controlled substances, their impact on the central nervous system, and general indicators of usage:
 - a. CNS Depressants
 - b. CNS Stimulants
 - c. Hallucinogens
 - d. Dissociative Anesthetics
 - e. Narcotic Analgesics
 - f. Inhalants
 - g. Cannabis
2. Analyze observable characteristics of drug culture to assist law enforcement in controlled substances investigations.
3. Evaluate the legal standards and requirements needed for enforcement action.

Timeline

Instructor training for the various classes will occur between **July 14 and September 11, 2026**. In-person, In-Service classes at the academies will begin the week of **September 14, 2026**. The online offerings will be released by **October 13, 2026**.

In-service classes will run through May or June 2027, depending on the academy, and must be completed by June 30, 2027.

Delivery Option

Departments will be able to choose the following delivery methods of TY 2027 In-Service:

1. In-person (in-house or at an MPTC-operated academy)
2. Online through ACADIS

3. A hybrid of the two

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

Departments will have until July 1, 2027, to enter department run in-service training into ACADIS on the portal.

Delivery Sequence

Courses may be scheduled or assigned in any order.

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 trainings provided by the committee or other independent educational entities."

550 CMR 3.07 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 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) are:

Courses	Hours
AI & Policing	Three (3) hours
Controlled Substances Refresher	Three (3) hours
De-Escalation & Use of Force	Three (3) hours
Digital Investigations	Three (3) hours
ICS for Incidents & Events	Six (6) 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
The Weight of the Badge: Officer Wellness [Online Only]	Two (2) hours
Total Hours:	Forty (40) hours

All mandated In-Service training must follow an MPTC-approved curriculum and be taught by MPTC-certified instructors. Mandated courses taught by instructors who are not MPTC-certified at the time of instruction will NOT fulfill 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 "[a]ll authorized officers who have successfully 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 those who wish to instruct any In-Service class must be certified instructors. 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.**

New Instructor Certification Process

The MPTC will be piloting our new automatic instructor certification process with the TY27 in-service train-the-trainer classes. You **MUST** complete the 3-day Instructor Development Course prior to enrolling in the train-the-trainer class. After completing the train-the-trainer class,

ACADIS will automatically certify you in that discipline. You will no longer be required to apply for the certification. **All MPTC In-Service instructors must have a minimum of five (5) years enforcement experience waiver from the Instructor Certification and Development Manager.**

Waiver Webform in ACADIS
(See Right)

TY27 In-Service Train-the-Trainer Waiver

Instructors seeking a waiver must complete the TY27 In-Service Train-the-Trainer Waiver WebForm available in the [Acadis Training Portal](#).

Resources

- Resources Overview
- Printable Resources
- Document Library
- Webforms

STEP 1: Log in to the MPTC Acadis Training Portal at <https://mptc-portal.acadisonline.com/acadisviewer/login.aspx>.

STEP 2: Select the TY27 In-Service Train-the-Trainer Waiver

STEP 3: Choose the applicable discipline waiver

Discipline

Select an option...

- Artificial Intelligence & Policing
- Controlled Substances Refresher
- De-escalation & Use of Force
- Legal Updates
- Digital Investigations
- ICS for Incidents & Events

Description of Background as applied to subject matter

After completing the form, click on the "Submit" button.

Submit

STEP 4: The ICAD Division Manager, will review your request and notify you via the portal of the outcome - approved, denied, or pending additional information.

certify
will no
for the

have a
of law
OR a

The following is required to become a certified instructor:

In-Service Course	Prerequisites:
Artificial Intelligence & Policing	3-Day Academic Instructor Development
CPR/First Aid	Current CPR/FA Instructor or 3-Day Tactical Instructor Development and 5-Day CPR/FA instructor course
Controlled Substances Refresher	3-Day Academic Instructor Development
De-Escalation & Use of Force	Defensive Tactics Instructor Certification Firearms Instructor Certification
Digital Investigations	3-Day Academic Instructor Development
Firearms Requalification & Skills	Current Firearms Instructor or 3-Day Tactical Instructor Development and respective firearms instructor course
ICS for Incidents & Events	3-Day Academic Instructor Development
Legal Updates	3-Day Academic Instructor Development

* The Weight of the Badge: Officer Wellness is offered online only.

3-Day Instructor Development Course Schedule

TY26

Type of Course:	Dates:	Hours:	Location:
Academic	June 9, 10, 11, 2026	4:30pm - 11:30pm	Lynnfield
Tactical	June 10, 11, 12, 2026	9:00am - 5:00pm	E. Falmouth
Academic	June 29-July 1, 2026	4:00pm - 11:30pm	Milford

TY27

Type of Course:	Dates:	Hours:	Location:
Academic	July 13, 14, 15, 2027	8:00am - 4:00pm	Holyoke
Tactical	July 15, 16, 17, 2026	9:00am - 5:00pm	Randolph
Tactical	August 3, 4, 5, 2026	9:00am - 5:00pm	Marlborough
Academic	August 19, 20, 21, 2026	8:00am - 4:00pm	Plymouth
Academic	September 14, 15, 16, 2026	8:00am - 4:00pm	E. Falmouth
Tactical	September 16, 2026	9:00am - 5:00pm	Holyoke

TY27 In-Service Train-the-Trainer Schedule

Class / Location:	Holyoke	Lynnfield	Marlborough	Plymouth	Randolph
Artificial Intelligence & Policing	7/22, 8:30-12:30 pm	7/14, 8:30-12:30 pm	7/28, 8:30-12:30 pm	8/18, 8:30-12:30 pm	8/11, 8:30-12:30 pm
Controlled Substances Refresher	7/21, 8:30-12:30 pm	7/27, 8:30-12:30 pm	7/29, 8:30-12:30 pm	8/31, 8:30-12:30 pm	9/2, 8:30-12:30 pm
De-Escalation & Use of Force	7/29, 8:30-12:30 pm	8/6, 8:30-12:30 pm	8/26, 8:30-12:30 pm	8/11, 8:30-12:30 pm	8/18, 8:30-12:30 pm
Digital Investigations	8/19, 8:30-12:30 am	9/4 8:30-12:30 pm	8/6 11:30-3:30 pm	7/20 8:30-12:30 pm	7/15, 11:30-3:30 pm
ICS for Incidents & Events	7/15, 8:30-3:30 pm	7/31, 8:30-3:30 pm	8/18, 8:30-3:30 pm	9/2, 8:30-3:30 pm	8/27, 8:30-3:30 pm
Legal Updates	7/28 8:30-3:30 pm	8/4 8:30-3:30 pm	8/25 8:30-3:30 pm	8/12 8:30-3:30 pm	8/20 8:30-3:30 pm

All train-the-trainer sessions consist of 4-hour instruction blocks, except for Legal Updates and ICS for Incidents & Events, which are full-day, 6-hour segments. Registration on ACADIS will open soon. Attending the train-the-trainer satisfies your in-service requirement for that specific course.

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 contact the program coordinator in the academy and express interest in teaching. Once that program coordinator schedules an instructor to teach, the program coordinator will work with Human Resources to start the state contract process.

Recent Academy Graduates

Any officer graduating from a full-time recruit academy between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, is NOT required to complete training year 2027 In-Service.

Additional Questions

For any additional questions, please contact your regional academy's program coordinator:

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