

# *University Police Annual Report 2007*



*"The Campus Community  
and Police  
Working in Partnership"*



## **From the Chief of Police Georgia Lindley**



Mississippi State University is a community of more than 16,000 people on a beautiful campus in Oktibbeha County. Living and working in a tranquil environment such as Mississippi State sometimes causes us to forget that crime and other problems can plague us, just as they do other communities. The purpose of this report is to give you the information you need to stay safe while at the University.

The Mississippi State University Police Department works with you, the campus community to create a safe learning and living environment. Crime prevention, risk identification, and problem solving are the responsibilities of everyone.

Our efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment rely on our collaborative relationships with the many communities that make up the University. We believe that through partnership and problem solving, we can ensure that MSU remains one of the safest universities in the nation. We are committed to the philosophy of community policing and problem solving.

We hope that you find this report informative and helpful, and that your stay at MSU will be both pleasant and safe. If you have questions or would like further information about safety at MSU, please visit us at [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu) or contact us at 662-325-2121.

## **The Campus Security Act, Legal Requirements**

The Campus Security Act requires colleges and universities to:

- publish an annual report every year by October 1 that contains three years of campus crime statistics and certain campus security policy statements;
- disclose crime statistics for campus, public areas immediately adjacent to or running through the campus, and certain non-campus facilities and remote classrooms. The statistics must be gathered from campus police, local law enforcement, and other University officials who have "significant responsibility for student and campus activities";
- provide "timely warning" notices of those crimes that have occurred and pose an ongoing "threat to students and employees"; and
- disclose in a public crime log "any crime that occurred on campus ... or within the patrol jurisdiction of the campus police or the campus security department and is reported to the campus police or security department."

The Mississippi State University Police Department is responsible for preparing and making this report available for review. We work with other departments and agencies, such as the Office of the Dean of Students, Starkville Police Department, and the Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Department to compile the information.

This report is available on our web-site or you may contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator at 662-325-9149 to obtain a copy.

## **The Mississippi State University Police Department**

Located in the Williams Building adjacent to Davis Wade Stadium, the MSU Police Department is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The department consists of professional campus police officers dedicated to providing *best - in - class* service to the community. All of the police officers have completed State

of Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer training and are Certified Law Enforcement Officers in the State of Mississippi.

Officers patrol the campus on foot, by bicycle, and in vehicles. The Communications Bureau is staffed with trained dispatchers who answer calls for service, dispatch officers and other emergency services to incidents, and monitor intrusion detection and fire alarms. The department also employs carefully selected and trained students who carry out a variety of roles, including operating escorts and residence hall security patrols.

***Police Accreditation:*** In 2005, your MSU Police Department obtained national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). This coveted award validates the professionalism, excellence, and competence of the MSU Police Department and places us among the best of the best in law enforcement. MSU Police became the first University in Mississippi and the third police department in the State to attain this award.

### **Our Mission and Values**

The Police Department is a student-centered team of caring professionals. Our mission is to assist in enhancing the total educational development of students, to provide law enforcement services for the university community, and to promote the development of healthy lifestyles. Our services support and strengthen the mission of Mississippi State University.

Strategic goals are built on values intrinsic to the Mississippi State University Police Department.

#### ***Constitutional Principles***

- We guarantee fair and equal treatment to all people.
- We actively protect individual freedoms and carefully enforce the law.

#### ***Ethical and Professional Excellence***

- We demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
- We believe in and practice teamwork.
- We strive to be the best at what we do.
- Police and Community Partnership
- We involve the campus community in police services that impact the quality of life on campus.
- We are dedicated to working with our community to identify and resolve problems.
- We deliver police services that best reinforce the strengths of the campus community.
- We are open and honest with the public.

Campus police officers derive their law enforcement authority from Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated - Chapter 37, and all MSU Police Officers attend and are required to successfully complete a police training course from an approved training academy. Peace Officer Certification is granted by the State of Mississippi Peace Officers Standards and Training. All officers must successfully complete an eleven week post-academy field training program.

The Mississippi State University Police Department works closely with the Starkville Police and Oktibbeha County Sheriffs departments, as well as the Oktibbeha County

District Attorney's Office. In addition to sharing critical information, the MSU Police Department has immediate contact with the Oktibbeha County 911 Center. This arrangement gives us immediate access to mutual aid and support in various events and situations.

### **Crime Prevention Education and Awareness**

Crime prevention is a top priority of the MSU Police Department. Together with other campus offices, the department provides programs to contribute to a healthy educational environment.

The campus's crime -prevention strategy rests on a multilayered foundation of proactive patrol of the campus, crime prevention education and training, buildings and landscape, and property registration efforts. This approach relies on the dual concepts of eliminating or minimizing criminal opportunities, whenever possible, and encouraging the campus community to take responsibility of their own and other's safety.

### **Library Patrol and Escort**

If you must travel alone at night from the library, the campus Library Patrol provides a safe escort to do so. Student volunteers who are carefully screened and receive training in the use of the police radio, are available during the evening hours to assist. These Patrol volunteers are recognizable by the reflective vests they wear.

**Library Patrol and Escorts for 2007: 632 escorts**

### **Residence Hall Security Program**

The Residence Hall Security Program is a program which utilizes trained student volunteers in and around the campus residence halls. Residence Hall Security personnel are deployed Sunday through Saturday between 6:00 pm and 2:00 am. The use of this resource provided patrol officers more time to address areas of concern and the high visibility of the Residence Hall Security personnel reduces the criminal activity opportunities in these parking lots. The Residence Hall Security program is directed by and supervised by the Crime Prevention Coordinator - Master Police Officer Marcelo Mango.

### **Residence Hall Security Activity - January 2007 - December 2007**

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Count of Incident</b>
Suspicious people/activities	19
Dome lights on in cars	751
Door/Trunk Open Vehicle	27
Escorts	332
Lights On	81
Miscellaneous	139
Open doors, Building	63
Open window, Car	370

### **Protecting Our Campus Community**

In 2007, MSU Police officers partnered with the campus community on impacting the quality of life on campus by interacting with parents and students during orientation,

presenting educational presentations on alcohol and drug abuse, in conjunction with the Student Health Center, and providing various other presentations to residence halls and other groups and organizations on campus.

### **The Campus Community and Police Partnership**

Regularly interacting with the campus community and seeking input to identify problems and concerns continue to be an ongoing priority of the Mississippi State University Police Department. In fact, various members of the Department attended numerous camps and community meetings and served on various committees throughout the University. To provide a safe and secure environment, efforts included:

- The MSU Police Department responded to **27,280** calls for service in 2007.
- Officers established closer relationships with students by collaborating with Directors, Assistants, and residents of the various residence halls and Greek organizations on campus. This was achieved by regular interaction with students and officers being available to residents and students on a frequent basis,
- Officers assigned to bicycle patrol focused on high profile, proactive response to areas of high vehicular and pedestrian traffic congestion,
- The portable Speed Trailer was deployed in areas identified as problems areas, either by the amount of vehicular traffic or pedestrian safety concerns.

### ***Continued Improvement***

Mississippi State University Police Officers strive to continually provide the highest quality services possible for the campus community. As a part of this effort, the department seeks out high caliber training opportunities to enhance the knowledge and skills of all department personnel.

During 2007, MSU Police Officers attended numerous continuing training seminars. This training included physical fitness assessments, Drug Recognition and Enforcement, Firearms Proficiency, Officer Safety Techniques, Crowd Control and other issues related to continued professionalism. Many of the training hours were "Muster" or "Roll Call" Training, which is squad based training on pertinent topics, lasting approximately fifteen minutes in duration, and covering issues that would immediately effect officer safety and delivery of police services. Topics addressed and discussed during these "Roll Call" sessions included Departmental General Orders, Close Patrol Tactics and Locations, Bias Based Profiling, CPR, and First Aid, as well as other current legal and operational topics. Continuing training and the development of certified instructors within the MSU Police Department is a continuing priority.

### **Administrative Investigations Summary - 2007**

The purpose of conducting a thorough investigation of complaints is to improve and maintain both personal and departmental integrity, accountability and quality of service to the University community. Through a formal process of review, citizen confidence and trust is preserved which establishes and maintains open communications in the University community. All complaints directed against MSUPD, its employees or practices are promptly investigated. MSUPD will accept written, e-mail, FAX and/or verbal complaints.

During 2007 there were a total of **3** Internal Investigations. The types of investigations were as follows:

- Administrative Investigations (Internal Complaints) - **2**
  - Orders and Directives - Sustained
  - Unbecoming Conduct - Sustained
  
- Citizen Complaints - **1**
  - Courtesy - Sustained

### **Setting Goals Helps the Department Maintain Standards, Community Focus**

In an effort to maintain its high professional standards and quality of work, the MSU Police Department is committed to the following goals:

- **Community Safety** - Ensure the physical well-being, security of personal property and sense of safety among students, faculty and staff, and visitors.
- **Creating Partnerships** - Develop partnerships with student associations, staff organizations, and create collaborative relationships with other community organizations to enhance the quality of life for the MSU campus and surrounding community.

### **AWARDS and HONORS**

The MSU Police Department is pleased to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of its employees who received various awards and honors in 2007 for their ongoing efforts in providing the best possible service to our community.

- Support Staff Employee of the Year - Division of Student Affairs: Donald Bartlett
- Working Group of the Year- Division of Student Affairs: Special Assignments Unit

### **A LOOK AT THE UNIVERSITY POLICE ACTIVITY IN 2007**

The following information reflects reported incidents and offenses for the months of January through December of 2007.

#### **Departmental Statistics:**

- Total Calls for Service - 2007: **27,280**
- Criminal Incidents (all types): **301**
- Campus Citations Issued - includes Parking Cites: **1029**
- Justice Court Citations Issued - Traffic Violations: **394**
- Traffic Accidents Investigated/ roadway and parking lots: **249**

#### **Radar Trailer Deployment:**

- Hours Deployed: **5640**
- Follow-up Hours (actual Radar Officer): **58**
- Citations Issued: **15**
- Warnings Issued: **17**

#### **Bicycle Patrol Hours** (all shifts) 2007:

- 405 hours

### Summary of Statistics:

- Criminal Incidents Reported by month:

January	21	July	18
February	32	August	41
March	16	September	23
April	32	October	37
May	19	November	34
June	16	December	12

- Total Reports : 301

\*\* No specific crime trends or patterns were identified. Burglary from Vehicles increased in the month of October.

### Analysis:

All activity reported was evenly distributed across the campus with no one location having a higher incident than another. Residence halls accounted for the most calls for service, which is to be expected due to the number of students residing on campus.

Burglary from Vehicles increased from 2006 reported incidents. The number of vehicles on campus has increased, but the number of incidents would suggest that additional checks of the parking lots be conducted during all shifts.

Reported incidents of Domestic Violence did increase from three (3) reported incidents in the first six months to five (5) reports in the last six month period. It is difficult to forecast the frequency of such incidents, but an increase can be in part to the increased number of married students and increased public awareness and education regarding domestic violence. MSU Police will partner with campus and community resources to continue a pro-active approach to decreasing the incidents of domestic violence.

### Traffic Issues

#### Summary of Traffic Collisions by Month (2007)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Incident</u>
Jan	17
Feb	24
Mar	26
Apr	26
May	15
Jun	11
Jul	6
Aug	24
Sep	33
Oct	27
Nov	30
Dec	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>

The total number of reported collisions in 2007 increased slightly from 2006 (244 collisions) which can be attributed to the increased number of students enrolled at the University for the 2007 academic year. Increased enforcement efforts and the identification of problem or high traffic volume areas will be established for the 2008-09 academic year.

Roadway Collisions were most common on Mondays between 0600 and 1200 hours. No specific location was identified as being the most hazardous during 2007.

The overall analysis of this data indicates that the campus in general has more traffic collisions on the roadways and in miscellaneous parking lots between the hours of 0600 and 1600 hours, Monday and Tuesday. More collisions are reported in parking lots than on roadways, which is relative to the amount of vehicular traffic concentrated in the various parking lots across campus.

No Vehicle - pedestrian collisions were reported.

No University Police vehicles were involved in collisions.

Construction in various locations of campus continues. This presents a unique situation as motorists and pedestrians found a higher concentration of traffic due to relocation, and in some incidents, the removal of roadways. This resulted in higher than usual traffic in areas of campus that had not experienced such in the past years. Construction is scheduled to continue throughout 2008 and the MSU Police Department will continue to address all areas which would require enforcement activity. Continuing to address the traffic collision issue by deploying the Speed Scout Radar Trailer in risk areas will be increased. The goal being to educate motorists to the speed limits on campus. Enforcement follow-up in these areas is conducted to ensure a safe campus environment. Uniform officers are being made aware of the areas and times which sustain the most collisions, and will be highly visible in these locations as their workload allows.

<b>Incidents and Offenses Known to Police</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Arson	0	1	0
Assault Offenses	27	17	30
Aggravated	1	0	4
Simple	26	16	26
Intimidation	0	1	0
Bomb Threat	0	0	0
Bombs	0	0	0
Burglar Alarms	46	271	268
Burglary	9	8	12
Forcible	0	1	3
Non-Forcible	9	7	7
Unauthorized Entry	0	0	2
Disorderly Conduct	11	6	3
Drug & Narcotic Offenses	10	7	13
DUI	14	14	11
Embezzlement	2	2	0
Forgery	2	0	2
Fraud Offenses	6	5	14
False Pretense	5	5	11
Credit Card/ATM	1	0	3
Harassing Phone Calls	10	11	11
Gambling Offenses	0	0	0
Kidnapping/ Abduction	0	0	0
Larceny/Theft Offenses	132	140	140
From Building	62	55	57
From Coin-Op Machines	1	0	0
From Vehicle	38	41	18
Vehicle Accessories	2	12	8
All Other Larceny	24	32	56
Liquor Law Violations	11	32	4
Malicious Mischief	48	47	45
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	3	7
Murder	0	0	0
Public Drunk	22	20	29
Receiving Stolen Property	1	1	2
Robbery	2	0	0
Sex Offenses	6	3	6
Battery	3	2	3
Indecent Exposure	1	1	3
Obscene Phone Calls	1	0	0
Peeping Tom	0	0	0
Rape	1	0	0
Stalking	6	0	4
Suicide	2	2	2
Trespassing	1	1	6

Weapons Violations	1	3	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	370	594	615