

Portland Police Department Specialty Teams and Other Opportunities

The Portland Police Department fields a number of specialty teams. Officers are assigned to these teams in addition to their other duties as patrol officers and detectives and they receive specialized training to handle unusual occurrences or circumstances that go beyond general patrol functions.

SPECIALTY TEAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT



SPECIAL REACTION TEAM

The highly-trained and specially-equipped members of the SRT are tasked with responding to incidents that exceed the capabilities of standard patrol resources while minimizing the risk of harm to citizens, police officers and suspects. Such situations may include service of high risk search or arrest warrants, armed barricaded subjects, hostage rescue or apprehension of dangerous suspects. Although members are in top physical condition and trained to use a variety of weapons, the SRT strives to achieve a peaceful and safe resolution to every crisis.



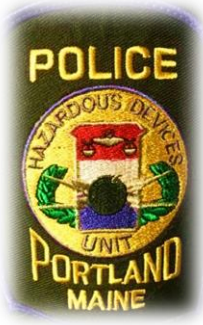
CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

The Portland Maine Police Department's Crisis Negotiators Team consists of highly trained officers who work closely with the Special Reaction Team and are a key element in the department's efforts for peaceful and safe resolutions. Negotiators seek to establish rapport and trust through dialogue and build trust with those in crisis. Negotiators respond to suicidal individuals, domestic crises, high risk search warrants, and barricaded suspects.



CANINE UNIT

The Portland Police Department currently utilizes six K-9 teams; each team is comprised of an officer and trained dog who respond to a multitude of circumstances. The dogs and officers go through a long training process together, and the department only utilizes "positive" training methods, often using toys as the incentive. Three teams are trained to conduct patrol functions such as search for lost people, detect narcotics and assist in suspect apprehension. They are important tools in crime suppression and are on-call together 24 hours a day. The other three K-9 teams are trained in explosives detection and do much of their work at the Portland Jetport.



HAZARDOUS DEVICE UNIT

One of just three FBI accredited bomb teams in the State of Maine, the Portland Police Hazardous Devices Unit is comprised of certified bomb technicians who are trained to remove or render safe suspected explosive materials, improvised explosive devices (IED's), incendiary devices and ordinance. All technicians complete a rigorous six-week training program at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama prior to certification. With equipment and training funded almost entirely by federal grants, the HDU is a valuable resource in the City as well as the surrounding area.



DIVE TEAM

Portland Police Divers conduct underwater search and recovery operations in Portland Harbor as well as nearby ponds and rivers. Generally divers are called upon to search for and recover physical evidence such as weapons, stolen property and vehicles used during the commission of a crime; occasionally they search for bodies. They typically operate under difficult conditions: cold water and low to zero visibility and must undergo intense training to meet the challenges of their assignment.

OTHER OPPORTUNITES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

CRIME REDUCTION UNIT

The Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) targets emerging trends such as robberies, residential or motor vehicle burglary sprees, and street level drug trafficking. The unit was designed to be agile and responsive to patterns established through the department's Compstat system. CRU members also conduct bail checks, investigate crime tips, and work closely with detectives to identify and arrest suspects. Officers in this unit typically wear civilian clothes and operate unmarked vehicles. This is a fast paced unit.

HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit consisting of members from across the department who honor the fallen and proudly represent the Police Department. Honor Guard member's duties include: providing honors at funerals for law enforcement and their family members, as well as posting and presenting the national and state colors at a number of events (including sporting events, ceremonial events, funerals, and parades).

FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS

Field Training Officers are selected through a rigorous process that identifies highly skilled patrol officers who agree to teach new officers how to apply the knowledge and skills learned at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.