

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

Action Information

MEAD Number:
201697

Resolution:
 Yes No

TITLE:

MTPD Security Updates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

The Metro Transit Police (MTPD) has accomplished a number of improvements to security of Metro riders, employees and property during 2015. This report will summarize updates on the Security Operations Control Center (SOCC), emergency drills and exercises, emergency training and the fire liaison position located in the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC).

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the MTPD presentation is to provide members of the WMATA Board with information regarding Metro security improvements in support of Metro's Goal to build and maintain a premier safety culture and system.

DESCRIPTION:

The Metro Transit Police (MTPD) has made a commitment to both riders and employees to provide a safe and secure environment at Metro. Security enhancements involve technical advances, outreach and training to employees and regional first responders, and placement of personnel to ensure coverage by experts during emergencies.

Key Highlights:

- The Security Operations Control Center (SOCC), at the new Pennsy Drive facility, became fully operational in late November to include the Digital Video Evidence Unit (DVEU) and Police Communications Unit (CCU).
- In 2015, the MTPD Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has trained over 6,000 regional first responders and Metro employees in Right-of-Way, Metrorail familiarization, and emergency response.
- Three regional table top exercises and three full scale exercises have been developed and executed this calendar year.
- A fire/rescue liaison position has been added to the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) to improve coordination between Metro and fire department incident commanders.

Background and History:

Following safety incidents in 2015, Metro has taken a number of actions in response, in addition to those that were already planned to improve safety. The following is an

overview of some of the corrective actions and initiatives.

Discussion:

Among the progress this year has been advancement on four major initiatives, the opening of the new Security Operations Control Center (SOCC), enhanced training opportunities in emergency management, expansion of the frequency for drills and exercises, and the placement of a regional fire official on a full-time basis in the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC). These initiatives play a significant role in the improvement of safety and security and particularly improves the relationships among regional first responders and their ability to respond efficiently and effectively to Metro emergencies.

The Security Operations Control Center (SOCC) was established to provide round-the-clock monitoring of an integrated security system which includes an array of cameras, police radio communications, fire and intrusion alarms, chemical detection devices, and video analytics. Many of these systems have been in place, however, they were monitored by multiple independent systems that did not provide standardized management. With the SOCC in place, and staffed by trained personnel, the MTPD will significantly improve and strengthen monitoring capabilities by integrating all security technology to protect Metro property. In November, the Digital Video Evidence Unit (DVEU) and the MTPD Communications Unit moved to the new SOCC located in Landover, Maryland. The MTPD Digital Video Evidence Unit (DVEU) is the primary unit responsible for processing internal and external video requests. The unit has processed over 6,200 requests so far this year. In addition, the DVEU provides real-time situational awareness during reported criminal activities and emergency events. A more efficient and effective response can occur when video images are coordinated with MTPD radio communications and police officers on the scene.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras have become an integral part of the Metro system security strategy. Federal grant funds have been an important resource to help increase the number, capability, and quality of cameras in the rail system and on-board buses. Metro camera systems have proven useful in both internal and external intelligence, investigation, and emergency management. For example, MTPD and key WMATA departments utilized CCTV cameras to monitor crowding in stations during special events, such as the annual Cherry Blossom Festival and the July 4th celebration. Still photos retrieved from CCTV images were utilized in the investigation of internal criminal cases, and scores of cases from local jurisdictions. In addition, CCTV cameras are an integral part of solving and/or preventing fraud against the Authority. In 2014, approval was granted to join a multi-agency regional camera sharing system to enhance public safety response to crisis events and planned special events.

Emergency management training has probably had the most beneficial impact on response coordination among MTPD, Metro operational employees, and regional first responders. Enhanced emergency management training was a corrective action identified by the FTA incident investigation earlier this year. Since identified in early 2015, MTPD OEM personnel have trained over 6,000 WMATA employees and regional partners combined. The District of Columbia Fire Department has sent over 1,600 members for training this year. Training may include Metro familiarization training,

coordinated incidence response, Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Right-of-Way training. Training not only provides regional partners with necessary knowledge of Metro facilities, equipment, procedures, and employee capabilities, but provides the added component of establishing professional relationships with incident responders.

In 2015, three tabletop exercises and two full-scale exercises have been conducted by the MTPD Office of Emergency Mangement (OEM). As part of a plan to improve how we interact with our partners during a major incident, MTPD OEM will now conduct quarterly full-scale exercises for regional first responders to facilitate emergency response training and familiarization. WMATA utilizes guidelines established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) to conduct exercises. Each full-scale exercise is preceded by a tabletop exercise with training and after-action items building a knowledge and experience base for each successive exercise. Two full-scale exercises occurred this year, with accompanying tabletop pre-exercises; the first exercise in April at Greenbelt Metrorail Station with Prince George’s County, Maryland, and the second in August at Stadium-Armory Metrorail Station with the District of Columbia. Both exercises involved evacuation of an off-platform train, with differing extra scenario hazard components. A third full-scale exercise will occur at the Forest Glen Metrorail Station on December 13th which is a partnership event with Montgomery County, Maryland.

The final MTPD security update involves collaboration between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Fire Chiefs Committee and Metro in the formation of a full-time liaison position situated in the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC). The Fire/Rescue Liaison position is occupied by a uniformed fire officer to help coordinate emergency communication between Metro and first responders. The liaison will also participate in the development of emergency response operating procedures and evaluation of emergency response actions. This position has proven to improve coordination between Metro operational personnel and fire department incident commanders. So far, Prince George’s County, Maryland and Fairfax County, Virginia have provided fire liaison officers in the ROCC.

The MTPD continues to explore opportunities for emergency response improvements. As a matter of information, following every major special event or incident and every exercise and drill, the MTPD engages in after-action reporting, analysis of response and recommendations for improvements to future event response. Further, the General Manager and regional fire chiefs meet quarterly to discuss plans and events to ensure all stakeholders are at a state of operational readiness.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Chief Ronald A. Pavlik, Jr.
Project Department/Office:	Metro Transit Police Department

This report is a matter of information only and is not intended to change current funding nor request future funding.

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	November/2015 – Activated the new MTPD SOCC which contains the Digital Video Evidence Unit (DVEU) and the Radio Communications Unit. April/2015 – Began the mandate to conduct a full scale quarterly exercise.
Anticipated actions after presentation	December/2015 - Complete the hiring process to fully staff the DVEU. January/2016 - Continue training opportunities for regional first responders, WMATA employees, and CERT members. January/2016 – Conduct a full scale exercise each quarter during 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

None



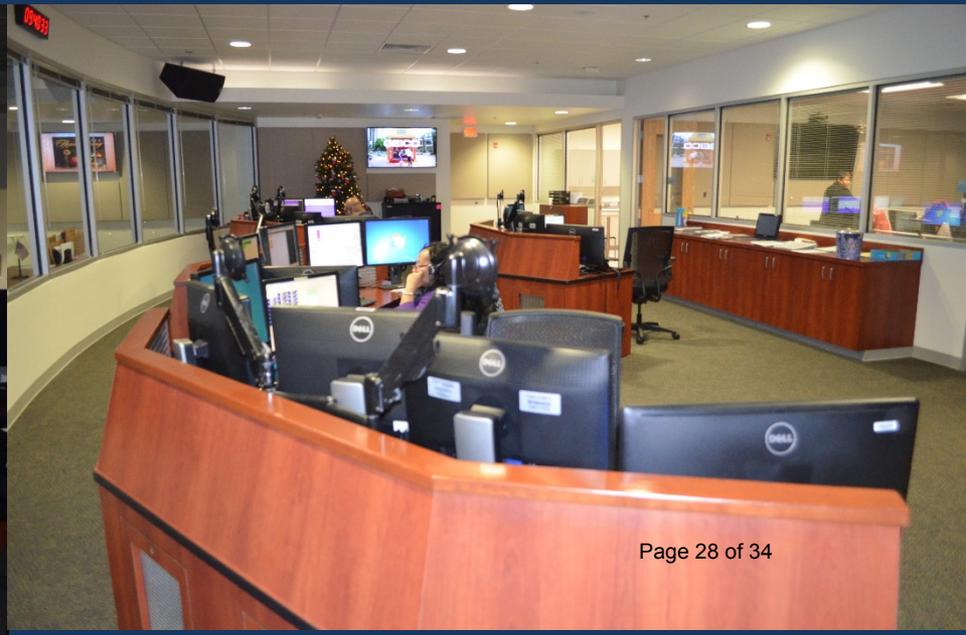
2015 MTPD Security Updates

Safety and Security Committee
December 17, 2015



Security Operations Control Center

Improve and strengthen Authority-wide monitoring capabilities to protect all Metro property





Security Operations Control Center

- Cameras and video analytics
- Computer Automated Dispatch
- Fire and intrusion alarms
- Chemical detection devices





Emergency Operations Training

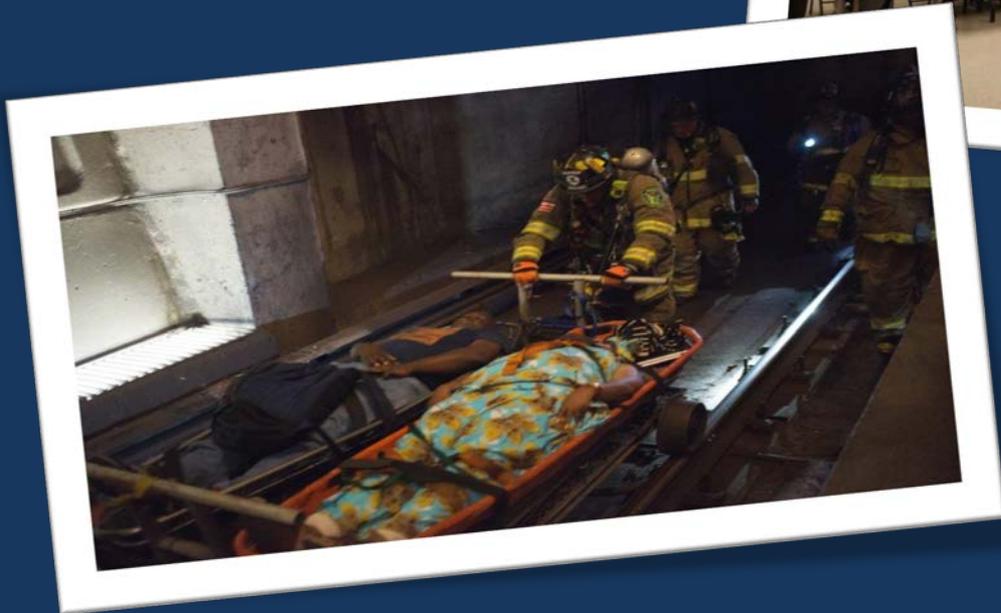
- New Employee Orientation
- Employee Right-of-Way
- Regional Emergency Response
- Regional Rail Familiarization





Emergency Drills and Exercises

Table top and full scale exercises conducted in 2015





Jurisdictional Fire Department Coordination

- Located in Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC)
- Monday – Friday, 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Current participants:
 - Prince George's County
 - Fairfax County
- GM/Fire Chiefs Meetings

