

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Main Campus is in Bethesda, Maryland, approximately 8 miles from downtown Washington DC. The Chief of Police is Alvin Hinton who was appointed Chief in 2000 after retiring from the United States Park Police at the rank of Deputy Chief. Throughout Chief Hinton's career he has focused on Officer Safety and consistently strives to provide new and updated equipment and training.

The National Institutes of Health in Bethesda is comprised of approximately 75 buildings that span over 300 acres of exclusive federal jurisdiction. The NIH Police are also responsible for law enforcement services at the National Cancer Institute located in Fort Detrick, MD and at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana. The NIH in Bethesda has the world's largest hospital dedicated to scientific research, its own power plant, water treatment plant, and Fire Department. NIH also contains the Vaccine Research Center and C.W. Bill Young Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases which houses BSL 3 and BSL 4 laboratories. The NIH Police is an approximately 105 Officer department and is comprised of Patrol units, K9, Investigators, Intelligence Unit, Special Response Team, Training Division, Firearms Instructors, as well as Tactical Medical Officers.

It is the mission of the NIH Division of Police to protect our country's national treasure: Scientific Research and the NIH research community, and further to ensure that the mission of NIH is not impeded by personal attacks, loss of assets, criminal activity or acts of terrorism.

When officers begin to serve the NIH community, each officer is issued uniforms and equipment necessary to provide the highest level of service to our community. Included in the initial issued equipment is the Sig Sauer P320 pistol, soft body armor with an optional external carrier, Streamlight TLR 1 HL pistol light, traffic safety vest, tourniquet, OC spray, Scott Gas Mask, belt mounted tourniquet pouch, and an Individual First Aid Kit. Officers also have access to custom Remington 870 shotguns, HK 416 rifles, and HK MP5s based on their level of training.

Funding has been allocated for the purchase of five Zero Electric Police Motorcycles in early 2021. These motorcycles, while being great for the environment, will allow Officers to more safely maneuver in traffic and conduct enforcement operations. The department has also started the process to purchase 4 drones to provide security and surveillance support to Officers to keep them safe while conducting law enforcement operations.

The NIH Police require that officers receive 40 hours of in service training every year. Aside from this 40-hour training requirement, Officers qualify with their issued pistol two times per year and attend two shooter improvement sessions per year. Officers that are issued rifles also qualify two times per year. Annual training includes American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support certification/refresher, AHA First Aid training, Radiation Safety training, Select Agent training, as well as an 8-hour block of tactical medical instruction. The tactical medical component is based on current TCCC standards and utilizes the latest training equipment. The course is primarily instructed by a NIH Police Officer/Paramedic and an Officer who was previously in the United States Marine Corp. Both Instructors have attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to receive the Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Certification. Some Instructors also hold certifications as TCCC Instructors.

The tactical medical training that NIH Officers receive includes a blended approach of PowerPoint information exchange as well as skill stations and full scenario-based training. Officers are trained in the contents of their medical kits which contain a tourniquet, Quick-Clot, chest seals, nasal airway, and

standard packing gauze. Officers are shown (not permitted to employ) various other skills and equipment that includes supraglottic airway, needle chest decompression, pelvic slings, junctional tourniquets, and surgical airways.

All NIH Patrol vehicles in Bethesda recently received new vehicle first aid kits. The kits, based on the North American Rescue Mariner Bag in High Vis Orange, are in the trunks of each vehicle. The bag was selected because it is easy for the officer or civilian to locate and that it can be slung over the shoulder so both hands remain free to manipulate a weapon or provide care. The kits contain tourniquets, bandages, Quikclot, nasal airways, packable gauze, triangle bandages, survival blankets, chest seals, band-aids, and a CPR mask. Patrol cars are also equipped with Automated External Defibrillators.

In the last year, Chief Hinton has purchased approximately 150,000 dollars in training equipment in order to put his department on the forefront of Officer Safety. This equipment includes training Individual First Aid Kits, training tourniquets, Phokus Woundcubes, TrueClot wound packing trainers, as well as two Tommanikin human training simulators and two K9 training simulators (expected delivery on 1/21). These simulators are state of the art and allow the Tommanikin to bleed, breathe, speak, and realistically respond to interventions. The use of the Tommanikin in training provides an incredibly realistic scenario in which Officers can apply all the lifesaving interventions they have been trained on. The Tommanikins will also be used in place of live Officers during scenarios to reduce Officer injuries during complex movements and skills.

Within the last year, Chief Hinton has revisited a program that provides additional medical training and certification to Officers. Officers will have the ability to receive training and certification as an Emergency Medical Responder though the NREMT with departmental training. Through a partnership with Walter Reed Military Medical Hospital, Officers can also receive training and certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. This program will provide Officers with additional training opportunities and equipment necessary to render care to civilians and Officers if needed. The primary focus of the program is to provide operational medical support to Police activities including firearms range, Special Response Team training/call outs, dignitary protection, warrant service, new hire physical testing, active threat response, and serving as a liaison with the Fire Department and outside agencies on responses. This program currently utilizes a Police Officer/Paramedic and has a designated vehicle that stores patient care equipment, tactical equipment (plate carrier with medical supplies and ballistic helmet with communications), as well as patient movement equipment. We have partnered with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Tactical Medicine, to support each other in mission readiness as well as training.

The NIH Police about 2 years ago, under Chief Hinton, spent approximately 275,000 dollars on 3 MILO RANGE Interactive Firearms Training Simulators. The NIH Police Training Center currently houses a 300-degree simulator and a single screen portable simulator. There is a portable simulator at our Rocky Mountain Lab facility as well. The 300-degree simulator provides an immersive use of force experience that incorporates OC spray, flashlights, Sig P320 pistols, Rifles, and the MP5. This type of simulator allows Officers to practice situational awareness, active threat, and more importantly, de-escalation training. The MILO also allows multiple Officers to respond to scenarios as a small team or group in order to develop coordinated responses. Our simulator also allows us to capture 4k video and create scenarios based on real locations and people throughout or campus.

The NIH Police also provide advanced rifle training through the Law Enforcement Rifle Training Program at FLETC. Other Instructor positions are Certified Fitness Instructors, Use of Force Instructors, Defensive Tactics Instructors, Active Threat Response Instructors, Tactical Medical Instructors, and Firearms Instructors.

Officers have access to civil disturbance gear including a shield in each vehicle. There are also ballistic shields and breaching equipment located in certain vehicles, and requests have been made to purchase electro-hydraulic breaching equipment. A paid gym membership at NIH is also provided to each Officer. The gym includes free weights, machines, treadmills, bikes, as well as a functional fitness area and mat room.



Tactical Medical Equipment



Tactical Medical Equipment



TacMed Training Scenarios



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TrueClot Wound Trainer



Training Equipment



TrueClot Wound Trainer



IFAKs



Vehicle First Aid Kits



Vehicle First Aid Kit Contents