

Port Authority Police Department Summary

Congressional Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism

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Since its inception in 1928, the Port Authority Police Department has emerged as the nation's largest transportation police department, with over 2,200 members. The Port Authority's unique operational landscape of airports, seaports, trains, bridges, tunnels, and real estate include some of the busiest and most iconic structures in the world. The Port Authority Police Department is divided into the following divisions: Air Transportation, Ground Transportation, Counterterrorism/Investigations.

The Air Transportation Branch includes Newark Liberty International Airport, LaGuardia Airport, Teterboro Airport, and John F. Kennedy International Airport. In 2018, over 138 million passengers traveled through Port Authority Airports, which was a 4.5% increase over 2017 travel. The Port Authority Police Department has significantly increased its presence in recent years, adding additional posts and implementing cutting edge counter terrorism technology. The Department continually invests in security enhancements, adding drone detection equipment, automated license plate readers, and the newest in radiological detection through a partnership with Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Additionally, the Port Authority Police provide Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting services at all four airports.

The Ground Transportation Branch encompasses the George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel, Holland Tunnel, Goethals Bridge, Outer Bridge, Bayonne Bridge, PATH, Port Authority Bus Terminal, World Trade Center and the New Jersey Marine Terminals. Port Authority bridges and tunnels serve as the interstate gateway between New York and New Jersey. Over 100 million vehicles travel across the George Washington Bridge each year making it the busiest bridge in the world. Port Authority Police continue to keep the region moving by conducting high visibility patrols, accident mitigation and traffic enforcement.

The PATH system provides rail service on 44.8 miles of track between New York and New Jersey, with an average of 280,860 passengers each day passing through 13 stations. The PATH system was the first commuter rail line to fully implement positive train control in the United States. Port Authority Police at PATH have a robust daily deployment consisting of heavy weapon patrols, counterterrorism initiatives, plainclothes operations and radiological detection.

The Port Authority Bus Terminal is the largest bus transportation facility in the United States and busiest by volume in the world. The PABT serves as the major hub for buses in midtown Manhattan and services commuter lines as well as interstate bus operations. In 2017, the Port Authority Police valiantly apprehended Akayed Ullah, who detonated an improvised explosive device in an underground corridor leading into the PABT.

The New Jersey Marine Terminals (Port Elizabeth, Port Newark, Port Jersey) comprise the busiest container terminal on the east coast and third largest in the country. In 2018 the port moved

over 35 million metric tons of cargo, which has consistently grown over the last ten years. The Port Authority Police CVI Unit specializes in commercial vehicle safety inspections and helps ensure the safe transportation of cargo and hazardous materials throughout the port and through other facilities. Police patrols are trained in anti-terror, radiological detection and heavy weapons.

The Port Authority Police have the distinct responsibility to protect the approximately 15 acres of the World Trade Center campus, where over 3000 people lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The Port Authority Police suffered the largest one-day loss of law enforcement personnel when 37 Port Authority Police officers were killed on 9/11 during the attempted rescue of thousands of people from the World Trade Center site. Today, the campus is home to a variety of both government and corporate entities and is one of the most visited locations in Manhattan. The World Trade Center campus contains the national 9/11 Memorial. The Port Authority Police aggressively patrol the campus utilizing state of the art counterterrorism patrol tactics and equipment.

The Department has made significant investments in its Counterterrorism/Investigations Branch, which includes the Emergency Services Unit, K9 Unit, CVI Unit and the Counterterrorism Unit. These units work closely with local, state and federal mutual aid partners to enhance advanced response and mitigation capabilities. Furthermore, members of the Port Authority Police Criminal Investigations Bureau are embedded in federal and state task forces, including the Joint Terrorism Task Force (N.Y. and N.J.) and DEA Task Force (NJ and NY). This collaboration provides critical intelligence and helps drive our mission. Our Department has one of the largest K9 deployments in the country, with 24-hour coverage at all facilities. Additionally, our K9's assets are attached to federal task forces and are often requested by our mutual aid partners for patrol related assistance.

The evolution of the Port Authority Police over the past year has led to the Department being on the forefront of counterterrorism policing. Investments in staffing, training, equipment, and technology are just part of the Department's aspiration to become the greatest counterterrorism police department in the country. For over 91 years, the Port Authority Police Department has proudly served the region with pride, service and distinction and will continue that tradition.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Port Authority Police Department. I will now take any questions.