

Morris Township Officers Participate In Presidential Inaugural Security Detail

By Lieutenant Dennis Reilly, Morris Township Police Department

In the spring of 2004, a Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) was established for the New Jersey Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), which encompasses Union, Morris, Hudson, Essex, and Passaic counties. The purpose of the RDF was to provide a regional law enforcement rapid response capability to terrorist incidents, especially those dealing with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive devices (CBRNE).

The RDF is comprised of Rapid Deployment Teams (RDT's) from the aforementioned counties plus officers from the New Jersey State Police and Jersey City Police. The RDT's are made up of approximately 120 officers each and can be used either independently or in conjunction with other teams. Ultimately, a full activation of the RDF will result in the assembly of 1,000 police officers.

In creating the RDT for Morris County, the Morris Township Police Department selected six officers to represent their agency. These officers are Lieutenant Dennis Reilly, Sergeants Richard Ferrone and Stanley Witczak, and Patrolmen Marc Costa, Mark DiCarlo, and Brian Markt. These officers have been, and will continue to be, provided with training and equipment to safely respond to, and deal with, a CBRNE incident.

In November of 2004, Chief Charles Ramsey, of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, requested assistance from New Jersey Law Enforcement, through the New Jersey State Police, and Law Enforcement across the country for the 55th Presidential Inauguration. It was anticipated that the Inauguration would bring approximately 600,000 spectators and participants to the District of Columbia, which would require the assistance of several thousand law enforcement officers from around the United States to assist with security of the Inaugural Parade and twenty-three Inaugural Balls.



Pictured left to right: Lieutenant Dennis Reilly and Sergeant Richard Ferrone, members of Morris Township's Rapid Deployment Team (RDT).



Pictured left to right: Lieutenant Dennis Reilly; Washington DC Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey; Sergeant Richard Ferrone.

With the approval of the New Jersey State Police Superintendent, the New Jersey UASI RDF was activated, with 120 officers chosen from the individual county RDT's. From the Morris County RDT, 19 officers were selected to participate in this mutual aid effort. From Morris Township, Lieutenant Dennis Reilly and Sergeant Richard Ferrone were selected.

On January 18th, the New Jersey RDF left from Bayonne for Washington D.C. Among the activities during this 4-day trip was an orientation for some 6,000 law enforcement officers, from across the United States, on the campus of Georgetown University. The orientation was presented by the D.C. Metro Police Department, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the United States Secret Service, and included the swearing in of these 6,000 officers as U.S. Deputy Marshals. During this orientation it was also determined that the Morris County RDT would be securing a portion of the Inaugural Parade route in the area of the U.S. Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue, where protest and demonstration activity was anticipated. In addition to meeting officers from all over the country, Lieutenant Reilly and Sergeant Ferrone also had the opportunity to use some of their Community Policing skills, during a heavy snow storm, while riding the Metro Rail System and walking about Alexandria, Virginia.

On January 20, 2005, the Morris County RDT secured an area in front of the Navy Memorial at 7:45 am and maintained their post until approximately 4:00 pm. Officers were positioned 5-7 feet apart from each other and faced the crowd. Even when President Bush passed within 20 feet of the Morris County officers, the only way of knowing was because of the crowd's response. Their assignment was to prevent parties from advancing onto the parade route, and this meant having to maintain a visual on the crowd, not the President. On January 21st, after an Incident Debriefing by the Metropolitan Police Department and detail demobilization, the New Jersey RDF returned to Bayonne. Morris Township's police force is proud to have been a part of this crucial mutual aid effort.