

January 2008

Police Ranks Grow with New Classes of Graduates

BPD strengthened by 224 new patrol officers and 64 detectives in 2007

The graduation of 56 recruits from the Boston Police Academy on December 7, 2007 increased the number of sworn officers to 2,218 as of January 1 of this year. This level eclipses the previous high of 2,211 recorded in January 1997 and represents a net increase of 131 officers since January 2007.

In 2007, the BPD was increased by:

- The transfer of 33 Municipal Police Officers in January
- A class of 82 recruits that graduated in May
- A graduating class of 53 officers in August who transferred laterally from other police departments
- The class of 56 recruits that graduated in December.

This increase of 224 new officers produced a net departmental increase of 131 officers after attrition.

On December 17, 2007, 64 patrol officers were promoted to the rank of detective, raising the total to 286 as of January 1, 2008. This is the highest level of detectives since January 1999 when detectives numbered 287. The last time patrol officers were promoted to detective was in June 2006.

While the number of sworn officers continues to rise, roughly 10% of the sworn force is not available for duty at any given time due to injury, long-term leave, light duty, or other reasons. As of January 1, 2008, officers not available for duty totaled 9.6% of the sworn force, up from a low of 8.9% in October 2007. Even so, this marks the first time since July 2005 that the sworn force available for duty has exceeded 2,000 officers and it represents an increase of 122 over officers available for duty in January 2007.

