



MASSACHUSETTS CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual Leadership Conference

Command Under Pressure: Decisions. Risk. Leadership.

September 15–17, 2026

Four Points by Sheraton · Norwood, Massachusetts

In-service credit. The Municipal Police Training Committee has approved this conference for Training Year 2027 in-service credit across six mandated topics for attending chiefs and command staff: AI in Policing, Controlled Substances, De-escalation and Use of Force, Digital Investigations, Legal Updates, and Operational Planning Using ICS. Credited sessions are marked with their topic below.

DAY ONE · Tuesday, September 15

8:00 – 8:15

Opening Ceremonies

MCOPA

8:15 – 9:45

Opening Keynote: Leadership and Lessons from Managing Crisis Events

Chief Dave Funkhouser (Ret.)

9:45 – 12:00

Command Decisions & Legal Reality: What Chiefs Need to Know Now

Eric Atstupenas, Esq. & Denise Flagg, Esq. (MPTC)

Legal Updates

12:00 – 12:45

LUNCH

12:45 – 2:15	AI, Explained: What It Is, What It Isn't, and Why It Matters to Chiefs Eric Atstupenas, Esq. & Amit Patankar	AI in Policing
2:30 – 3:15	Digital Investigations: What Chiefs Need to Know About Digital Evidence Michael Terrio, NESPIN	Digital Investigations
3:15 – 4:15	Digital Evidence & Legal Risk: Where Cases Are Won and Lost Eric Atstupenas, Esq. & Denise Flagg, Esq. (MPTC)	Digital Investigations · Legal Updates

DAY TWO · Wednesday, September 16

8:00 – 9:00	No Profile, No Warning: Building Systems Before the Crisis James Barrett, Ph.D., Cambridge Police Department	Ops Planning / ICS
9:15 – 10:30	When It Happens Here: Command Decisions Under Pressure Supt. Drew Evans, Minnesota BCA & Chief Mark Bruley, Brooklyn Park PD (MN)	Ops Planning / ICS
10:45 – 12:00	When the Microphone Is On: Post-Incident Command Communication Chief Sean Case, Anchorage Police Department (AK)	Ops Planning / ICS
12:00 – 12:45	LUNCH	
12:45 – 1:30	Emerging Drug Threats and Federal Trends SAC Jarod Forget, Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Division	Controlled Substances
1:30 – 2:15	Cannabis Regulation, Enforcement, and Operational Challenges Cannabis Control Commission	Controlled Substances

2:15 – 3:30

**Removing Barriers to Women's Recruitment,
Retention, and Advancement in Policing**

MCOPA Women's Leadership Committee · Moderated by Eric
Atstupenas, Esq.

3:30 – 4:30

Commanding Millennial Supervisors

Chief Sean Case, Anchorage Police Department (AK)

DAY THREE · Thursday, September 17

8:00 – 9:00

Opening Keynote: Reckonings

Chief Kristen Ziman (Ret.)

9:15 – 10:15

**The Moment It Goes Wrong: Use of Force, De-
escalation, and Command Responsibility**

Chuck DiChiara, MPTC

De-escalation / Use of
Force

10:30 – 12:00

**Fit to Lead: Psychological Fitness, Risk, and
Responsibility**

Dr. Lewis Schlosser

12:00 – 12:45

LUNCH

12:45 – 2:30

**The Year in Review: Decisions That Will Shape Your
Command**

Eric Atstupenas, Esq. & Denise Flagg, Esq. (MPTC)

Legal Updates

2:30 – 2:45

Closing Remarks

MCOPA

Session times and speakers are current as of circulation and may be adjusted.

Register at masschiefs.org/upcoming-events/fall-2026-annual-training-conference

Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association