



A Better You with Washington Metro

As a leader in the transportation industry, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) strives to attract and retain top-quality staff to ensure high-quality service to customers. WMATA is more than transportation and offers opportunities in policing, operations, engineering and maintenance, communications, and more.

WMATA has increased the size of its military community by nearly 50 percent since 2012, with veterans serving in careers deeply embedded in every aspect of the community. In 2015, WMATA became the first quasi-government entity to earn both Military-Friendly Employer® and Military Spouse Friendly® designations and has continued to receive that designation year after year.

An integral part of transit in the Washington Metro region is the Metro Transit Police. Their mission is to protect Metro patrons, personnel, transit facilities, and revenue by providing law enforcement and public safety services through innovative ideas, innovative technology, teamwork, integrity, and a commitment to their mission and the oath of office.

U.S. Army veteran **JAMES MORRISON** served as a Motor Transportation Operator for eight years before transitioning from the military. He now serves as a Police Lieutenant with the WMATA.

at an accelerated rate, which has resulted in me serving and leading specialized teams, including SWAT and K-9/EOD teams. I have also worked within multiple jurisdictions at MTPD including Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. My roles within MTPD require the ability to adapt to mission requirements and explore new perspectives.

What inspired you to continue serving?

JM: After the military, I wanted a profession that provided structure and discipline like what I experienced during service. The transition to MTPD was easy because my military background helped me excel in a community policing capacity. Simple things that the military provides, like having a neat, professional appearance and customer service, helped me in my current role.

I took my skills and knowledge from the military and applied them to policing. I learned that my presentation goes a long way. The military taught me how to work



“Policing is active, rewarding, and a challenge. It calls you to be a better you.” – JAMES MORRISON

Describe your role and responsibilities with WMATA:

JM: I oversee the day shift section of Metro Transit Police Division (MTPD) District 1. As a lieutenant in the MTPD, my job is to supervise and manage all personnel, including sergeants and officers, under my command. I ensure they complete training, properly police their assigned regions, and that all their duties are done with fidelity. Together, we work on ways to decrease crime in our area.

I have had the opportunity to be promoted

with people from all walks of life; I now use those skills to collaborate with and serve many diverse individuals.

How does MTPD support veteran employees?

JM: There are pay incentives for military hires and a lateral pay structure that supports veteran employees. The department welcomes employees who continue military service and allows flexibility to perform military duties in a National Guard or Reserve capacity.

Upcoming Metro Transit Police Department

PROSPECT DAYS

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9AM - 1:30PM

Saturday, November 4, 2023

9AM - 1:30PM

Saturday, December 9, 2023

9AM - 1:30PM

Saturday, January 20, 2024

9AM - 1:30PM

What is your favorite part about your policing career?

JM: I love to change the perception or misconceptions the public may have of police officers. I focus on being personable and friendly to all members of the public and serve as a reminder that police officers are people too.

What advice do you have for servicemembers transitioning out of the military?

JM: I advise servicemembers to utilize what they learn in the military and apply it to the civilian sector. Military experience is respected, and the skill sets are transferable.

Why should veterans consider a career in this industry?

JM: Policing is active, rewarding, and a challenge. It calls you to be a better you.

What has been your experience working for MTPD?

JM: It has been extremely fulfilling and it is hard to believe fifteen years have passed. I have no regrets. I genuinely enjoy every second of my job. I feel extremely fortunate to have found a good career at an early age. I can retire in ten years with twenty-five years of public service, even at the age of 47.

Serve the community that moves you; visit **WMATA** to learn more.