



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION

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## SWORN OFFICER PROGRAM PROVIDES ADDED SECURITY FOR MARC TRAINS

### **Armed, Undercover Officers Watch Over 13,000 Riders Per Day**

BALTIMORE, MD (March 24, 2004) - Law enforcement officers who commute to their jobs aboard MARC trains are invited to participate in MARC's Sworn Officer Program. The program, which began in January 2003, allows any local, state, or federal law enforcement personnel to ride the trains for free in exchange for serving as an added set of eyes and ears for train security. There are currently 77 officers in the program, a majority of whom come from a variety of federal government agencies.

"When Governor Ehrlich said to sharpen our edge, this is an example of what he meant," said the Governor's Office of Homeland Security Director Dennis R. Schrader. "This sworn officer program is an innovative, cost-effective preventative measure we can take on our transit systems."

"We have law enforcement officers from throughout the area who ride all of our systems, and we have excellent relationships with them," said Maryland Transit Administration Police Chief Douglas DeLeaver. "We welcome them working hand in hand with the MTA Transit Police."

In exchange for riding MARC trains free of charge, armed undercover officers sign a written agreement stating that they will serve as unofficial security for the train. The agreement also requires each participant to submit a report detailing suggestions of how to improve train security based on their real-time observations.

"The Sworn Officer Program is one more layer of security that we welcome on MARC trains," said Maryland Transit Administrator Robert L. Smith. "Having these experienced law enforcement professionals onboard our MARC trains is an invaluable asset. Their willingness to watch over their fellow riders is greatly appreciated."

The MARC train system averages approximately 26,000 trips per day. The Penn Line, which operates between Perryville and Washington, D.C. via Baltimore and BWI Airport, is MARC's most traveled rail line with an average of 16,000 daily boardings. The Brunswick Line, which takes riders from West Virginia through Frederick and Montgomery counties into Washington, averages approximately 6,500 daily boardings. The Camden Line, which runs from Baltimore to Washington, averages 3,800 daily boardings.

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