

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

DATE: November 10, 2015

NUMBER: 1.09 – ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: CARRYING WEAPONS ON AIRLINES

RELATED POLICY: [1.09](#)

ORIGINATING DIVISION: INVESTIGATIONS II

NEW PROCEDURE:

PROCEDURAL CHANGE:

SUPERSEDES: DP 1.09 – 2/22/13

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for carrying weapons on airlines.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all sworn members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

- A. Requests to fly while armed will normally be honored for officers returning a prisoner from another city. However, the airline captain has the final authority to permit officers to fly while armed. Other examples of when an officer may be allowed to fly while armed include:
 1. Dignitary protection escort team;
 2. Dignitary protection advance team;
 3. Witness protection;
 4. Hazardous surveillance operation; and,
 5. Mutual aid and when required to report for immediate duty.

Flying to another city to attend court, conferences, legislative hearings or similar functions do not qualify for clearance to fly while armed.

- B. When carrying a weapon on a non-approved flight, the weapon must be carried in checked luggage and unloaded. The checked luggage must be locked with a key or combination lock and the key or combination must be in possession of the passenger only. The bag must be the hard-side type and the airline must be notified the weapon is in the luggage.
- C. Officers should be aware of the gun control laws of each state. Different rules apply and a criminal offense may result from failure to conform.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Officer - law enforcement officer who is authorized by law to carry weapons aboard an aircraft.
- B. Responsible representative of the airline/carrier - the airline/carrier's station manager or designee, such as the supervisor in charge of the ticket counter.
- C. Carriage of weapons aboard an aircraft - carrying a firearm on or about the person, in a briefcase, carry-on luggage, or in another place accessible to the officer while aboard the aircraft.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations require officers to attend a two-hour training course prior to being allowed to fly while armed. This class is available through In-Service Training.
- B. The requesting officer will contact the clerical staff in Investigations II/Robbery to obtain a request form to take to Teletype to enable Teletype personnel to contact the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).
- C. At least 24 hours prior to traveling, the officer must take the TSA request form to the Teletype Unit so that a properly formatted message can be sent to the TSA, via NLETS, requesting a Unique Alphanumeric Identifier (UAI). The officer will wait in the Teletype Unit for the TSA to send a return teletype, via NLETS, that includes the UAI. The officer must have the UAI with her/him in order to get clearance from the TSA to board the plane. See Appendix A for sample teletype messages.

D. The following protocol will apply on the day of travel:

1. The officer must notify a responsible representative of the airline/carrier at least one hour in advance of departure time, or as soon as practical in an emergency, either by telephone or in person.
2. Officers should identify themselves by showing a Department-issued identification card and Unique Alphanumeric Identifier (UAI).
 - a. A badge is not sufficient identification.
 - b. Such identification must be made any time an officer is traveling armed, whether the weapon is carried with the officer or in the checked baggage.
3. Officers will also be required to fill out the armed traveler paperwork, commonly referred to as Person Carrying Firearms (PCFA) forms, provided by the airline and fill in the Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) logbook before proceeding to the boarding gate.
4. Weapons must be carried concealed at all times. Officers must avoid inadvertent display of a weapon or associated equipment, such as handcuffs.
5. If weapons are accessible while on board an aircraft, officers may not consume alcoholic beverages.
6. Chemical agents shall not be carried aboard an airline.

E. The Lindbergh Airline Managers Council (Air Line Operators Committee) has adopted a policy regarding non-passenger law enforcement officers carrying weapons through airport security checkpoints into sterile passenger waiting areas of the terminal. This policy has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration and is in effect at Lindbergh Field.

1. Armed non-passenger law enforcement officers not on official police business are not allowed beyond security checkpoints into sterile passenger areas. Officers are required to wait in front of the security checkpoint while armed. Neither the Harbor Police nor private security will accept a weapon at the checkpoint.
2. Armed non-passenger law enforcement officers on official police business will be allowed to bypass the security checkpoint upon verification of proper credentials. Badge and photo identification will be required for identification purposes. In these situations, the officer's word as to their official business status will be sufficient.

Appendix A
(Sample Teletype)

SAMPLE AGENCY MESSAGE TO TSA

AM.PASO12345.VAFAM0199.*0008000001.TXT
LEOFA
NAM/SMITH, JOE.
AGY/BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE.
BCN/BSO123456.
OFC/LOCAL.
NAO/WASHINGTON, GEORGE.
CRT/YES.
CPN/7031234989.
APN/2023456789.
EIT/PRISONER.
EIN/SMITH, JOHN.
NOA/AMERICAN AIRLINES.
FLN/AA1234.
DOF/122508.
DAP/DCA.
CAP/EWR.
FDA/BOS.

SAMPLE MESSAGE RETURNED TO LEO FOR DAY OF TRAVEL

AM.VAFAM0199.PASO12345.
TXT
FLYING ARMED LEO REQUEST APPROVED. YOUR UNIQUE ID CODE IS: WCD87947
NAME: JOE SMITH
AGENCY: BROWARD SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL: GEORGE WASHINGTON
BADGE/CREDENTIAL: BSO123456
HAS DEPARTMENT LETTER: YES
COMPLETED TRAINING: YES
CELL PHONE: 7031234989
ESCORTED INDIVIDUAL TYPE: PRISONER
ESCORTED INDIVIDUAL: SMITH, JOHN
AIRLINE: AMERICAN AIRLINES
FLIGHT NUMBER: AA1234
FLIGHT DATE: 122508
DEPARTING AIRPORT: DCA
CONNECTING AIRPORT: EWR
FINAL DESTINATION AIRPORT: BOS
PRINT OUT THIS REPLY AND PRESENT IT AT THE AIRPORT'S LEO LANE.