

GENERAL ORDER



Topic
Carrying Weapons and Transporting Prisoners Aboard Aircraft

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B

Replaces / Rescinds:
General Order PCA 502.8 (Transportation of Prisoners Aboard Aircraft)
Special Order 01-09 (Carrying Weapons on Aircraft and at Airports)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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I. BACKGROUND

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has jurisdiction over airports and air carriers regarding procedures for Law Enforcement Officers who need to carry weapons on board an aircraft or into a secure area of an airport. Accordingly, the Chief of Police of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) has established requirements for officers using Reagan National Airport or Dulles International Airport. The procedures include a requirement that personal verification must be made with the officer's originating agency or the officer will not be allowed on the aircraft. When transporting a prisoner aboard a commercial aircraft, members need to be familiar with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration regulations. (CALEA 1.2.2)

II. POLICY

Members of the Metropolitan Police Department shall comply with all FAA and MWAA procedures for carrying weapons on board an aircraft or into secure areas of Reagan National or Dulles International airports. Members shall take all appropriate precautions when transporting prisoners aboard an aircraft and shall observe all requirements of General Order RAR-901.07 (Use of Force).

III. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

A. Procedures for Bringing Service Weapons Aboard Aircraft

1. Advance MPD Approval Required

- a. Members on official business that requires the carrying of their weapon aboard a flight (whether on their person or in their baggage) must request authorization through the chain of command. The member will request approval through the

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

B. Transporting a Prisoner Aboard a Commercial Aircraft

1. **General**

- a. Members who may be required to have a firearm accessible during a flight in order to perform official duties (e.g., transporting a prisoner) shall comply with all procedures as outlined above.
- b. Members not assigned to the Fugitive Unit, Criminal Investigations Division, (CID), shall notify an official of that unit for assistance in coordinating the arrangements for the return to this jurisdiction of a suspect for whom there is an outstanding arrest warrant.
- c. The Fugitive Unit shall be responsible for overseeing and assisting members on all pending out-of-jurisdiction actions initiated by the department.
- d. An official of the Fugitive Unit shall insure that a member who is not assigned to the unit and who assists in transporting a prisoner is familiar with this order as well as the most current requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration.

2. **Escorting Prisoners**

- a. In addition to the notification requirements of Section A (above), members shall notify the airline at least two hours before departure of the following:
 - (1) The name of the prisoner.
 - (2) Whether or not the prisoner is considered to be in a maximum risk category.

- [REDACTED]

- c. At least two armed members shall transport a prisoner.
- d. Members shall be equipped with adequate restraining devices to be used when necessary.
- e. Escorting officers shall insure that the prisoner does not have on his person or property anything that could be used as a weapon.
- f. When boarding at the airport where the flight originates, the escorting officers and the prisoner shall board the aircraft before any other passengers and deplane after all other deplaning passengers have done so.



- g. [Redacted]
- h. One member shall sit between the prisoner and the aisle.
- i. The prisoner shall be kept under surveillance at all times aboard the air carrier and shall not be permitted to leave his or her seat unless escorted by a member.
- j. The prisoner may be served food and beverage or provided with metal eating utensils only at the discretion of the escorting officers.
- k. The escorting officers and prisoner shall not consume any alcoholic beverage.
- l. Members are authorized in their official capacity to take only that police action necessary for the safe and speedy return of their prisoner to this jurisdiction.
- m. The airplane may refuse to accept a prisoner at any time if, in the judgment of a responsible representative of the airline, such acceptance might jeopardize the safety of other passengers. However, if a member who has complied with the above Federal regulations for transporting a prisoner aboard a commercial aircraft, as well as the Federal regulations for carrying his service revolver aboard a commercial aircraft, encounters any difficulty with air crewmembers who refuse to transport, the particulars of such incident should be forwarded to the FAA Civil Aviation Security Service for resolution.

C. Training

The Director, Institute of Police Science shall ensure that members who, in the course of their duties, may have occasion to carry a firearm onboard an aircraft are provided with appropriate FAA-sponsored training. Such duties include Dignitary Protection, Witness Protection, and Prisoner Escort.

- a. Officers shall be instructed on the proper methods for transporting firearms;
- b. Procedures to be followed when flying while armed;
- c. Dangers of firearm discharge on board aircraft;
- d. Role and responsibility of flight crews; and
- e. What to do in the event of a disturbance by a passenger.

IV. CROSS REFERENCES

- A. General Order RAR – 901.01 (Handling of Service Weapons)
- B. General Order RAR – 901.07 (Use of Force)
- C. CALEA Standards Manual, Chapter 1 (Law Enforcement Role and Authority) and Chapter 71 (Prisoner Transportation).

// SIGNED //
Charles H. Ramsey
Chief of Police

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