

DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2021
NUMBER: 1.09 – ADMINISTRATION
SUBJECT: CARRYING WEAPONS ON AIRLINES
RELATED POLICY: 3.18
ORIGINATING DIVISION: INVESTIGATIONS II
NEW PROCEDURE:
PROCEDURAL CHANGE: **MINOR CHANGES**
SUPERSEDES: DP 1.09 –11/16/2018

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

NEW

A. Requests to fly while armed will normally be honored for officers conducting extraditions of prisoners from other cities. 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.

NEW

- B. When carrying a weapon on a non-approved flight, the weapon must be unloaded and carried in a hard sided container that is locked and placed inside checked luggage. The individual checking the luggage must retain the key or combination in his or her sole possession. The bag must be the hard-sided type, and the airline must be notified the weapon is in the luggage.

NEW

- C. Any ammunition must be carried in a separate container that is specifically designed to hold ammunition. The ammunition container and firearm container can be carried in the same checked luggage.
- D. 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

NEW

- 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 Investigations II/Robbery clerical staff will 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). When the Teletype Unit confirms receipt of the TSA return teletype, via NLETS, that includes the UAI, the Investigations II/Robbery clerical staff will be contacted. The officer will be notified when and where the document

is available for pick-up. The officer must have the UAI with him or her 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 available any time an officer is traveling armed, whether the weapon is carried with the officer or in the checked baggage.
 3. Officers are also 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 shall 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 is sufficient.