



# MUTUAL AID

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## **I. MUTUAL AID**

### **A. Definitions**

For the purposes of mutual aid, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

1. Aid - Aid provided pursuant to a mutual aid agreement means law enforcement personnel, equipment, facilities, and/or services.
2. Designated Official - Each party to a police mutual aid agreement will identify to all other parties the law enforcement official(s) within their jurisdictions who have the authority to invoke the agreement. See below.
3. Emergency situation - An actual or potential condition that poses an immediate threat to life or property, and which exceeds the resources and capability of the local law enforcement agency(ies) to successfully bring the situation under control.

## **II. PURPOSE OF MUTUAL AID**

The department enters into mutual aid agreements with area political subdivisions for the purpose of providing and receiving additional law enforcement resources during times when the capacity or ability of the home agency to meet emergency demands is exceeded. A list of current mutual aid agreements is made available to all command level officers and to Communications.

## **III. AUTHORITY TO INVOKE MUTUAL AID**

The decision to request or provide inter-jurisdictional mutual aid should be made by an officer of at least the rank of Police Captain. If a Captain is not on duty and no Captain or above can be contacted in a reasonable amount of time, then *a district executive officer or* the platoon commander in the patrol district closest to the requesting jurisdiction will make the decision.

## **IV. MUTUAL AID PROCEDURES**

A. When an emergency situation occurs, aid from other signatory agencies of the mutual aid agreement may be requested. The request for aid must be directed to the designated official(s) of the other law enforcement agencies, either in writing or by telephone. Anne Arundel County may request aid from neighboring jurisdictions who have signed the agreement, or may be asked to supply aid to other member agencies.

B. Any party requesting aid will provide to the assisting agencies a complete description of the nature of the emergency, and the types and amounts of assistance needed, or to be provided.

C. If Anne Arundel County officers are authorized to be sent to another jurisdiction, the authorizing officer will appoint an officer of at least the rank of Police Sergeant to supervise the contingent of police. The supervisor will contact the designated official of the requesting agency and coordinate all tactical matters.

D. During an emergency situation, all personnel from responding agencies will report to, and work under the direction and supervision of, the designated supervisor of the requesting agency at the emergency site.

E. At all times, officers will adhere to the policies and procedures of their own departments, and are only required to obey lawful orders.

F. Mutual aid rendered under any agreement may be denied or withdrawn if, in the opinion of the designated official of the providing agency, such action is necessary for the continued police protection of the assisting party's jurisdiction. The requesting party will be so advised before aid is withdrawn.

G. Responding party law enforcement officers shall only make arrests in foreign jurisdictions for offenses directly related to the emergency situation, and are responsible for the following post-arrest activities:

1. Identification of prisoners
2. Control of property obtained from arrestees
3. Completion of arrest reports and charging documents
4. Transportation of arrestees to a booking facility and to a holding facility
5. Court duty pertaining to arrest

H. In any emergency situation where mutual aid is invoked, radio communications will be established among all parties, where possible, through use of the local mutual aid radio network.

#### **V. MUTUAL AID DURING CIVIL EMERGENCIES**

The department has entered into mutual aid agreements with Baltimore County and Howard County, and with the town of North Beach in Calvert County. The following guidelines apply to requests for assistance from those jurisdictions as a result of a civil emergency, as opposed to a routine request for short-term assistance.

A. Information pertaining to the request for aid should include a description of the nature of the emergency, an estimate of the number of police officers and types of specialized equipment required, and if possible, an estimate of the length of time the Anne Arundel County resources will be needed.

B. The platoon commander in the patrol district nearest to the requesting jurisdiction will initiate a Phase I response, after evaluating the information available. Any police officers dispatched into another jurisdiction must include at least one officer of the rank of sergeant or above.

C. The platoon commander will instruct Communications to make the Phase I notifications.

D. The closest district commander (or the night/on-call duty commander) will monitor the situation and implement a Phase II response, if necessary. The *commander in charge* will brief the *Patrol Services* Bureau commander as soon as possible.

E. A Phase III response (full mobilization of the department) may be implemented only by the Chief of Police or acting Chief.

#### **VI. PROPONENT UNIT: *Patrol Services Bureau*.**

**VII. CANCELLATION:** This directive cancels Index Code 107, dated 07-01-07.