

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

MEMORANDUM: 2022-033
(Replaces Memorandum 14-021)

FILE BEHIND: Index Code 402

TO: All Active and Retired Sworn Personnel

FROM: Amal E. Awad
Chief of Police

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004

BACKGROUND

On July 22, 2004, President George Bush signed the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, Public Law No. 108-277. The Act permits both qualified active and qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in any U.S. State of political subdivision without a permit or license. It further exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from State and local laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms. The Act is codified in Chapter 44 of Title 18 of the United States Code, §926 B and C.

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and assistance to qualified active and retired police personnel with compliance of this law.

PROCEDURE

I. Qualified Active Anne Arundel County Police Officers

All active Anne Arundel County Police Officers will abide by Index Code 402 and 402.2 with regards to this law. The carrying of any department issued handgun and/or personally owned handgun outside the State of Maryland must be in compliance with the Index Code, which states:

- A. Officers are encouraged to carry a firearm while off duty but are not required to do so unless they are in uniform or operating a Police Department vehicle.
- B. No officer may wear, carry or use a firearm while his or her ability to use the firearm is impaired for any reason.
- C. Unless the officer is in uniform, all firearms carried while off duty must be concealed from public view when not in use.

D. Firearms will be carried in a properly fitting holster designed to carry that particular firearm. Only fanny packs designed to hold firearms securely are authorized.

E. If a firearm is carried in a purse, the purse must be specifically designed to hold a handgun utilizing a dedicated pouch; OR if a standard purse is being used, the firearm must be secured in a properly fitting holster to prevent loss or accidental discharges.

Officers that are planning to travel with a firearm out of State need to be aware of that State's local laws regarding any restrictions to firearms wear, carry and ammunition.

II. Qualified Retired Anne Arundel County Police Officers

The Department will provide retired Anne Arundel County Police Officers the opportunity to qualify with a Department approved weapon during "LEOSA Range" days at the Police Academy. Qualified retired officers will be required to successfully complete the Maryland Police & Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) approved course for active law enforcement officers.

Police Academy personnel will advise those officers wishing to qualify of the times and dates available to them. Pursuant to successful qualification, Police Academy personnel will issue a certification card that must be carried along with the retired officer's identification card. The certification card will indicate the retired officer's score, weapon type, and date of expiration.

This course of fire and classroom instruction will be provided to retired Anne Arundel County Police officers at no cost to them. All approved weapons and ammunition must be supplied by the retired officer at their own expense. Police Academy personnel can be contacted at 410-222-1950.

In furtherance of this law, the Department provides retired officers, in good standing, with a new identification card upon retirement, indicating the individual is a retired Anne Arundel County Police Officer.

Retired officers must complete the online registration form found on the Departments website at least 14 days prior to qualifying with an approved firearm. A background check will be completed to ensure the retiree is permitted to carry a firearm under Maryland State laws.

The Training Division commander reserves the right to refuse a retired officer from qualifying at the Academy's range.

Retired officers will be permitted to qualify with one firearm per year. This qualification will allow the retired officer to carry any Department approved concealed handgun they choose. Retired officers must report to the Police Academy firing range with at least 60 rounds of approved ammunition and two additional magazines or speed loaders.