

THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER	<i>Date Issued:</i> May 4, 2007	<i>Effective Date:</i> May 4, 2007	<i>Order No:</i> Chapter 7.1
<i>Authority: Chief of Police</i> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gregory L. Eylar</i></p>		<i>Manual Page No:</i>	
<i>Subject:</i> Mutual Aid		<i>Replaces Page No:</i>	
<i>CALEA Standard:</i> 2	<i>Distribution:</i> ALL	<i>Amends:</i>	<i>Number of Pages:</i> 6
<i>Related Documents:</i>		<i>Rescinds:</i>	

This Directive is for internal use only, and other than as contraindicated here this Directive does not create or enlarge this Department's, governmental entity's, any of this Department's officers, and/or any other entities' civil, criminal, and/or other accountability in any way. This Directive is not to be construed as the creation of a standard of safety or care in any sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance, litigation, and/or other action. Deviations from this Directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-Departmental administrative action(s) (including discipline and/or termination).

I. PURPOSE:

To state conditions for supplying or receiving assistance from other agencies and jurisdictions to include both manpower and equipment.

II. POLICY:

The Thurmont Police Department will enter into Mutual Aid Agreements with any public safety or governmental agency they deem necessary, either in or outside the State, to preserve life and property. In conjunction with the signed Mutual Aid Agreement and upon the request of a local public safety or governmental entity for assistance in the form of personnel or equipment, the Thurmont Police Department will provide assistance to the extent resources are authorized and available. By decision of the Chief of Police or his designee, the Thurmont Police Department may also request assistance when it is needed.

III. DEFINITIONS:

LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERGENCY: Any law enforcement situation which exceeds the capability of the local agency to counteract effectively, such as an unruly person or group which demonstrates a potential for violence; a hostage or barricaded subject situation; a fire, flood, accident, or other catastrophe; a request for spontaneous backup assistance, or a similar circumstance where prompt law enforcement action requiring at least one (1) law enforcement officer or specialized equipment is needed.

MEMO OF AGREEMENT/UNDERSTANDING: a signed agreement between law enforcement agencies to form a partnership delineating specific working agreements/jurisdiction, etc., which includes emergency situations *as well as non-emergency situations*, such as supplying officers for undercover drug work or agreeing to investigate accidents occurring on 55 MPH highways.

MUTUAL AID: an agreement by which a law enforcement agency may render assistance to, or request assistance from, another agency in a law enforcement *emergency*.

PROVIDER AGENCY: an agency that provides aid to another agency.

RECEIVER AGENCY: an agency that receives aid from another agency.

IV. PROCEDURE:

A. MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS:

1. The Department has formal mutual aid agreements with several allied agencies. The signed documents are on file in the Office of the Chief.
2. The Mutual Aid Agreement provides all the necessary information to initiate mutual aid activities either on behalf of the Thurmont Police Department or at the request of the neighboring law enforcement agency. The agreement addresses the following details:
 - a. The legal status of agencies and agency personnel responding to mutual aid requests;
 - b. Procedures for vesting provider agency personnel with the legal authority to act within the receiver agency's jurisdiction;
 - c. Procedures for requesting mutual aid;
 - d. Identity of those person(s) authorized to request mutual aid;
 - e. Identity of person(s) to whom outside personnel are to report;
 - f. Procedures for maintaining radio communication with outside personnel;
 - g. Expenditures, if any, which should be borne by the receiver agency to compensate for the use of the provider agency's resources; and,

h. Procedures for review and revision if prescribed in the agreement.

B. MUTUAL AID REQUESTS TO OTHER AGENCIES:

1. When the Chief of Police, or his designee, determines that assistance from other jurisdictions is needed, he will:
 - a. evaluate the facts;
 - b. determine the amount of personnel and equipment necessary;
 - c. estimate the probable duration of the need; and,
 - d. contact the other jurisdiction(s) and advise of the immediate needs.

C. MUTUAL AID REQUESTS BY OTHER AGENCIES:

1. A request should be made by that jurisdiction's chief law enforcement officer or designee directly to the Department. The requesting jurisdiction should specify:
 - a. location;
 - b. nature and quantity of assistance needed (i.e., personnel and equipment);
 - c. staging area, if applicable; and,
 - d. probable duration of need.
2. After verification, the Chief of Police or his designee will evaluate the request against the needs and available resources of the Thurmont Police Department and then inform the requesting jurisdiction of the resources the Department will be able to commit and when they will arrive.

D. MUTUAL AID REQUESTS DURING NON-BUSINESS HOURS:

1. The highest-ranking supervisor on duty will make decisions regarding mutual aid requests with proper notification through the chain of command.
2. Upon notification of a mutual aid request from another agency that is of such nature and significance that make it impractical for the on-duty supervisor to

respond with available manpower and equipment, the Deputy Chief of Police and Chief of Police will immediately be contacted to determine:

- a. the method of personnel and equipment response to the request; and,
- b. depending on the expected length of the emergency, provisions for the relief of personnel assigned both to the Town of Thurmont for regular police duties and personnel assigned to the requesting agency.

E. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Officers responding to a mutual aid request will:

1. Report immediately to the designated Officer-In-Charge and place themselves under his/her command.
2. Be used essentially for support while the receiver agency handles all arrests, if possible.

F. COMMAND:

All resources committed under emergency mutual aid requests shall be under the control and authority of the receiver agency, subject to recall by the provider agency.

G. COMPENSATION:

The provider agency shall compensate its own employees for their work during the emergency.

H. IMMUNITY:

Police officers acting under a mutual aid agreement shall have all the immunity from liability described under Section 5-612 of the Courts Article and exemptions from laws, ordinances, and regulations and have all of the pension, relief, disability, workers' compensation, and other benefits enjoyed by them while performing their respective duties while acting beyond their territorial limits as they would enjoy within their jurisdiction.

I. CONCLUSION OF NEED FOR MUTUAL AID:

When the chief executive officer or his designee of the receiver agency determines that mutual aid resources are no longer needed, he shall authorize their release to their

jurisdiction and shall so notify the chief executive officer, or his designee, of the provider agency.

J. PROVIDING NON-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

The Chief of Police or his designee may authorize non-emergency assistance upon requests from other jurisdictions (i.e., training scenarios, criminal investigations, drug reveals, etc.) to the extent that the resources are available. The Thurmont Police Department will compensate its own employees for all such work unless arrangements have been made with the receiver agency beforehand.

K. REQUESTING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE:

1. The determination to request federal law enforcement assistance will normally be made by the highest-ranking supervisor.
2. When requested, the supervisor will notify the Chief of Police, via chain of command.

L. NATIONAL GUARD EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

An emergency may arise necessitating the call-out of the Maryland National Guard. The Chief of Police, or his designee, must request the call-out through the Maryland State Police.

ATTACHMENTS:

DOCUMENT DATES:

Amended Date:

Review Date:

Review Date:

Rescinds:

Order Written by: Chief of Police

Order Edited and Approved by: Chief of Police

*CALEA Standards included in this Order
Chapter 2*