



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS CIVIL AIR PATROL

CAP REGULATION 900-3

15 AUGUST 2012

Miscellaneous

FIREARMS AND ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

This regulation establishes CAP policy on Firearms and Assistance to Law Enforcement Officials in CAP programs and activities.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES.

Clarifies policy on firearms within Civil Air Patrol. **Note: Shaded areas identify new or revised material.**

1. Firearms. Civil Air Patrol members will not carry, wear or use firearms while engaged in Civil Air Patrol activities. For purposes of this regulation a firearm is defined as any device which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, air or any other gas.

a. The carrying of firearms prohibition is subject to the following exceptions:

(1) A member may carry firearms on his/her person when required to do so by law provided he/she has a written statement of proof of such requirement signed by the wing commander.

(2) Firearms may be carried in survival gear in CAP aircraft when required by law. When firearms are so authorized, they will not be removed from the survival gear unless an emergency situation exists.

(3) Firearms may be used under strict supervision as authorized in CAPR 52-16, *Cadet Program Management*.

b. CAP shall not own, lease, acquire, store or otherwise accept ownership of or title to any firearms.

2. Other Dangerous Weapons. Other than as provided for in paragraph 1 above, members engaged in CAP activities are prohibited from possessing or using weapons as defined by local state statutes as "dangerous."

3. Assistance to Law Enforcement Officials. Civil Air Patrol units and CAP members engaged in CAP activities may provide passive assistance to law enforcement officers and agencies. CAP members may not be deputized nor may they take an active part in arrest or detention activities and have no authority to restrict persons by means of force, actual or implied.

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a. CAP assistance to law enforcement agencies which may lead to criminal prosecution is generally restricted to patrol, reconnaissance, communications relay, and reporting only. Detection and monitoring authority can be authorized on some Air Force Assigned Missions, normally at the request of Joint Task Force North. Requests for such assistance, unless of an emergency nature, must be approved in advance by the wing and region commanders and coordinated with NHQ/DO via the CAP National Operations Center. All CAP flights will be in accordance with CAPR 60-1, *CAP Flight Management*.

b. Assistance may also be a by-product of the normal conduct of the CAP mission. In some instances, such as during an airborne search, CAP members may observe suspicious activities and as concerned citizens, should report those activities to proper authorities.

4. Other Assistance. When requested by proper authorities, CAP members may provide passive crash site security and/or crowd control duties during an emergency/disaster situation. When on such a mission, the senior CAP member present will ensure the above restrictions are understood and will contact the nearest law enforcement officer if assistance is required.

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Commander