

# SHERIFF OF GARFIELD COUNTY

## LOU VALLARIO

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### GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY / PROCEDURE GENERAL

**SUBJECT: FLYING ARMED**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 01, 2024

**POLICY:**

The Sheriff's Office adheres to a flying armed policy that is consistent with guidelines set by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Members may only be authorized to fly armed for official business purposes.

**PURPOSE:**

To ensure compliance with law enforcement officer flying armed regulations.

**METHOD:**

**Training:** All personnel certified in firearms must have attended the TSA Flying Armed course in order to receive authorization to fly armed. Attendance of the TSA Flying Armed course will be confirmed before ANY request is approved.

**Requests:** All flying armed requests other than prisoner transports will go through the Professional Standards Division. Prisoner transport requests will go through the Court Services Sergeant or his/her designee. All deputies traveling for prisoner transports shall be armed with their primary duty weapon. Qualified secondary weapons may be carried as support weapons, only.

Personnel certified in firearms may request to fly armed when attending a training that requires a firearm to be carried and/or when on official law enforcement business, i.e. criminal investigation or background investigation. Deputies may carry their primary, qualified secondary or off-duty weapons while traveling in this capacity.

When needing to fly armed for training purposes, the requesting deputy must provide justification on the training request form. Once the training request is approved, the Professional Standards Division will get approval/denial from the Sheriff or Undersheriff and advise the deputy of the response. Once the flying armed request is approved, the Professional Standards Division will then submit the teletype to TSA and forward the approved response to the deputy.

When flying armed for official law enforcement business, the requesting deputy will need to submit a flying armed request memo (e-mail) to the Professional Standards Division who will obtain approval or denial from the Sheriff or Undersheriff and if approved, submit the teletype to TSA.

For situations that fall after business hours, on weekends or holidays, deputies must contact the booking deputies in the jail for further direction. This must also happen if a deputy's flight gets cancelled, postponed or delayed for whatever reason.

**Traveling:** TSA can deny anyone flying armed at any point in the transition. Also, the Captain of the plane may request that your weapon be secured in the cockpit during the flight. Copies of the TSA approved response should be kept with the deputy at all times during the flight trip.

The Sheriff's Office will not authorize any firearms certified personnel to fly armed for any personal travel including vacations.