



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NORTH FLORIDA/SOUTH GEORGIA VETERANS HEALTH SYSTEM
AND
LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SG VHS) and the Lake City Police Department (LCPD), hereinafter referred to as "parties."

1. PURPOSE. To establish general working relationships between the NF/SG VHS Police Service and LCPD as a means of reinforcing interagency coordination and responsibility concerning law enforcement, emergency response, requests for assistance, and physical security and access control operations at Lake City VA Medical Center, located at 619 S. Marion Ave, Lake City, Florida 32025, which encompasses the Lake City and the Lake City Primary Clinic located at 484 SW Commerce Drive, Suite 140, Lake City Florida, 32025.

2. REFERENCES.

- a) VA Directive 0730, *Security and Law Enforcement*, 12 December 2012
- b) VA Handbook 0730, *Security and Law Enforcement*, 11 August 2000
- c) Current Jurisdictional Proprietary.

3. GENERAL.

- a. The Lake City VA Medical Center and the Primary Care Clinic are located in the city of Lake City, Florida. These clinics provide primary, specialty, and extended care to Veterans throughout VHS. The mission of the Lake City VA clinics is to provide timely, efficient, ethical, safe, compassionate, and quality health care to Veteran patients.
- b. The LCPD has concurrent jurisdiction with the Federal Government over Lake City clinic properties. This jurisdiction grants local police agencies the authority to jointly enforce Federal and state laws with VA Police on Lake City VA properties.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. NF/SG VHS Police Service will:
 - (1) Maintain law and order and enforce Federal and state laws and VA regulations at the Lake City VA clinics, including the hospital building and designated

parking lots, for the protection of property owned or occupied by the VA and persons on the property.

(2) Provide primary initial response to any and all incidents or emergency situations at the Lake City VA clinics.

b. Lake City Police Department will:

(1) Respond to NF/SG VHS Police Service's requests for assistance. Such assistance may include, but not limited to, the following situations:

(A) Armed hostage taking situations that would require an armed response to assist VA Police in containing the situation until appropriate Federal agencies (such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation - FBI) can respond to assume control.

(B) Crimes involving armed robberies of funds, drugs or properties where the individuals committing the crimes leave VA police jurisdiction.

(C) Vehicle accident investigations, which may result in non-injuries, injuries, or death involving the VA Police patrol vehicles.

(D) Any major incident that would require additional Officers for traffic control to allow emergency vehicles a clear access to the facility.

(2) Provide additional Officers when needed to assist with the physical arrest of a violent/disorderly person(s) who poses a serious threat to VA patients, visitors, medical staff or themselves.

(3) Provide assistance in the transportation of prisoner(s) who have been arrested at the Lake City VA Medical Center on occasions when there are only two VA police officers on duty.

(4) Authorize access to and use of LCPD central dispatch and patrol units in the field for VA Police. The parties agree that the access and use of such information is solely limited to official law enforcement purposes and that the process of reprogramming VA radios would be at no cost to the City of Lake City.

(5) Should any VA Police Officer be involved in a shooting, the FBI will be notified immediately. If the FBI declines investigation, or if the FBI response is delayed, LCPD may provide investigative assistance to NF/SG VHS Police. This assistance may range from establishing, preserving, and controlling the crime scene, to performing as the lead investigative agency.

(6) COMPACT ACT Section 205 Police Crisis Intervention Training for VA Police requires that each VA medical center police service develop a plan to enter into partnerships with local mental health organizations and experts, Veteran community organizations, as well as local police departments to share training resources on Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT). This assistance may range from collaborated training and sharing law enforcement to coordinated intervention tactics when there is an extreme crisis involving a veteran(s).

5. ACCEPTANCE & RATIFICATION

- a. The provisions of this MOU are effective upon signature and date as indicated below and will be reviewed every 3 years, or as required.
- b. This agreement may be unilaterally suspended or cancelled by either side upon giving at least 180 days written notice to the other party.
- c. This MOU does not create additional jurisdiction or limit or modify existing jurisdiction vested in the parties. This MOU is intended exclusively to provide guidance and documents an agreement for general support between the parties. Nothing contained herein creates or extends any right, privilege, or benefit to any person or entity.
- d. Other areas of mutual interest may arise where services and support from one party of this MOU is required by the other party of this MOU. This MOU is not meant to limit those instances nor prohibit cooperation outside the above listed situations set forth and agreed upon.

FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NF/SG VHS

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10/27/2022

Edward Avila
Chief of Police, NF/SG VHS

Date

FOR LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gerald Butler
Chief, Lake City Police Dept.

Date