

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, LT. COL. LUKE
WEATHERS, JR. VA MEDICAL CENTER
AND
TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center (VA Police Department) and the Tupelo Police Department ("TPD") hereinafter referred to as "parties."

1. PURPOSE. To establish general working relationships between the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr VA Medical Center Police Department and Tupelo Police Department 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 the Tupelo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, located at 1114 Commonwealth Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38804

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) VA Police Department Officers are granted police authority to charge and arrest for violations of Federal Laws and regulations promulgated under the authority of sections 901 and 902 of Title 38, United States Code and Implemented by 1.218 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

3. GENERAL.

a. Memphis VAMC, also known as Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VA Medical Center, located in the City of Memphis, VAMC provides primary, specialty, and extended care to Veterans throughout Shelby County. The mission of the LT. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC is to provide timely, efficient, ethical, safe, compassionate, and quality health care to Veteran patients.

b. The Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VAMC has concurrent jurisdiction with the Federal Government over Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC properties. This jurisdiction grants local police agencies the authority to jointly enforce Federal and State Laws with VA Police on Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VAMC properties. Tupelo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC).

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. The Tupelo Police Service will:

(1) Maintain law and order and enforce Federal and state laws and VA regulations at the Tupelo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, 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 all incidents or emergency situations at the Tupelo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC).

b. Tupelo Police Department will:

(1) Respond to Tupelo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), 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, 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) Aid in the transportation of prisoner(s) who have been arrested at the Helena VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) on occasions when there are only two VA police officers on duty.

(4) Authorize access to and use of Tupelo Police Department 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 Tupelo Police Department.

- (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, Tupelo Police Department may provide investigative assistance to Tupelo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic VA 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 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 Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VAMC

Chester W. Mitchell

Chester Mitchell
Chief of Police, U.S. Dept. Veterans Affairs
Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VAMC

Joseph P. Vaughn Digitally signed by JOSEPH
VAUGHN
Date: 2023.02.14 15:50:50 -06'00'

Joseph Vaughn
Director, Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VAMC

2/14/2023

Date

02/14/2023

Date

FOR TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Quaka

John Quaka
Chief of Police, Tupelo
Police Department

3/16/23

Date