

Does the Arlington County Police Department have mutual aid agreements?

Yes, the Arlington County Police Department enters into mutual aid agreements with various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in order to provide police assistance across jurisdictional boundaries during certain emergencies or law enforcement situations. The agreement confers and outlines the legal authority granted to the responding jurisdiction.

What legal authorization is there for mutual aid agreements?

[Virginia Code §15.2-1724 - §15.2-1730](#). These laws specifically allow for local governments and their agencies to enter into agreements with governments and agencies beyond their own boundaries.

What types of agreements does the department have?

There are two agreements that are regionally based and encompass numerous agencies. First is the the Council of Governments' National Capital Region Mutual Aid Agreement. The agreement authorizes law enforcement and other agencies (federal, state and local) to provide public safety and other services across jurisdictional boundaries during emergencies and other major public events, to preserve the safety and welfare of the entire region. This agreement includes a total of 45 federal, state, local and military law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. There is a similar Memorandum of Understanding that encompasses 23 agencies in Northern Virginia.

In addition to the regional MOUs, ACPD also has individual agreements with several local, federal and state agencies. These agreements include typical mutual aid agreements, information sharing agreements, participation in certain programs and other administrative issues. Furthermore, ACPD has agreements with several agencies which allow for participation in certain task forces and workgroups. This includes work such as the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Internet Crimes Against Children. These agreements are in addition to the various agreements that exist between police department and other county and city agencies.

When is a mutual aid agreement used?

Mutual aid in law enforcement is used on a daily basis and can include the request of specialized resources such as K9s to search a building, helicopter for aerial support and SWAT. It is also used in more complex responses to include active shooter incidents and special events such as the Marine Corps Marathon and Presidential Inaugurations.

How does a mutual aid agreement work?

It begins with a request from an agency who needs assistance. When the responding agency arrives, they report to the requesting agency for assignments. Throughout the duration of the mutual aid deployment, the responding agency falls under the command and control of the requesting agency. Arlington officers responding to mutual aid are still bound by departmental policies.

Are mutual aid agreements covered by department policy?

Yes, [571.01 Mutual Aid Agreements & Concurrent Jurisdictions](#).

Who has the authority to approve a mutual aid agreement?

Depending on the circumstances, mutual aid agreements are signed by either the County Manager or the Chief of Police because authority to do so has been delegated to them by the County Board. Other agreements are approved by the County Board. It should be noted that these agreements are required to be reviewed by the County Attorney prior to execution.

Is the County reimbursed for mutual aid responses?

The County is often reimbursed for planned special events and is not normally reimbursed during emergency responses.

Does the County face greater liability for providing mutual aid?

Under state and federal law, local governments and their agencies providing services under a mutual aid agreement face the same liability for services provided in an outside jurisdiction as they would face if the services were provided in their home jurisdiction.