



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

ORDER

DOT 1660.2

11-30-93

Subject: USE OF WEAPONS BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL

1. PURPOSE. This Order prescribes the Department of Transportation (DOT) policy and standards governing the use of weapons by authorized DOT personnel and DOT contractor personnel.
2. CANCELLATION. DOT 1620.1A, Use of Weapons by Department of Transportation Personnel, dated 8-14-75.
3. SCOPE. The provisions of this Order apply to the Office of the Secretary (OST), the operating administrations, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). This Order applies to U.S. Coast Guard personnel, vessels, and aircraft except when performing military activities or operations.
4. REFERENCES.
 - a. DOT 1620.3A, Policy on Departmental Employees Carrying Weapons Aboard Commercial Aircraft, dated 7-26-78.
 - b. DOT 1620.4, Possession of Privately Owned Firearms in or on Department of Transportation Owned or Leased Property, dated 5-26-76.
5. DEFINITIONS.
 - a. Weapon. Any firearm or instrument such as vessel armament, a handgun, a baton, mace, or tear gas used to kill, wound, or subdue a person.
 - b. Deadly Force. Force of such degree that it is likely to cause serious bodily injury or death.
 - c. Officer/Agent. DOT personnel and DOT contractor personnel duly authorized to use weapons in their official capacity while performing law enforcement and security activities.
6. POLICY.
 - a. Officers/agents shall not use a weapon while performing law enforcement and security duties unless duly authorized.
 - b. Officers/agents shall not use a weapon until they have received adequate and appropriate training, acquired any required permits, and understand the Department's policy and other implementing procedures concerning the use of weapons by DOT personnel.

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OPI: Office of
Security

- c. The authority to bear weapons carries with it the obligation and responsibility to exercise discipline, restraint and professional judgment in their use. The officer/agent must keep in mind that, when firing a weapon, there is often a danger to innocent parties.
- d. Officers/agents duly authorized to use weapons in their official capacities while performing law enforcement or security activities may use such weapons to apply only such force as is reasonably necessary to compel compliance or in self-defense.
- e. Officers/agents may employ deadly force:
 - (1) when they perceive grave danger of loss of life or serious bodily injury to themselves or others and, on balance, the use of such deadly force does not create any undue risk of injury to innocent persons; or
 - (2) when property vital to the national security is put at serious risk, when on balance, the use of such deadly force does not create any undue risk of injury to innocent persons.
- f. The Department does not intend that officers/agents shall take undue risk when danger threatens. However, they must always exercise good judgment.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. The Assistant Secretary for Administration shall:
 - (1) ensure Department wide compliance with this policy;
 - (2) set up such procedures or additional standards as may be necessary to carry out this policy; and
 - (3) review policy and procedures established by the operating administrations that implement this policy.
- b. The Director, OST Office of Security, shall function as the executive agent for the Assistant Secretary of Administration for this policy.
- c. The heads of the operating administrations and secretarial offices shall ensure the promulgation of this policy.

d. The officer/agent shall:

- (1) Exercise discipline, restraint, and professional judgment in the use of weapons and must keep in mind that when firing a weapon there is often a danger to innocent parties.
- (2) Apply only such force as is reasonably necessary to compel compliance or in self-defense so that the opposing force or immediate threat becomes incapable of continuing the activity that prompted the use of such weapon.

8. This internal guidance for DOT personnel is solely intended to promote efficiency and consistency in public service above and beyond the requirements of law or regulation. This document creates no independent duties, standards of care, or obligations to the public and should not be relied upon as a representation by DOT as to the manner of proper performance in any particular case.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION:



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For the Assistant Secretary
for Administration