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Weapons Policy

Doc 5007

- I. The IFOC recognizes that weapon laws vary by state. The Board of Directors has adopted the following guidelines for how IFOC will conduct Chaplain business in addition to relevant national and state laws. This policy addresses insurance requirements / recommendations as well as protects IFOC's reputation when Chaplains interact with local law enforcement officials and also the public in general who may be deterred from seeking Chaplain help due to a visible weapon.
- II. Definitions
 - a. *Open Carry*: Defined by State Law. Usually used in reference to a visible pistol carried by an individual.
 - b. *Concealed Carry*: Defined by State Law. Usually used in reference to a pistol that is concealed under an individual's clothing and not readily visible.
 - c. *Sworn Police Officer*: Any law enforcement officer that is credentialed by the State or other governmental organization with authority to employ law enforcement officers. This includes active duty law enforcement officers currently employed and authorized by the State or other governmental agency to uphold the law.
- III. Open Carry by Chaplains
 - a. Unless a Chaplain is also a sworn police officer, IFOC does not permit a Licensed Chaplain to open carry a firearm.
 - i. While in IFOC uniform.
 - ii. While identified with an IFOC badge.
 - iii. Or while conducting Chaplain business in absence of a uniform when it is advertised by the Chaplain to their audience that he/she is an IFOC Chaplain and currently conducting chaplain business.
- IV. Concealed Carry by Chaplains
 - a. IFOC encourages Chaplains to follow their local state rules regarding Concealed Carry of a firearm.
 - b. IFOC does not make any restrictions on Licensed Chaplains carrying a legally concealed firearm while in uniform or identified in III above.
 - c. IFOC strongly encourages continuous training and proficiency with all weapons carried by IFOC Chaplains.

V. Possession of weapons by registered students in IFOC's Basic Chaplaincy Class

- a. It is the policy of IFOC to request registered students enrolled in an IFOC sponsored class (not Licensed Chaplains auditing a class) to leave all weapons out of the classroom. This does not apply to sworn police officers. This request will be sent out to all the students in the Welcome E-
- b. mail they receive prior to the first day of class. With regard to this policy, IFOC will conduct all classes in accordance with the laws of the State or territory the class is held in.
- c. The above (Section 5a) also applies to guests and visitors of registered students in an IFOC class.