

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, WESTERN COLORADO
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
AND
GRAND JUNCTION POLICE DEPARTMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Western Colorado Healthcare System (WCHCS) and the Grand Junction Police Department (GJPD), hereinafter referred to as "parties."

1. PURPOSE. To establish general working relationships between the WCHCS Police Service and Grand Junction 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 WCHCS located at 2121 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO. 81501.

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) Concurrent Jurisdiction has been established between agencies.
- d) COMPACT ACT Section 205 Police Crisis Intervention

3. GENERAL.

a. WCHCS VA Hospital, also known as Grand Junction VA Medical Center, is located in the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, State of Colorado. WCHCS provides primary, specialty, and extended care to Veterans throughout Western Colorado. The mission of the WCHCS is to provide timely, efficient, ethical, safe, compassionate, and quality health care to Veteran patients.

b. The GJPD has concurrent jurisdiction with the Federal Government over the WCHCS Hospital property. This jurisdiction grants local police agencies, which include GJPD, the authority to jointly enforce Federal and Colorado State laws with the WCHCS VA Police on WCHCS properties.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. WCHCS VA Police Service will:

(1) Maintain law and order and enforce Federal, Colorado State laws and VA regulations at the WCHCS. This includes all WCHCS buildings, 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 WCHCS.

b. Grand Junction Police Department will:

(1) Respond to WCHCS VA 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 property 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 WCHCS Hospital on occasions when there are only two VA Police Officers on duty.

(4) Authorize VA Police access to and use of Grand Junction Regional dispatch and patrol units in the field for VA Police assistance. 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 Police radios would be at no cost to the City of Grand Junction.

(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, Grand Junction Police Department may provide investigative assistance to WCHCS VA Police. This assistance may range from establishing, preserving, and controlling the crime scene, to performing as the lead investigative agency if requested by the VA Police.

(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.

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**FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WESTERN COLORADO
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

LARRY BRONSON Digitally signed by LARRY
BRONSON
Date: 2023.12.13 07:51:12 -07'00'

Larry N. Bronson
Chief of Police, U.S. Dept. Veterans Affairs
Western Colorado Health Care System

Date

**RICHARD
SALGUEIRO** Digitally signed by RICHARD
SALGUEIRO
Date: 2024.01.16 10:34:10 -07'00'

Richard W. Salgueiro
Director, VA Western Colorado Health Care System

Date

FOR GRAND JUNCTION POLICE DEPARTMENT



Matt Smith

Chief of Police, Grand Junction Police Department

1/25/24

Date