


OGDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY 53: HONOR GUARD & POLICE ESCORTS

Subject Honor Guard & Police Escorts	Effective Date August 16 th , 2024
Department Police	Replaces Policy Dated August 2020
Division All Police Personnel	Review Date August 2028
Authorized Signature 	

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

To establish processes and procedures for the department's Honor Guard and guidelines for its utilization in local and regional events including, but not limited to, funerals, parades, and other special events. Also establishes processes and procedures for police escorts.

II. POLICY

The Ogden Police Department will establish and maintain an Honor Guard. The Honor Guard will be comprised of sworn department members. Honor Guard members will conduct themselves in a manner that will promote a positive and professional image of the Ogden City Police Department.

III. DEFINITIONS

Ceremonial Rifle Services: A formal Honor Guard function involving the use of rifles to render honors, typically through the firing of blank cartridges in a synchronized manner.

Color Guard Services: Ceremonial duties performed involving the display, carriage, storage, protection, and presentation of the American flag and other official flags or standards.

Honor Guard Commander: The Ogden Police Department lieutenant responsible for direction and oversight of the Honor Guard.

Honor Guard Team Leader: A sworn Ogden Police Department officer responsible for supervising, managing, and facilitating the day-to-day operations of Honor Guard team members.

Honor Watch: A solemn duty performed by members of the Honor Guard, involving a continuous, ceremonial guard presence at the casket or cremated remains of a fallen officer, dignitary, or other designated individual.

Police Escort: A service provided by Ogden Police Department officers to accompany and protect individuals, vehicles, or property during transit for safety, security, or ceremonial purposes.

IV. PROCEDURE, HONOR GUARD

A. Command and Control

1. The Honor Guard Commander is responsible for direction and oversight of the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard Commander is selected and appointed by the Chief of Police.
2. The Honor Guard Team Leader is responsible for supervising, managing, and facilitating the day-to-day operations of the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard Team Leader is selected and appointed by the Honor Guard Commander.

B. Eligibility & Conditions of Service

1. Honor Guard members must be sworn officers of the Ogden Police Department.
2. Officers interested in joining the Honor Guard must submit a letter of interest to the Honor Guard Commander. A candidate's eligibility for Honor Guard membership will be determined by the Honor Guard Commander and Team Leader.
3. Honor Guard team members must commit to a minimum three-year service term. Individuals who fail to fulfill the conditions of this commitment shall reimburse the department for the cost of the uniform components listed in Section (IV)(C)(1)(a – e).
4. Honor Guard team members will be compensated for participation in unit training and events in accordance with Ogden Police Policy 49, *Compensation*.

C. Uniform

The department will provide all components of the required uniform and equipment for Honor Guard team members. Due to customization needs, the uniform components listed in (1) (a – e) will become the property of the member to whom they are issued.

1. The required Honor Guard uniform consists of the following components:
 - a. Single Breasted Dress Jacket
 - b. Military Pink Dress Pant
 - c. High Shine Dress Shoe
 - d. Black Tie
 - e. Eight-Point Navy Blue Hat
 - f. Hat Badge
 - g. High Shine Duty Belt
2. Required Honor Guard uniform equipment consists of the following components:
 - a. Holster
 - b. Handcuff Case
 - c. Magazine Pouch
 - d. Shoulder Strap
 - e. Sliding Dee
3. Honor Guard team members will be issued an Honor Guard badge to be worn during Honor Guard services, ceremonies, and events.
4. When Honor Guard team members resign, the issued badge and hat badge may be purchased for personal ownership.

D. Honor Guard Ribbon

1. Team members are authorized to wear the Honor Guard ribbon on their dress or Class A uniform while serving on the Honor Guard.
2. Team members who joined the Honor Guard on or before June 30, 2020, and who served two or more years-are authorized to permanently wear the ribbon as part of the OPD Uniform in accordance with the provisions of Policy 23, *Authorized Uniform and Equipment*.
3. Team members who joined the Honor Guard on or after July 1, 2020, and who have served three or more years are authorized to permanently wear the ribbon as part of the OPD Uniform and in accordance with the provisions contained in Policy 23, *Authorized Uniform and Equipment*.

E. Honor Guard Services

The Honor Guard unit may be utilized to assist in a variety of ceremonial functions, including:

1. Funerary services for law enforcement officers;
2. law-enforcement related memorial services;
3. color guard services;
4. ceremonial processions or parades; and
5. other ceremonial functions or events as directed by the Chief of Police.

F. Ceremonial Services Provided

1. The Honor Guard may provide the following funerary services for an Ogden Police Department officer killed in the line of duty:
 - a. Honor Watch
 - b. Color Guard Services
 - c. Pallbearer Services
 - d. Ceremonial Performance of 'Taps'
 - e. Ceremonial Rifle Salute
 - f. Other services authorized by the Chief of Police
2. The Honor Guard may provide the following funerary services for current Ogden Police Department officers whose death was not in the line of duty:
 - a. Honor Watch
 - b. Color Guard Services
 - c. Pallbearers Services
 - d. Other services authorized by the Chief of Police
3. The Honor Guard may provide the following funerary services for a former officer who retired in good standing after having spent the majority of their law enforcement career with the Ogden Police Department:
 - a. Color Guard Services
 - b. Other services authorized by the Chief of Police
4. When directed by the Chief, members of the Honor Guard may attend and/or assist with the funerary services of a Utah law enforcement officer.

V. **PROCEDURE, POLICE ESCORTS**

The Ogden Police Department may provide police escorts upon request. All department members involved in police escorts must adhere to the guidelines in this policy.

A. Objectives

The primary objectives of police escorts are to:

1. Maintain public safety.
2. Facilitate the efficient movement of designated persons or objects.
3. Provide a visible security presence.
4. Uphold the department's commitment to community service.

B. Escort Details

The Ogden Police Department may provide police escorts for the following types of events or situations:

1. Funeral Processions: For fallen officers, public officials, or other law-enforcement related memorial events.
2. Public Events: Parades, marathons, or other sanctioned events requiring traffic management and public safety oversight.
3. Dignitary Protections: For visiting dignitaries, government officials, or other individuals requiring transportation security.
4. Oversized or Hazardous Loads: For the safe transportation of exceptionally large vehicles or hazardous materials through populated areas.
5. High-Value or Sensitive Cargo: For the secure transportation of valuable items, sensitive materials, or critical evidence.
6. Other: Other security or ceremonial events as authorized by the Chief of Police.

C. Legal Authority

All police escort operations shall strictly adhere to local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines pertaining to road use, traffic control, and public safety. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Traffic Laws: Officers conducting escorts must comply with all applicable traffic laws, except where specific exemptions are granted for emergency vehicles under controlled conditions.
2. Road Closures: Any temporary road and intersection closures or traffic diversions must be conducted in accordance with local and state regulations. Permits must be obtained when required.

3. Use of Emergency Equipment: The use of emergency lights, sirens, and other special equipment must conform to departmental policies and state laws governing their use.
4. Speed Limits: Escort vehicles must adhere to posted speed limits unless specifically exempted for emergency situations, and then only with due regard for public safety.
5. Notification Requirements: Proper notification to relevant authorities (e.g., local traffic management centers, neighboring jurisdictions) must be made as required by law or inter-agency agreements.

D. Approval and Final Authority

The final authority for all police escort authorizations rests solely with the Chief of Police. While requests may be initiated through various channels within the department, ultimate approval or denial of any police escort service is at the discretion of the Chief. In accordance with this authority, the Chief may:

1. Approve or deny any escort request, regardless of its nature or origin.
2. Delegate authorization authority.
3. Establish additional criteria or guidelines for escort services.
4. Revoke previously granted authorizations if circumstances change, or new information becomes available.

In the Chief's absence, this authority may be temporarily delegated. However, the Chief shall be notified of all escort authorizations at the earliest possible opportunity.