



Department Directive

Title: Department Honor Guard Program	Directive: OPS.020.0022
Related MD Statute/Regulations: Correctional Services Article, §2-103, Annotated Code of Maryland	Rescinds and replaces: OPS.020.0022, dated June 19, 2015
Related ACA and MCCS Standards: N/A	Approved By: 
Related Directives: N/A	Sameka Watford-Woodson Acting Director of Security Operations
	Effective Date: February 17, 2026
Variance: A facility directive may be implemented.	Number of Pages: 3



David Greene
 Deputy Secretary
 Operations



Carolyn J. Scruggs
 Secretary

.01 Purpose.

- A. The purpose of this directive is to continue policy and assign responsibilities for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) Honor Guard Program.
- B. This directive authorizes the Department Honor Guard Program Manual (Manual).

.02 Scope.

This directive applies to all units of the Department.

.03 Policy.

The Department shall provide honor guard services at a ceremony approved by the Secretary of the Department or ordered by the Governor of Maryland.

.04 Definitions.

A. In this directive, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

- (1) "Color Guard" means a ceremonial escort performed individually or as a group for the United States, Maryland, Department, or agency flag.
- (2) Honor Guard.
 - (a) "Honor Guard" means a contingent of individuals assigned specific responsibilities for:
 - (i) Honoring a deceased employee or other federal, state, or local government official; or
 - (ii) Representing the Department or a unit at an official federal, state, department, or local government ceremony.
 - (b) "Honor Guard" includes a color guard.

.05 Responsibilities/Procedures.

- A. The Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services, the Director of Patuxent Institution, and Director of Parole and Probation shall coordinate personnel resources to provide membership in the Department Honor Guard Program (DHGP).
- B. The Director of Security Operations, or a designee, is responsible for oversight of the DHGP.
- C. The Director of Security Operations shall choose, with the approval of the Deputy Secretary for Operations, an individual DHGP member to serve as Commander of DHGP (Commander). The Commander is responsible for:
 - (1) Establishing quality control standards for the DHGP;
 - (2) Approving and documenting DHGP training protocols and scheduling DHGP statewide training;
 - (3) Chairing and selecting members for a:
 - (a) DHGP selection committee; and
 - (b) Review board to review and determine removal of a member from the DHGP.
 - (4) Receiving and processing requests for DHGP services;
 - (5) Obtaining authority for and making DHGP assignments;
 - (6) Maintaining a master list of current DHGP members and assignments;
 - (7) Maintaining a master list of DHGP equipment and assignments;

- (8) Documenting and maintaining records of DHGP administrative operational activities; and
- (9) Establishing and maintaining a Department Honor Guard Program Manual.

D. Annual Color Guard Competition.

- (1) The Commander is responsible for coordinating an annual color guard competition. The purpose of this competition is to select a top unit from each region (East, West, Baltimore) to represent the Department or region at functions, as deemed appropriate by the Commander.
- (2) The Commander shall develop criteria for use during the annual color guard competition to judge and identify the Department Color Guard Unit and the Regional Color Guard Unit.

.06 History.

- A. This directive replaces OPS.020.0022 dated June 19, 2015.
- B. This directive supersedes provisions of any other existing Department or unit communication with which it may be in conflict.

.07 Distribution.

A

S – Honor Guard members.