



**Las Cruces Police Department  
GENERAL ORDERS  
ADMINISTRATION VOLUME 1  
GO-127 FUNERAL HONORS (Daily)  
Revised 05-13-2005**

**127 FUNERAL HONORS**

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Las Cruces Police Department to provide Honor Guard and other services to the families of deceased officers, retired police department employees and members of their immediate families when requested. All requests for services will be evaluated by the Chief of Police or his / her designee.

**127.01 SERVICES FOR SWORN OFFICERS**

- A. The services offered by the Las Cruces Police Department to the family of a deceased officer include:
1. An honor guard at the viewing, the funeral services, and at the cemetery.
  2. A motor escort from the place of service to the cemetery.
  3. Coordination of pallbearers, speakers, musical offerings, and photographs, if requested by the family.
- B. The Honor Guard is composed of personnel from the Special Weapons and Tactics team (SWAT). Officers from the deceased officer's section or unit may participate after contacting the SWAT commander.
1. During public viewing, Honor Guard services shall be conducted in the following manner:
    - a. Two officers in appropriate uniform shall stand at military parade rest; one at the head of the casket, the other at the foot of the casket.
    - b. The Honor Guard supervisor shall march and post the Honor Guard and present a hand salute on the posting of the first detail.
    - c. The Honor Guard supervisor shall ensure relief of Honor Guard personnel every twenty minutes until the public viewing has concluded. As each relief detail marches to a halt, they shall assume the parade rest position simultaneously. Officers being relieved shall fall back, and then march from the room.



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- d. A motor escort shall be provided from the place of service to the place of interment unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police.
- e. Because every officer renders service to the United States and is sworn to uphold its Constitution, officers shall be afforded departmental honors similar to military honors.
- f. An appropriate flag of the United States of America, provided by the Department, shall be draped over the casket. Following the religious services, two members of the Honor Guard will fold the flag into a triangle within a field of blue.
- g. The flag shall be entrusted to the Chief of Police or his / her designee. The Chief will present the flag to the deceased's next of kin in a military manner and offer appropriate remarks.
- h. Officers attending services in uniform shall wear the class "A" uniform, and badges shall be uniformly draped with black mourning bands as a sign of respect.
- i. Officers shall line up in formation at the direction of the Honor Guard supervisor.
- j. Uniformed representatives from other agencies shall be invited to join the formation, and while in formation, shall respond to the orders of the Honor Guard supervisor or his / her designee.
- k. During services at the cemetery, all uniformed officers shall form in ranks to the right of the family, facing the casket. As the prayer is offered, officers may remove hats and place them over their hearts.
- l. A representative of the Department designated by the Chief of Police shall coordinate departmental efforts with the family, and the family's clergy or funeral director so that department honors and services will enhance and support the planned religious or fraternal services.

**127.02 SERVICES FOR RETIRED OFFICERS**

Any officer who has retired from the Las Cruces Police Department under honorable circumstances is entitled to the same services described above.



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**127.03 OTHER FUNERAL HONORS**

- A. The Department shall, upon request, provide a police escort from the place of funeral service to the place of interment unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police in conjunction with the funeral services of:
1. A non-sworn employee.
  2. A retired non-sworn employee.
  3. A member of an employee's immediate family.
  4. The spouse of the retired employee.
- B. Honor Guard services may be instituted for the immediate family of any employee of the Police Department at the request of the employee and with the approval of the Chief of Police.