

**U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND REMOVAL OPERATIONS**

**International Escorted Removal Missions**

**Policy Number:** 4000  
**Issue Date:** October 25, 2024  
**Effective Date:** October 25, 2024  
**Superseded:** None

**1. Purpose/Background.**

- 1.1. This Directive provides U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers with policy and procedures while conducting escorted removal missions of persons detained under the authority of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by ERO personnel.
- 1.2. Use of international airports/locations for both officer and deportee transits, as well as officer rest overnight, is critical to the ERO removal mission.
- 1.3. Overseas incidents involving escorting officers risk disrupting established relationships with foreign airport authorities and foreign government stakeholders and could result in the restriction or outright loss of travel to or through critical geographical locations. Additionally, the officer may be fined, detained, or arrested.
- 1.4. This policy applies to all ERO personnel who conduct escorted removal travel within the continental United States (CONUS) that continues outside of the continental United States (OCONUS) and direct OCONUS, whether by commercial airlines or charters, as authorized in the INA, as amended, and delineated in Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) while conducting enforcement and removal activities.
- 1.5. This Directive does not supplant other transportation or escort policies or procedures found in the applicable ICE detention standards.

**2. Policy.**

- 2.1. All officers performing escort duties involving detainees in ERO custody shall conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism. Detainees under escort shall be transported in a manner that is safe, secure, humane, and professional.
- 2.2. While performing CONUS escort duties, officers should ensure compliance with all U.S. laws, ICE and ERO policies and procedures, applicable U.S. Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) policies and procedures relating to the screening of individuals and property, and guidance provided through the ERO Removal

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Division, International Operations Division (IOD) and ICE Air Operations (IAO).

- 2.3. While performing OCONUS escort duties, officers shall ensure compliance with ICE and ERO policies and procedures, all international obligations as outlined by the U.S. Department of State (DoS) and/or ERO IOD, applicable TSA policies and procedures relating to the screening of individuals and property, and policies, procedures, and guidance as outlined by IAO.

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**3. Definitions.** The following definitions apply for purposes of this Policy only:

- 3.1. **Escorting officer** – An ERO officer who conducts escorted removal travel within the continental United States (CONUS) and outside of the continental United States (OCONUS).
- 3.2. **Detainee** – Any person, regardless of citizenship or nationality, under arrest, detained, restrained, escorted, or confined by DHS or any other law enforcement agency.
- 3.3. **Escape Risk** – Any detainee who, in the belief of an ERO officer, may attempt escape from ICE custody if not otherwise prevented. An individual who will actively seek opportunities to escape from ICE custody.
- 3.4. **Escort** – To transport or otherwise move any person detained under the immigration laws of the United States (8 U.S.C. § 1101 et.seq.).
- 3.5. **CONUS** – Travel within the continental United States.
- 3.6. **OCONUS** – International travel.
- 3.7. **Travel document** – A form of identification issued by a government that allows subjects travel.
- 3.8. **Travel Service Provider** – A company or agency that provides travel services and arrangements, including bookings for travel and lodging.
- 3.9. **Weapon** – Any object, item, or device that may be used to cause physical injury, incapacitate, or diminish capability, temporarily or permanently.

#### 4. Responsibilities for Supervisors.

- 4.1. Supervisors shall ensure that officers selected for escort removal missions are familiar with existing policies, procedures, and guidance at all stages of a transport/removal mission, during both CONUS and OCONUS operations.
- 4.2. Supervisors shall ensure in advance of the scheduled departure on an escorted removal mission that officers are appropriately trained and aware of any mission specific requirements or international obligations as outlined by the DoS and/or ERO IOD to include current (b)(7)(E) applicable TSA policies and procedures relating to the screening of individuals and property; and any applicable policies, procedures, and guidance as outlined by IAO.

#### 5. Responsibilities for Escorting Officers.

- 5.1. Escorting officers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with existing policies, procedures, and guidance at all stages of a transport/removal mission, during both CONUS and OCONUS operations.

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## 7. Authorities/References.

7.1. Title 8, United States Code, Section 1357 (INA §287), and Title 8, C.F.R., Section 287 (8 C.F.R. § 287).

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**8. No Private Right Statement.**

This directive is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter. Nor are any limitations hereby placed on otherwise lawful enforcement prerogatives of ICE.

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