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TO ALCOAST

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SSIC 16247

SUBJ: PROMULGATION OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY  
ACT (LEOSA) CREDENTIALING PROGRAM, COMDTINST 16247.14

A. 18 U.S.C. Section 926B, Carrying of Concealed Firearms by  
Qualified Law Enforcement Officers

B. 18 U.S.C. Section 926C, Carrying of Concealed Firearms by  
Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers

C. U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Law Enforcement Manual (MLEM),  
COMDTINST M16247.1H

D. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Law Enforcement Officers  
Safety Act, Directive 257-01, Revision 1, 12/22/2017

E. Ordnance Manual, COMDTINST M8000.2F

1. This ALCOAST announces the promulgation of the Law Enforcement  
Officer Safety Act (LEOSA) Credentialing Program and updates to  
the LEOSA Credentialing Program. In 2021, the Coast Guard  
approved this program allowing certain current and former law  
enforcement officers (LEOs) to apply for credentials to carry a  
personally owned firearm concealed while off-duty, not in uniform,  
in any jurisdiction in the U.S. with certain exceptions. Since its  
inception the Coast Guard has approved 618 926B (active LEO)  
credentials and 69 926C (retired LEO) credentials. Through the  
review process of these initial applications it was determined  
that several policy statements needed clarification or amending.

2. Effective immediately the following policy updates will be  
in effect and will be incorporated into the next revision of  
REF (C):

a. Appendix T, Paragraph A.2.b. will be deleted and replaced  
with A.1.b of this promulgated Instruction: "The definition of  
"qualified law enforcement officer" in 18 U.S.C. Section 926B also  
includes those authorized to "supervise" law enforcement  
activity. However, 18 U.S.C. Section 926B requires that supervisors  
of law enforcement activity still meet the other statutory  
requirements, which include being "authorized by the agency to  
carry a firearm" and "having statutory powers of arrest or  
apprehension." The Coast Guard interprets this requirement to  
mean that supervisory personnel shall be currently certified in  
a position outlined in Paragraph A.1.a. of this Appendix."

b. Appendix T, Paragraph A.2.c. will be amended to add A.2.j.  
of this promulgated Instruction: Not be within 12 months of a  
permanent change of station (PCS), retirement, or release from  
active duty (RELAD). This requirement does not apply to current  
CGIS Agents.

c. Appendix T, Paragraph A.2.c. will be amended to add A.2.1.  
of this promulgated Instruction: Reserve members that receive a  
926B Credential will not be permitted to keep that credential  
unless on official orders. Their credential will be stored by  
their unit command and issued during periods of official duty  
and only while assigned at an authorized unit.

d. Add 3.a. (last paragraph) of this promulgated Instruction:  
Thus, Coast Guard personnel who have transferred from a law  
enforcement billet but remain in the service, and who have

otherwise satisfied the requirements in 18 U.S.C. Section 926C, may apply for a 926C Credential. The Coast Guard interprets service as a LEO to be time spent in a qualified position in accordance with Paragraph A.1.a. of this Appendix. Additionally, Reserve members may only count certified time during periods when on official orders (e.g. Inactive Duty for Training, Active Duty for Training, Active Duty for Operational Support, Extended Active Duty, etc.). Any period of time that a Reserve Member is not on orders shall not be considered in determining whether the member meets the aggregated 10 years as a certified LEO outlined in the LEOSA criteria. Reserve member applicants shall provide documentation to validate official orders during the application process.

e. Appendix T., Paragraphs A.2.c., A.3., and A.3.a.2. will be amended in A.3. and A.3.a.(2) of this promulgated Instruction to better clarify eligibility requirements: "or apprehension under section 807(b) of title 10, United States Code (article 7(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice)" in accordance with REF (C) and (D).

f. Appendix T, Paragraph A.3.a.1. will be deleted and replaced with A.3.a.(1) of this promulgated Instruction: "Retired or separated in good standing from the Coast Guard as a LEO, other than for reasons of mental defect (for those members separated from service this will be verified by review of separation codes/ characteristics on DD-214) (agency LEO's as identified in Paragraph A.1.a. of this Appendix, that are currently in LEO positions but meet the requirements for a 926C Credential may apply);"

g. Appendix T, Paragraph A.3.a.3. will be deleted and replaced with A.3.a.(3) of this promulgated Instruction: "Before such separation, have served as an LEO for an aggregate of 10 years or more; or separated from the Coast Guard, after completing any applicable probationary period of such service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by such agency. Time served as a LEO in other law enforcement agencies will count towards the 10 years aggregate time, providing the individual can provide documentation of service. Additionally, when using time served from other law enforcement agencies, at least 51% of the 10 year aggregate must be from a Coast Guard LEO position, and the Coast Guard must have been the most recent employer as an LEO."

h. Appendix T, Final Paragraph of Paragraph A.3.a. will be deleted and replaced with the Final Paragraph of A.3. of this promulgated Instruction: "Thus, Coast Guard personnel who have transferred from a law enforcement billet but remain in the service, and who have otherwise satisfied the requirements in 18 U.S.C. Section 926C, may apply for a 926C Credential. The Coast Guard interprets service as an LEO to be time spent as a qualified position in accordance with Paragraph A.1.a. of this Appendix. Additionally, Reserve members may only count certified time during periods when on official orders (e.g. Inactive Duty for Training, Active Duty for Training, Active Duty for Operational Support, Extended Active Duty, etc.). Any period of time that a Reserve member is not on orders shall not be considered in determining whether the member meets the aggregated 10 years as a certified LEO outlined in the LEOSA criteria. Reserve member applicants shall provide documentation to validate official orders during the application process."

i. Appendix T, Paragraph A.3.a. will be amended to add A.3.(4) through (7) of this promulgated Instruction::

i. (4) During the most recent 12-month period, have met, at the expense of the individual, the standards for qualification in firearms training for active law enforcement officers, as determined by the Coast Guard, the State in which the individual resides or, if the State has not established such standards, either a law enforcement agency within the State in which the individual resides or the standards used by a certified firearms instructor that is qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active duty officers within that State. A CG-3029 may not be used to satisfy this requirement unless the applicant holds an active certification that requires regular Coast Guard firearms qualifications.

ii. (5) Not be officially found by a qualified medical professional employed by the Coast Guard to be unqualified for reasons relating to mental health and as a result of this finding will not be issued photographic identification; or has not entered into an agreement with the Coast Guard in which the individual acknowledges he or she is not qualified under this section for reasons relating to mental health and for those reasons will not receive or accept photographic identification;

iii. (6) In order to carry a firearm under 18 USC Section 926B, members shall not be under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance; and

iv. (7) Not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

j. Appendix T, Paragraph B.1. and B.5. will be amended in B.1. and B.6.a. of this promulgated Instruction to update the web address to:

(Copy and Paste URL Below into Browser)

<https://LeosaCoastGuard.com>

k. Appendix T. Last Paragraph of Paragraph B.1., will be deleted and replaced with B.2. of this promulgated Instruction: "926C Credentials will have an indefinite expiration period, subject to review and revocation; however, members issued this credential shall adhere to all provisions of the LEOSA law or be subject to arrest. 926B Credentials will be valid for a period up to five years from the date of issuance. Members are required to renew their credential, if desired, in accordance with the provisions of this directive. Applications may be submitted for renewal of credentials within 60 days of the LEOSA Credentials expiration."

3. Unit commands are reminded the 926B and 926C Verification Memorandum is not a recommendation by the command, rather a verification that all the prerequisites are met.

4. These changes have been promulgated in the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) Credentialing Program, COMDTINST 16247.14. Appendix T of REF (C) is hereby cancelled.

5. POC: COMDT (CG-MLE-2), CW04 Lee Conroy, (202) 372-2171, Lee.J.Conroy@uscg.mil.

6. RDML Jo-Ann F. Burdian, Assistant Commandant for Response Policy (CG-5R), sends.

7. Internet release is authorized.