



North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC)

Policy Number:	7
Effective Date:	10/4/05, revised 9/1/2006
Subject:	Associate Members Roles, Rights and Responsibilities
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Overview

The North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) recognizes the value and importance in having criminal justice agencies and law enforcement organizations other than municipal police departments serve as members of and contribute to the success of NEMLEC. Toward this end, in 2004 NEMLEC established a category of 'Associate Members' and incorporated this type of membership into its corporate by-laws. Article III, Section 2, of the by-laws reads, in pertinent part:

Section 2. Associate Member Agencies

NEMLEC shall also be comprised of other law enforcement and/or criminal justice agencies, known as associate members. An associate member shall enjoy all of the benefits of NEMLEC and shall contribute its input, expertise, and resources when requested. Associate members shall not be considered for purposes of establishing a quorum, shall have no right to vote, and shall not be present or participate in any executive session called by the Council.

Role of Associate Members

At this time there are two (2) Associate Members of NEMLEC—the Middlesex County Sheriff's Department and the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Subject to the limitations set forth below, each Control Chief and Committee Chair of NEMLEC has discretion to invite sheriffs' department personnel to try-out for or participate in the following operational unit or committee work he/she oversees within the legal limitations of such employee's position:

- Provide prisoner detainment, transportation and processing for situations involving mass arrests;
- Provide Mobile Command Unit staffing;
- Provide transportation of NEMLEC RRT and SWAT Teams when needed;
- Provide support personnel for Computer Crime Unit;
- Provide vehicle maintenance and repair for NEMLEC vehicles with reimbursement for costs;
- Provide support personnel for Technology Committee;
- Provide support personnel to maintain the NEMLEC Regional Server;
- Provide support personnel to serve as STARS team member(s);
- Provide assistance and support for advocacy of legislative initiatives supported by and funding sought by NEMLEC.

A Control Chief or Committee Chair may petition the membership at any monthly meeting for authorization to expand the above listed activities after having provided each NEMLEC member agency ten days notice prior to the meeting.

NEMLEC recognizes that the legal authority of the sheriffs and their personnel may differ from the legal authority of a police officer in various situations. Given the challenge of integrating employees of the sheriffs' organizations into established operational units of NEMLEC, such as the RRT and/or SWAT teams, a Control Chief shall consider any legal limitations of the authority of a sheriff's department employee that may affect his/her ability to participate in the unit overseen by that Control Chief and shall assign the sheriff's department employee to duties appropriately within his/her legal limits. These limitations shall include, but are not limited to, whether the individual has been appointed as a sworn deputy sheriff, and whether the employee has been deputized and is empowered with law enforcement powers in both Essex and Middlesex Counties.

Sheriff's department employees who wish to participate in a NEMLEC operational unit that undertakes law enforcement actions, as distinguished from those units providing support services only at a law enforcement incident, shall:

- Have completed the same or substantially similar training received at a municipal police recruit academy; and
- Have successfully completed any and all examinations and physical testing required by previously established protocols for participation in those units.

In the event NEMLEC accepts additional Associate Members into the organization, their roles will be further defined as appropriate and this policy shall be updated as such.

Rights of Associate Members

Associate Members of NEMLEC shall enjoy all of the benefits of NEMLEC. Specifically, this shall mean that an Associate Member may access any resource available to all NEMLEC members upon request. In keeping with NEMLEC's longstanding philosophy, an Associate Members shall access these resources while maintaining "local control" over the situation requiring a NEMLEC presence.

Responsibilities of Associate Members

1. Associate Members shall abide by the by-laws, policies and procedures of NEMLEC.
2. When acting on behalf of NEMLEC, an Associate Member shall take actions consistent with the charitable purposes for which NEMLEC was established and for which it enjoys tax exempt status.
3. Associate Members shall pay dues as assessed each year by NEMLEC.
4. Associate Members shall attend monthly membership meetings when possible.
5. Associate Members shall execute a NEMLEC Mutual Aid Agreement.