Prevent 1033 LESO Firearms Losses

Do you know where all of the firearms that your agency has from the 1033 LESO Program are located? Are you sure? At the end of 2016, 345 firearms issued by LESO to law enforcement agencies around the country were unresolved lost, missing, or stolen. Agencies that lose a weapon are subject to a minimum 60 day suspension and will be investigated by the Office of the Inspector General. Don’t let your agency become a statistic. Use these three strategies to prevent weapon losses: returns, security, and policies.

Prevent 1033 LESO Firearms Losses—Returns

One reliable way to prevent weapon losses is to transfer or return weapons when they are no longer needed. Agencies are welcome and encouraged to use LESO weapons as long as necessary. When the day comes that your agency does not need them, though, contact our office to transfer them to another agency or return them to the military.

Prevent 1033 LESO Firearms Losses—Security

The majority of missing LESO weapons were stolen from offices, homes, and vehicles. Properly securing firearms will prevent many instances of loss and theft.

Use two levels of security for firearms. For example, locked in a gun case locked in the trunk of a vehicle, locked in a safe in a locked room, or locked in a rack in the locked armory.

Restrict access to secure areas only to people who truly need access. Do not leave weapons unattended and unsecured in open office areas. If a vehicle does not have adequate security equipment, do not leave a firearm in the vehicle.

Prevent 1033 LESO Firearms Losses—Policies

Protect LESO firearms and those belonging to your agency with thoughtful policies.

When issuing firearms, assign them to an individual, rather than to a vehicle or unit. Tracking down an item that was assigned to a single person is much easier than one that was assigned to a group of people or a geographical location.

Define the security procedures that must be in place in order for officers take their issued firearms home with them between shifts. One option would be to require officers to store firearms inside an approved locked gun safe inside their homes.

If an officer will be permitted to leave their firearms in their vehicle at home, consider requiring that the locked car be stored in an enclosure like a garage. On multiple occasions thieves have broken into a patrol car parked on the street in front of a home and cut a rifle out of the locked gun rack.

Think about when officers will be away from their normal duties for an extended period, like vacation or training sessions. In these situations, consider requiring officers to turn in their firearms for storage at the armory.
47 agencies across Colorado were visited for 1033 LESO Program Compliance Reviews. Our goal is to meet with about 1/3 of participating agencies each year.

With the 1/3 goal, our office will be much more visible and your office is likely to see us more frequently than you have in the past.

Frequent compliance reviews help agencies stay abreast of the current rules, maintain adequate files, and physically verify their equipment. With these checks and procedures in place, we establish and demonstrate how every participant follows the rules to keep this program viable.

Typically, a compliance review will last about 45 minutes. During that time, our office will inspect equipment, check paperwork, and talk to you about your questions regarding the program.

Here are some tips to help your agency prepare for a compliance review.

Program Compliance Reviews—Collect and Organize Equipment

A big component of every compliance review is checking the equipment.

Our office will send you a list of your current inventory. We need to see 100% of the DEMIL B-Q items. We will indicate 10% of the current DEMIL A items to inspect.

Save time and prevent any surprises by locating and pulling together the equipment in advance.
Program Compliance Reviews—Gather Files and Paperwork

Pulling together the files and paperwork that your agency has from the 1033 LESO Program will help save time during a compliance review.

1033 LESO files may be kept as paper hard copies, electronic copies, or some mix of the two.

What kinds of paperwork are we talking about? There are three categories of files that we will check during a review.

1. Participation Files
   - This includes the current signed application and State Plan of Operation (the 14 page agreement signed by the Chief Law Enforcement Official in your agency). These documents contain the rules for participation, making them a great reference.

2. Acquisition / Transfer / Return Paperwork and Receipts
   - Most of the time when you acquire an item you will get a paper receipt. These are often referred to by their form name, “1348.”
   - You may also have other kinds of transfer receipts from acquiring equipment over the years. In addition, keep weapons transfer and registration approval forms from the ATF.
   - This paperwork category also includes any receipts from returning equipment or transferring it to another agency.

   Records retention rules:
   - DEMIL A—keep paperwork for 2 years
   - DEMIL B-Q—keep paperwork for as long as you have the item, PLUS an additional 5 years

3. Policies and Procedures
   - If your agency has certain kinds of equipment, then you need written requirements for their usage. These files may be stored separately from the 1033 files, but are relevant.

   Protocols by Equipment Type:
   - Firearms—1) annual training for every authorized user; 2) security and storage
   - Humvees, Armored Vehicles, MRAPs—1) appropriate usage and supervision of use; 2) annual operational, technical, and scenario-based training; 3) community policing; 4) constitutional policing; 5) after-action reports
   - Riot Shields, Batons—1) appropriate usage and supervision of use; 2) annual operational, technical, and scenario-based training; 3) community policing; 4) constitutional policing; 5) after-action reports

Sample 1348 receipt. Keep these documents for 2 years for DEMIL A, and for the life of the item for DEMIL B-Q.

Talk about organized!

This agency attached the matching 1348 document to each item (including the hand saws pictured here) before their compliance review.
The Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) within the Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Logistics Agency, facilitates the 1033 LESO program. This program allows transfer of excess DoD property that might otherwise be destroyed to law enforcement agencies across the United States.

Section 1122 of the National Defense Authorization Act authorizes state and local agencies to purchase equipment and supplies in support of counter-drug, homeland security, and emergency response activities through federal sources of supply. Agencies can take advantage of the volume buying power of the Federal Government for low prices.

**Saving Local Governments Money**

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**1033 LESO General Training Wednesday, April 26, 2017**

Join the Prowers County Sheriff’s Office in Lamar for a general 1033 LESO Program training.

Bring your laptop for help setting up accounts and to try searching for equipment. Bring your questions for answers.

Topics will include:
- Search tips from active participants
- General program rules
- How to set up accounts

**Date:** April 26, 2017

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Prowers County Department of Human Services
1001 S. Main St.
Lamar, CO 81052

**Register:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/)

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**Welcome to Jennah Kitchell!**

We are pleased to announce that Jennah Kitchell has joined the Colorado 1033 LESO Program as a new State Point of Contact. When she is not helping out with 1033 LESO issues, Jennah also works in the Compliance Office at the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

Jennah will be approving requisitions and answering your questions the week of March 27-31, when Alice will be out of the office.