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**AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL POLICE**

**Special Police.** The Administrator of General Services and duly authorized officials of the General Services Administration are authorized by law to appoint special policemen. Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (49 USC 471) the Administrator may delegate that authority to the heads of Federal agencies when so requested by such agencies. The Act of May 27, 1934, as amended (D.C. Code 1-602), and the Act of June 1, 1942, as amended (49 USC 119) the pertinent provisions of which are set forth hereunder, specify the degree of police power conferred and the scope of activity of such special police.

1. **Act of May 27, 1934.** Under this enactment and subsequent transfer of functions and authorities, the Administrator of General Services is authorized to appoint special policemen, without compensation, to police reservations under his jurisdiction in the District of Columbia. These special policemen have the same powers and perform the same duties as the United States Park Police and the Metropolitan Police Force of the District of Columbia, but such powers are restricted to reservations within the District of Columbia and under the control of the Administrator of General Services.
2. **Act of June 1, 1942.** Under this enactment, the Administrator of General Services is authorized to appoint uniformed guards as special policemen, without additional compensation, for duty in connection with the policing of public buildings and other areas under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration. These special policemen

have the same powers as sheriffs and constables, upon such Federal property, to enforce the laws enacted for the protection of persons and property, to prevent breaches of the peace, to suppress affrays or violent assemblies, and to enforce rules and regulations made and promulgated by the Administrator or other duly authorized officials. The jurisdiction and police powers of these special policemen are restricted to Federal property over which the United States has acquired exclusive or concurrent criminal jurisdiction.

### **Definitions.**

1. **Exclusive Federal Criminal Jurisdiction** exists when the Federal Government has the exclusive right to enforce the criminal laws in effect in a location or area, ordinarily one which is owned by the United States. Such jurisdiction is obtained through legislation by the State in which the property is located, or in the enabling act governing the admission of the State. Where such jurisdiction exists the State and local authorities have no responsibility for criminal law enforcement, which rests entirely upon the Federal Government.
2. **Concurrent Federal Criminal Jurisdiction** exists when the Federal Government and the State in which the property is located both enforce criminal laws in a location or area. The State jurisdiction usually results from the reservation by the State of the right concurrently to exercise the same or part of the same powers as are vested in the Federal Government.

**Local Protection.** When properties over which the Federal Government has exclusive or concurrent criminal jurisdiction are guarded by special police every effort must be made to obtain the co-operation of local and Federal law enforcement agencies, as well as other protection organizations in the vicinity. Mutual assistance agreements should be entered into with these agencies in order to cope with large scale disorders, the handling and procession of Federal prisoners, fire fighting, and any other mission of the special police which might require more resources, equipment, or facilities than are at their immediate disposal. Special policemen must be thoroughly instructed in the type of jurisdiction applicable to each facility in which they operate, their authorities under such jurisdiction, and the procedures which they should follow.

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