

as a member of the duly constituted police force of the political subdivision in which the metro transit police member is engaged in the performance of his duties. However, a member of the metro transit police is authorized to carry and use only such weapons, including handguns, as are issued by the Authority, and only in the performance of his duties or while on the [Authority's] transit facilities OWNED, CONTROLLED, OR OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY in direct transit to and from a duty assignment. A member of the metro transit police is authorized to carry such weapons only while in direct transit to and from a duty assignment and is subject to such additional limitations in the use of weapons as are imposed on the duly constituted police force for the political subdivision in which he is engaged in the performance of his duties.

(c) Members of the metro transit police shall have power to execute on the transit facilities OWNED, CONTROLLED, OR OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY any traffic citation or any criminal process issued by any court of any signatory or of any political subdivision of a signatory, for any felony, misdemeanor or OTHER offense [cf] AGAINST laws, ordinances, RULES, or regulations of the Authority, or of the signatory or its political subdivision as specified in subsection (a). However, with respect to offenses committed upon, to, or against the transit facilities owned, controlled or operated by the Authority, the metro transit police shall have power, except in Maryland, to execute criminal process within the transit zone.

(f) With respect to members of the metro transit police, the Authority shall

(1) Establish classifications based on the nature and scope of duties, and fix and provide for their [qualification] QUALIFICATIONS, appointment, removal, tenure, term, compensation, pension and retirement benefits;

(2) Provide for their training and, for this purpose, the Authority may enter into contracts or agreements with any public or private organization engaged in police training, and this training and the qualifications of the uniformed and plainclothes personnel shall at least equal the requirements of each signatory and of the political subdivisions [thereof] THEREIN in the transit zone for their personnel performing comparable duties; and

(3) Prescribe distinctive uniforms to be worn.

(g) The Authority shall have the power to enter into [plans, arrangements or] agreements with the signatories, the political [subdivision] SUBDIVISIONS thereof IN THE TRANSIT ZONE and [other] public safety agencies LOCATED THEREIN, including those of the federal