



GLOBAL SOF FOUNDATION EDGED WEAPONS DISPLAY POLICY

Document Control

Issue No: 1

Issue Date: 11 AUG 2025

Page: 1 of 3

Applies to All Exhibitors Displaying Knives or Edged Implements

Purpose

To ensure the secure and responsible exhibition of knives and other edged tools at all GSOF events, whether on U.S. military installations or in civilian convention venues, while aligning with best practices in public safety, force protection, and event risk management.

Scope

This policy applies to all exhibitors showcasing any form of edged blade, including tactical, culinary, utility, ceremonial, or collectible knives, at all GSOF-hosted events.

Policy Guidelines

1. Exhibitor Declaration and Inventory Control

- o All exhibitors must declare their intent to display knives before contracting for exhibit space.
- o A full inventory must be submitted to GSOF Security **no later than 30 days prior to the event**, including:
 - Make and model
 - Blade length and type (fixed, folding)
 - Locking or assisted-opening mechanism
 - Whether the blade is functional, dulled, or inert

2. Display Security Requirements

- o All knives must be secured in locked cases or attached with tamper-proof display cables.
- o No loose or unattended knives may be exposed on tables, stands, or counters.
- o Blades must remain sheathed, folded, or otherwise always secured.

3. Handling Restrictions

- o Attendees may not handle knives unless:
 - Under direct exhibitor supervision
 - Display item is secured to prevent removal
- o No knife may be removed from its securing device or sheath.

4. Demonstration Limitations

- o Live cutting, sharpening, or utility demonstrations are **permitted**, however, only by the exhibitor.
- o Only static demonstrations or non-functional replicas may be used for presentations.



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Page: 1 of 3

5. Sales and Product Transfer

- o If allowed by venue rules, sales may be conducted at the exhibitor's booth. However:
 - No knives may be physically handed over during the event
 - All products must be shipped to the buyer post-event or delivered off-site
- o "Cash-and-carry" is prohibited at all venues.

6. Venue-Specific Rules

- o Military Installations:
 - Exhibitors must comply with installation-specific regulations, including DoD guidance, AR 190-11 (Army), or AFI 31-101 (Air Force)
 - All knife-related display items must be approved by the Installation Security Office and Visitor Control Center (VCC)
- o Civilian Venues (e.g., Tampa Convention Center, Hotel Venues):
 - Exhibitors must adhere to local weapons ordinances and venue-specific security requirements.
 - Any item determined by venue security to pose a threat may be denied entry or removed from the premises.

7. Inspections and Enforcement

- o GSOF Security and venue officials reserve the right to inspect any knife display at any time
- o Exhibitors must maintain accurate inventory and immediately report any lost or stolen knives.
- o Violations of this policy may result in removal from the event and future exhibitor bans.

8. Acknowledgment Requirement

- o All exhibitors displaying knives must sign a written acknowledgment of this policy and venue-specific rules before setting up their booth.



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Page: 1 of 3

GSOF Event Safety Is Non-Negotiable.

This policy protects our attendees, exhibitors, and venues while maintaining a professional exhibition environment in the defense and tactical industry.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the denial of firearm display privileges and may result in ejection from the event.

Contact:

GSOF Director of Security:

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