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## Body Armor

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers with guidelines for the proper use and care of body armor.

### POLICY

It is the policy of the [Insert agency name] to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures.

### ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR

The [Insert responsible person(s)] shall ensure that body armor is issued to all [officers/deputies] and that the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice when issued.

Body armor shall be issued when an [officer/deputy] begins service at the [Insert agency name] and shall be replaced when the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.

### USE OF BODY ARMOR

- (a) [Officers/Deputies] shall only wear agency-approved body armor.
- (b) Unless exempted by this policy body armor shall be worn at all times by [officers/deputies] while working in uniform or taking part in department range training.
- (c) Detectives and non-uniformed [officers/deputies] shall wear body armor anytime they are in a situation they could reasonably be expected to take an enforcement action (e.g., serving search warrants, making arrests, conducting criminal investigations in the field).
- (d) [Officers/Deputies] may be excused from wearing body armor while they are functioning in an administrative or support capacity and could not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (e) An [officer/deputy] may be excused from wearing body armor when he/she is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor; or when a supervisor determines that other circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.

## INSPECTIONS OF BODY ARMOR

Supervisors should ensure that body armor is worn and maintained as required by this policy through routine observation and periodic documented inspections. Annual inspections of body armor should be conducted for fit, cleanliness, and signs of damage, abuse and wear.

## CARE, MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF BODY ARMOR

Officers should routinely inspect personal body armor for signs of damage and for general cleanliness.

Because dirt and perspiration may erode ballistic panels, each [officer/deputy] shall be responsible for cleaning personal body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Officers are responsible for the proper storage, maintenance and care of body armor in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Officers are responsible for reporting damage or excessive wear to the ballistic panels or cover to their supervisor and the individual responsible for the uniform supply function.

## [RANGER MASTER OR OTHER DESIGNEE] RESPONSIBILITIES

The [Range Master or designee] should:

- (a) Monitor technological advances in the body armor industry for any appropriate changes to [Insert agency name] approved body armor.
- (b) Assess weapons and ammunition currently available and the suitability of approved body armor to protect against those threats.
- (c) Provide training to [officers/deputies] regarding the safety benefits of wearing body armor.