

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

BODY ARMOR

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide members with guidelines for the proper use and care of body armor. This order applies to sworn members only.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for sound, basic safety precautions.

Summary of Changes: Adds procedure for obtaining replacement armor (sec. 1.3.1). Adds new use for armor (sec. 2.2). New format.

Procedure:

1 Issuance of Body Armor

- 1.1 All body armor issued must comply with the minimum protective standards of the National Institute of Justice in effect at the time of purchase and/or issuance.
- 1.2 All officers will be issued body armor, two armor carrier garments, and a soft trauma plate.
- 1.3 Body armor will be replaced every five years after issuance. The Support Services Division Commander or designee will maintain records of armor issuance and will notify officers when the armor needs to be replaced.
- 1.3.1 Upon receiving notification that their armor is nearing the expiration date, officers will go to the authorized dealer to be fitted for a replacement. This should be done as soon as practical.
- 1.4 Damaged body armor will be replaced regardless of date of issue. Body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer will be paid for by the officer.
- 1.5 Officers that request a replacement armor due to reasons other than damage or expiration will submit a request to the Support Services Division Commander and will be reviewed for approval on a case by case basis.

2 Use of Body Armor

- 2.1 Body armor will be worn by officers during recruit and field training.
- 2.2 All officers will wear body armor while participating in live-fire range activities and firearms training.
- 2.3 Officers assigned to a uniform function and non-uniformed officers are required to wear body armor during field operations while on or off-duty unless exempted as follows: [CALEA 41.3.5]
 - 2.3.1 When an agency approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude use of body armor;
 - 2.3.2 When the officer is involved in undercover or plainclothes work that the officer's supervisor determines would be compromised by use of body armor;
 - 2.3.3 When the officer is assigned to perform an administrative function;
 - 2.3.4 When circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate body armor, such as extreme heat and/or humidity.
- 2.4 Officers wearing body armor will only wear department approved body armor.
 - 2.4.1 Officers involved in high-risk arrest situations such as Narcotic Search Warrants and SWAT operations will utilize the maximum ballistic protection available. [CALEA 41.3.6]

3 Care and Inspection of Body Armor

- 3.1 All officers are responsible for the proper storage of body armor in accordance with manufacture's instructions.
- 3.2 Officers will conduct daily inspections of their issued body armor for signs of damage and general cleanliness.
- 3.3 Body armor is subject to inspection at any time by any supervisor.

Mike Davis
Chief of Police