

Body Armor

1012.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

1012.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office 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.

1012.3 ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR

The Administration supervisor shall ensure that body armor is issued to all deputies when the deputy begins service at the Shasta County Sheriff's Office and that, when issued, the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice.

The Administration supervisor shall establish a body armor replacement schedule and ensure that replacement body armor is issued pursuant to the schedule or whenever the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.

1012.3.1 USE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

Generally, the use of body armor is required subject to the following:

- (a) Deputies shall only wear agency-approved body armor.
- (b) Deputies should generally wear body armor anytime they are in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (c) Deputies may be excused from wearing body armor when they are functioning primarily in an administrative or support capacity and could not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (d) Body armor should generally be worn when a deputy is working in uniform or taking part in Department range training.
- (e) A deputy may be excused from wearing body armor when he/she is involved in undercover or plainclothes 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.

1012.3.2 INSPECTIONS OF BODY ARMOR

Supervisors should ensure that body armor is worn and maintained in accordance with this policy through routine observation.

Body Armor

1012.3.3 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

Soft body armor should generally not be stored for any period of time in an area where environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, light, humidity) are not reasonably controlled (e.g., normal ambient room temperature/humidity conditions), such as in automobiles or automobile trunks.

Soft body armor should be cared for and cleaned pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions provided with the soft body armor. The instructions can be found on labels located on the external surface of each ballistic panel. The carrier should also have a label that contains care instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the armor. If care instructions for the soft body armor cannot be located, contact the manufacturer to request care instructions.

Soft body armor should generally not be exposed to any cleaning agents or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer, as noted on the armor panel label.

Soft body armor should generally be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended replacement schedule.

1012.4 HARD BODY ARMOR

Hard Body Armor will be assigned / issued to be stored in Sheriff's Office vehicles and utilized by personnel in the following units: Patrol, AB109, Resident Posts, Major Crimes, School Resource, K-9, and Civil. The armor shall be kept in the beat bag or vacuum sealed bag.

1012.4.1 USE / DEPLOYMENT OF HARD BODY ARMOR

The use of hard body armor may be used as follows:

- (a) Deputies shall only wear agency-approved hard body armor.
- (b) Generally hard body armor should not be worn for daily use. Hard armor should be used in calls involving the use/likelihood of a rifle/high powered round or critical incident/active shooter, or other appropriate circumstances.

1012.5 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rangemaster or Agency Designee should:

- (a) Monitor technological advances in the body armor industry for any appropriate changes to Department approved body armor.
- (b) Assess weapons and ammunition currently in use and the suitability of approved body armor to protect against those threats.