



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 125

GENERAL ORDERS

BODY ARMOR

PURPOSE:

While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for sound, basic safety procedures.

BODY ARMOR:

Body armor is issued to all sworn personnel and will comply with current minimum protective standards prescribed by the National Institute of Justice for **Threat Level II**. Deputies may only wear body armor that is issued by this agency.

Worn, damaged or expired body armor is replaced as soon as possible. Misused or abused body armor is replaced at the expense of the deputy responsible for the misuse or abuse.

**USE OF BODY
ARMOR:**

Studies indicate firefights are short, sharp, and usually unexpected. The first round discharged is usually fired at the deputy, not by the deputy. A vest in a vehicle trunk is useless in these situations. Although not mandatory, all deputies on field duty are **strongly encouraged** to wear armor to maximize safety.

Deputies engaged in pre-planned, high-risk situations are **required** to wear body armor. **It is the responsibility of supervisors to assure every Deputy is wearing body armor in these situations.** Examples of pre-planned, high-risk situations are, but not limited to:

- Planned arrest warrant service.
- Search warrant service.
- Drug raids.
- Tactical response to critical incidents

**APPROVED
EQUIPMENT:**

The **only** equipment that is to be worn on the outer vest is handcuffs, radio, two magazines, body camera, taser, and a tourniquet or-Med-kit in their approved pouches. Additional equipment, such as knives, is **strictly prohibited**.

**BODY ARMOR
INSPECTIONS:**

Body armor is to be inspected quarterly by supervisors for cleanliness, and signs of damage, abuse or wear. Supervisors are to document the inspection of body armor on the quarterly line inspection.

**BODY ARMOR CARE
AND MAINTENANCE:**

Each deputy is responsible for proper storage of body armor in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Each deputy is to conduct daily inspection for signs of damage and general cleanliness.

Because dirt and perspiration can erode ballistic panels, each deputy is to clean body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Damage or wear to ballistic panels or cover is reported immediately to a supervisor for evaluation.

TRAINING:

Body armor is **required** to be worn by all Deputies and Instructors during live fire training.

Periodic random testing of body armor is conducted by training personnel under simulated field conditions to ensure body armor performs to its rated level. Testing is conducted with the types of ammunition and firearms the vests are intended to defeat.

Training Center personnel maintains the following information related to body armor:

- Technological advances in the body armor industry that may necessitate a change in body armor.
- A description of weapons and ammunition currently in use, by the criminal element, and whether or not issued body armor can withstand their impact.
- Training programs that inform deputies about body armor, and emphasize its safe and proper use.
- Statistics on incidents where armor has or has not protected deputies from harm, including traffic collisions.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff