

Body Armor

1201.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

1201.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to maximize deputy 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 deputy safety procedures.

1201.3 ISSUANCE

The agency shall ensure that body armor is issued to all deputies and that, when issued, the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice.

Body armor shall be issued when a deputy begins service at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and shall be replaced when the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised or upon the manufacture's expiration date.

1201.3.1 USE

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

- (a) Deputies shall only wear office-approved body armor.
- (b) All Deputies, including non-uniformed sworn personnel shall wear body armor any time they are in a high risk situation or operation.
- (c) Deputies will wear body armor when working in uniform or taking part in office range training.
- (d) Deputies are not required to wear body armor when they are functioning primarily in an administrative or support capacity and would not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (e) Deputies 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.
 1. In those instances when body armor is not worn, deputies should have access to their body armor.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

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1201.3.2 INSPECTION

Supervisors will ensure through routine observation and periodic documented inspections that body armor is worn and maintained in accordance with this policy and manufactures guidelines.

1201.3.3 CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The required care and maintenance of body armor is subject to the following:

- (a) Deputies are responsible for inspecting their body armor for signs of damage, wear and cleanliness at the start of each shift.
 - 1. Unserviceable body armor shall be reported to the supervisor.
- (b) Deputies are responsible for the proper storage of their body armor.
 - 1. Body armor should not be stored for an extended period of time in an area where environmental conditions (e.g. temperature, sunlight, humidity) could potentially degrade its effectiveness.
- (c) Deputies are responsible for the care and cleaning of their body armor pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions.
 - 1. Body armor should not be exposed to any cleaning agents or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer.
 - 2. Failure to follow manufacturer's care instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the body armor. If care instructions for the body armor cannot be located, the manufacturer should be contacted to request the instructions.
- (d) Body armor should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended replacement schedule, or when its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.