

# COLCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: <b>Body Armor</b>	
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 8, 2015	NUMBER: GENERAL ORDER #7
REFERENCE:	
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## POLICY:

It is the policy of the Colchester Police Department 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.

## CONTENTS:        I.        DEFINITIONS                           II.        PROCEDURES

### I.        DEFINITIONS:

*Field Activities:* Duty assignments and/or tasks that place or could reasonably be expected to place officers in situations where they would be required to act in enforcement rather than administrative or support capacities.

*Uniform Personnel:* Personnel below the rank of Lieutenant that work in the patrol division or other assigned enforcement officers working as a uniformed patrol officer.

### II.        PROCEDURES:

#### A. Issuance of Body Armor

1. All body armor issued must comply with protective and related requirements prescribed under current standards of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).
2. All officers shall be issued agency-approved body armor.
3. Body armor that is worn or damaged shall be replaced by the agency. Body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer shall be paid for by the officer. Replacement schedules as recommended by the manufacturer and the NIJ.

**B. Use of Body Armor**

1. Officers shall wear only agency-approved body armor.
2. Body armor shall be worn by recruit officers as required by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council.
3. Officers that are assigned to a uniformed function and non-uniformed sworn officers are required to wear body armor while engaged in field activities both on duty and during off duty employment unless exempt as follows:
  - a. When an agency-approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude wearing body armor;
  - b. When the officer is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor; or
  - c. When the department determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.
4. All sworn personnel shall wear body armor whenever participating in pre-planned warrant execution or other tactical operations.

**C. Inspections of Body Armor**

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

**D. Care, Maintenance and Replacement of Body Armor**

1. Officers shall routinely inspect personal body armor for signs of damage and for general cleanliness.
2. As dirt and perspiration may erode ballistic panels, each officer shall be responsible for cleaning personal body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Officers are responsible for the proper storage, maintenance and care of body armor in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
4. 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.
5. Body armor will be replaced in accordance with guidelines and protocols established by the National Institute of Justice.

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