

 <p style="text-align: center;">University of Pittsburgh Police Department</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rules & Regulations Manual</p>	Reference Number: (Chapter / Section)	2 – 6 PLEAC 2.1.3; 2.1.4
	Issue Date:	01-31-11 Reviewed 12/2018
	Effective Date	02-28-11
	Rescinds:	All Previous
	Amends:	N/A
Title:	Body Armor	 By Order of James R. Loftus, Chief of Police

1.0 Policy

It is the policy of The University of Pittsburgh Police Department to provide sworn officers with body armor for their protection. Issued body armor will be worn while on patrol duty, security details, and other specified times as outlined in this policy.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this order to provide all sworn officers with guidelines for the availability and wearing of protective body armor during routine police duties. It is the purpose of the University of Pittsburgh 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. This order also addresses guidelines for mandatory wearing of soft body armor during pre-planned, high-risk incidents.

3.0 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.

4.0 Procedures

A. Issuance of Body Armor

1. All Officers shall be issued department approved body armor by the Chief of Police.
2. Body armor that is worn out or damaged shall be replaced by the department. Body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer shall be paid for by the officer.

3. All body armor issued must comply with the protective and related requirements prescribed under the standards of the National Institute of Justice. (PLEAC 2.1.3)

B. Use of Body Armor

1. Officers shall wear only department approved body armor.
2. Body armor shall be worn by all officers while engaged in field activities unless exempt as follows:
 - a. When the officer is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor.
 - b. When the Chief of Police or his designee determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor. (PLEAC 2.1.3)

C. Inspections of Body Armor

1. Shift supervisors and officers should conduct periodic inspections of their body armor for fit, cleanliness, signs of damage, abuse and wear.
2. Shift supervisors may be responsible for ensuring that body is worn and maintained as required by this policy through routine observations and periodic documented inspections, noted on the shift supervisor's log sheet.

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 the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Officers are responsible for reporting damage or excessive wear to the ballistic panels or cover to their shift supervisor and the individual responsible for the uniform supply functions.
5. Body armor will be replaced every 5 years, or longer, but always in accordance with the manufacturer guidelines and protocols established by the National Institute of Justice and the PPA / Collective Bargaining Agreement. (PLEAC 2.1.3)
6. The Chief of Police or his designee may allow for body armor to be worn on the outside of the uniform of the day, at the officers own discretion.

E. Training

The firearms training officer(s) will by periodically reviewing guidance from the National Institute of Justice:

1. Monitor technological advances in the body armor industry that may necessitate a change in body armor.
2. Assess weapons and ammunition currently in use and the suitability of approved body armor to protect against those threats.
3. Provide training programs, when directed, that demonstrates body armor's stopping power under actual firing conditions and that emphasize its safe and proper use.
4. Report these findings to the Chief of Police.

F. Pre-planned, High Risk- Incidents

The use of body armor or the wearing of bullet resistant vests is required by all personnel as well as University of Pittsburgh SERT TEAM Members when responding to a pre-planned, high-risk situation including, but not limited to:

1. Misdemeanor and felony arrest warrants.
2. Non-administrative search warrants.
3. Hostage situations.
4. Barricaded gunman incidents.
5. Any other situation whereby the shift supervisor deems it necessary.
6. The Investigative Unit while serving warrants, or as deemed necessary while on specialized assignments or details

(PLEAC 2.1.4)

5.0 **References**

PPA Contract / Collective Bargaining Agreement