

# THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

## GENERAL ORDER

Date Issued: Jan. 18, 2008

Effective Date: Jan. 18, 2008

Order No: Chapter 2.7

Authority: Chief of Police

Gregory L. Eyler

Manual Page No:

Subject: **Soft Body Armor (Bulletproof Vest)**

Replaces Page No:

CALEA Standard: 41.3.5,6

Distribution: **ALL**

Amends:

Number of Pages: 4

Related Documents:

Rescinds:

This Directive is for internal use only, and other than as contraindicated here this Directive does not create or enlarge this Department's, governmental entity's, any of this Department's officers, and/or any other entities' civil, criminal, and/or other accountability in any way. This Directive is not to be construed as the creation of a standard of safety or care in any sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance, litigation, and/or other action. Deviations from this Directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-Departmental administrative action(s) (including discipline and/or termination).

### I. PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines concerning the provision and use of soft body armor (bulletproof vest).

### II. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Thurmont Police Department to reduce risks associated with performance of the police function by providing each officer body armor. Officers are required to wear body armor during each tour of duty, raid or assignment where the officer is likely to be involved in an armed confrontation. The soft body armor shall meet the protection standard of Threat Level II-A.

### III. DEFINITIONS: N/A

### IV. PROCEDURE

A. Protective vests (soft body armor) are issued to all sworn members of the Thurmont Police Department.

1. Wearing the protective vest while in the field is required of all Law Enforcement personnel.

2. Exceptions to the mandatory wearing of protective vests include:
    - a. Command personnel.
    - b. Plainclothes investigators.
    - c. Personnel assigned undercover.
    - d. Personnel assigned to administrative duties.
  3. Personnel who are exempt from the mandatory wearing of body armor shall use their professional judgment when deciding whether or not to wear their protective vest. Such personnel shall be required to wear their protective vest when participating in any raid or arrest situation where there is a likelihood of an armed encounter.
- B. Protective vests worn by uniformed personnel during routine field duty are of the type worn underneath the uniform shirt or in an approved outer carrier.
- C. Protective vests will be stored in a location readily accessible to personnel while on duty.
- D. Care of Soft Body Armor
1. Care and cleaning will be according to the manufacturer's specifications and the Officer's responsibility.
- E. Replacement of Soft Body Armor
1. The replacement of soft body armor will be based on the manufacturer's recommendations.
- F. Inspections of Body Armor
1. Supervisors shall ensure that their personnel are wearing their body armor during their inspections and at the beginning of their tour of duty. Their documented monthly inspection will include reference to the wearing of soft body armor. At least once a year, during the month of December, supervisors shall visually inspect the soft body armor and carriers of their subordinates for signs of damage and aging, and to ensure that the armor is still functional. They will notify the Deputy Chief of Police if there is a need to replace the armor prior to its expiration date.
- G. Reporting Incidents Involving Body Armor

1. Any member struck by gunfire, an automobile, or some object (i.e., knife, razor, pipe, etc.) in an area protected by the body armor which posed a significant threat to life, shall document the incident in their Incident Report, and other related required reports and memos, and submit it through established procedures. The member shall report to the hospital as soon as possible, regardless if they feel any ill effects or whether any external injury is recognizable.
2. The body armor worn at the time of the assault shall be forwarded to the Deputy Chief of Police to evaluate serviceability and integrity of the ballistic panels. The member shall receive another vest during the evaluation period.

**ATTACHMENTS :**

**DOCUMENT DATES :**

*Amended Date: 11/18/2015 by Lt. P.A. Droneburg*

*Review Date:*

*Review Date:*

*Review Date:*

*Rescinds:*

*Order Written By: Lt. Shawn R. Tyler*

*Order Edited and Approved By: Chief Gregory L. Eyer*

*Accreditation Standards Included in this Order*

*CHAPTER 41 PATROL*