

Oakland County Sheriff's  
Office GENERAL ORDERS # 1.5



<b>SUBJECT:</b> Use and Availability of Body Armor		<b>NUMBER:</b> 1.5
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> November 29, 2022 <b>REVIEW DATE:</b> Annually		<b>MACP Standard Impact:</b> 1.6.2
<b>REPLACES AND RESCINDS:</b> General Order # 49	<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b> All Personnel	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b> 2

This order replaces and rescinds all previously issued orders, procedures, rules and regulations, notices and/or practices in conflict with those contained within this document.

**I. PURPOSE**

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

**II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Sheriff's Office to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor. All sworn deputies assigned to Law Enforcement Services or the Court Services Division shall be issued body armor. Body armor that is expired or damaged shall be replaced by the Sheriff's Office. **(MACP Standard 1.6.2a)**

**III. DEFINITIONS**

Sheriff's Office approved body armor: Body armor that is either the body armor issued to the deputy by the Sheriff's Office or body armor that the deputy has received written approval to use. Requests for approval may be submitted to the Training Unit. Body armor must comply with the current minimum protective standards prescribed by the National Institute of Justice.

**IV. PROCEDURE**

A. Use of Body Armor

1. All personnel covered by this Order shall wear only Sheriff's Office issued or approved body armor.
2. Uniformed deputies are required to wear their Sheriff's Office issued or approved body armor while engaged in law enforcement activities. This includes:
  - a. Patrol and Field Operations **(MACP Standard 1.6.2b)**
  - b. Pre-planned Tactical Operations **(MACP Standard 1.6.2d)**
  - c. Court Security - including the Transport Unit
  - d. Hospital Watches

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3. Non-uniformed deputies (i.e., investigators and plain clothes deputies) are not required to wear their Sheriff's Office approved body armor during their normal course of duty but may wear it at their discretion.
4. Non-uniformed deputies must wear their Sheriff's Office issued or approved body armor during the execution of warrants or other tactical missions.
5. Non-uniformed deputies must keep their Sheriff's Office issued or approved body armor readily available.
6. Oakland County Sheriff's Office Reserve Program members shall be bound by this Order when performing any duties listed in section IV(A)2 of this Order.

**B. Issuance and Record Keeping:**

1. At the time of issuance, the Training Unit will confirm that the body armor fits the deputy and instruct the deputy in the proper use and care. The Training Unit shall enter the issue date on the armor's label with a permanent marking pen or stamp.
2. The Training Unit shall maintain records of the following information: which armor was issued to a given deputy; the issue date; supplier name; model designation; armor type; and production lot numbers.

**C. Care and Maintenance of Body Armor**

1. Deputies are responsible for the proper use, storage, and cleaning of their body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Each time before wearing, deputies shall inspect their body armor for signs of damage. Deputies are responsible for reporting any damage or wear to the body armor to their immediate supervisor for replacement. **(MACP Standard 1.6.2c)**



**ISSUED BY:** Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard