

17. EQUIPMENT (December 2005)

I. POLICY

Employees are responsible for care, security, and proper maintenance of all Departmental equipment, uniforms, or property issued to them. Employees shall not use Departmental equipment or property negligently.

II. CHECKLIST (N/A)

III. DEFINITIONS (N/A)

IV. FORMS

- ❑ Commander's Information Report (PGC #1545)
- ❑ Body Armor Inspection Report (PGC Form #4373)

V. PROCEDURES

1. Duty to Care for Equipment

Employees assigned items requiring scheduled maintenance, such as Departmental vehicles, shall ensure compliance with required schedules.

2. Body Armor

Except where specified otherwise in this section, the wearing of body armor is mandatory when officers are:

- ❑ Attempting warrant service
- ❑ Attending classes as a recruit officer, provided a vest has been issued and the instructor has not determined the type of instruction to be incompatible with vest use

- ❑ Deployed to the inner perimeter of a barricade or hostage situation, provided a reasonable opportunity to don the armor exists
- ❑ Deployed to uniformed patrol duties, including those desk assignments involving regular public-contact
- ❑ Engaged in any specialized uniformed enforcement activities, such as traffic enforcement and crowd control
- ❑ Participating in the entry phase of any narcotics or other forced entry search warrant execution
- ❑ Performing stakeout or surveillance duties
- ❑ Working secondary employment in uniform
- ❑ Engaged in pre-planned high-risk activities. Officers that are exempt from wearing body armor shall not engage in pre-planned high-risk activities

A supervisor may also order subordinates to wear body armor in other situations where a heightened risk of injury is present.

The listed mandatory-wear requirements apply to all officers in the specified activities regardless of rank, including shift commanders and ODCs.

Exceptions & Waivers

Officers are not required to wear body armor when:

- ❑ They give their supervisor a certification from a licensed physician that body armor use is precluded by a medical condition (the supervisor shall place the certification in the officer's personnel file)
- ❑ Wearing the uniform blouse
- ❑ Working an extra duty employment in civilian attire

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- ❑ Working an undercover assignment where armor use could reveal the officer's identity

Officers who otherwise are required to wear armor may temporarily remove the armor when in a secure police facility away from prisoners or the public.

Only the Chief of Police may authorize additional waivers to these provisions in writing.

Authorized Body Armor & Manner of Deployment

Beginning in October of 2005, officers shall receive one NIJ Standard Type III-A ballistic-resistant vest and two standard carriers as part of their initial uniform and equipment issue or as replacement for their current body armor upon its expiration. Officers may purchase a winter outer-garment carrier from the Departmental vendor at personal expense.

Officers wearing body armor shall use a carrier provided by the armor manufacturer.

Ballistic-resistant vests shall be worn under the shirt, except:

- ❑ When wearing the outer-garment carrier
- ❑ When an emergency does not allow insertion beneath the shirt
- ❑ When an investigator in civilian attire chooses to temporarily wear the vest over his shirt while serving an arrest or search warrant, conducting surveillance or participating in a street-narcotics operation. The armor must be concealed by a sport coat or jacket

The outer garment carrier may be worn with the uniform whenever a long-sleeved shirt is worn, except it shall not be worn with the

uniform sweater. The outer-garment carrier need not be covered by a jacket or coat.

Non-Departmental Body Armor

Officers may purchase and wear an alternative NIJ-certified Type II or Type III-A ballistic-resistant vest from a manufacturer other than the Departmental vendor provided the vest has full front, back and side-panel protection. Officers may obtain background information and guidance from the Policy Research, Management & Accreditation (PRMA) Division before purchase.

Outer-garment carriers accompanying privately purchased armor shall not be worn unless inspected and approved by the Director, Firearms Range or the Clothing and Supply Unit. Approval shall be granted only when the carrier's color, style, and general visual appearance are consistent with the Departmental vendor's approved outer garment carrier.

Officers shall obtain supervisory approval before wearing specialized armor or a ballistic-resistant vest rated higher than NIJ Standard 0101.03 or Standard 0101.04, Type III-A. If approved, the supervisor shall ensure the officer is aware of the armor's proper method of use, capabilities, and limitations.

Use of metal shock or trauma plates in standard ballistic-resistant vests is prohibited. Use of metal plates in specialized armor is only permitted when the plate is a permanent design element of the armor and does not directly expose bare metal surfaces to strikes from incoming rounds.

Care & Cleaning

Officers shall comply with all care and cleaning instructions included on the labels of issued ballistic-resistant vests, as well as other instructions provided in training or by telex message. An officer who uses a ballistic-resistant vest manufactured by someone other than the Departmental vendor shall comply with instructions included with that vest.

Exposure to ultraviolet light or certain washing materials and moisture will destroy ballistic capabilities; therefore, officers shall ensure issued ballistic panels:

- ❑ Are periodically wiped with a lightly damp cloth to prevent dirt and body oil buildup
- ❑ Are not placed in any washing machine or dryer
- ❑ Are not exposed to bleach, harsh detergents or dry-cleaning solvents
- ❑ Are not folded or placed on a clothes hanger
- ❑ Are not left exposed in the passenger compartment of a vehicle or inside a building near a window, or otherwise exposed to sunlight, a plant-grow light, florescent light, or any other source of ultraviolet light

Body Armor Inspection

Supervisors shall routinely inspect subordinates' body armor. When a violation is observed and disciplinary action is indicated, officers shall be charged with "Failure to Deploy Required Body Armor," a Category I Uniform Violation.

Supervisors shall inspect the issued armor of all his subordinates each January and July. A Body Armor Inspection Report shall be completed for each subordinate and

submitted to the Commander/Director, who shall retain it in a file until it is replaced by a subsequent inspection report. Supervisors shall refer officers with improperly fitting or damaged issued armor to the Clothing and Supply Unit for replacement.

Officers with poor-fitting or damaged privately purchased armor shall be ordered to wear issued armor instead.

Replacement

Replacement of unserviceable issued armor due to changes in body size, normal wear, abuse or accidental damage is the officer's responsibility.

The Department shall replace issued armor damaged in line-of-duty gunfire, other direct performance of duty, or whenever it has been subjected to excessive moisture.

Armor returned to the Clothing and Supply Unit upon an officer's termination or retirement shall not be permanently reissued to another officer. The Clothing and Supply Unit may temporarily reissue returned vests in emergencies only, provided the receiving officer would otherwise be without a serviceable vest and arrangements are pending for that officer to receive a permanent issue.

Armor shall never be used for any purpose other than evidence, research or training following the shooting or significant visible damage of that armor.

PRMA Responsibilities

The Policy Research, Management & Accreditation Division shall:

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- ❑ Conduct a written body armor performance review following every deliberate or accidental Departmental shooting (or other appropriate incident) in which armor was or should have been a factor in limiting injury
- ❑ Coordinate an officer's application for admission to the Dupont/IACP Survivor's Club following an eligible incident
- ❑ Participate in a quality-control testing program for currently issued used armor
- ❑ Participate in critiques of Departmental shootings and similar incidents to assess armor-related issues
- ❑ Prepare or approve any literature accompanying vest issuance

3. Garrison Belt

The following are authorized:

- ❑ Issued belt or replica with buckle having a maximum width of 1¾"
- ❑ Plain belt with Velcro closure and no buckle, having a maximum width 1¾"

Authorized buckles are:

- ❑ Single-pin buckle with belts of the issued type
- ❑ PGPD belt buckle, rectangular with brass or brass-colored metal

All other belt buckles are prohibited.

4. Equipment Belt

Articles described in this section shall be of plain black leather design. Basket weave or webbed styles are prohibited. Patent leather and double stitching are authorized.

All metal articles (except on OC holder) used with belts, such as buckles, snaps, shall

be of solid brass or polishable brass-colored metal.

The authorized police equipment belts are:

- ❑ Issued police equipment belt
- ❑ Plain or double-stitched belt and strap; maximum width of 2¼"

A buckle is optional with the belt unless worn with the NCO dress uniform.

The following NCOs shall wear the police equipment belt:

- ❑ Officers performing uniformed patrol duties
- ❑ Officers working extra duty employment in uniform

Command officers performing duties in these categories may wear the police equipment belt.

The police equipment belt shall be worn directly over a garrison belt so no part of the garrison belt, other than the top edge, is visible.

Required Articles on Police Equipment Belt

The following shall be worn on police equipment belts:

- ❑ Authorized handcuff case and handcuffs
- ❑ Issued ASP baton Model F26 in approved holder
- ❑ Issued OC (spray or foam) device in approved holder
- ❑ Issued Beretta 9mm Model 92FS sidearm in issued holster
- ❑ Issued magazine holder with two loaded magazines
- ❑ Portable radio clip

Officers wearing the equipment belt shall conform to this section.

Optional Articles on Police Equipment Belt

The following are permitted articles on police equipment belts:

- ❑ Single-clip key ring
- ❑ Pager and/or cell phone
- ❑ Belt keepers
- ❑ Miniature flashlight and holder
- ❑ Flashlight ring

Within police or County facilities, the summer or winter uniform of the day, or utility uniform may be worn without the police equipment belt. Within any area open to the public, an authorized firearm and holster shall be worn.

Belt Keepers

Belt keepers may be a maximum of 1" wide, with inside Velcro® fasteners or two brass snaps.

Handcuff Case

Officers may wear one of the following:

- ❑ Issued case
- ❑ Plain case with inside Velcro® fastener
- ❑ Plain case with two-handcuff capacity

Flashlights

Officers may carry an issued flashlight or an alternative that is black, nonmetallic, and has a maximum operational weight of 2½ pounds.

Officers may carry a flashlight of any material that is black and has a maximum

length of 7½" on their police equipment belt.

Pagers & Cellular Telephones

Employees may wear pagers and/or cell phones. Those with sound alert shall silence them on assignments where safety is a consideration. Pagers and cell phones shall not be visible on the dress uniform.

5. Holsters

The requesting officer's Bureau Chief must approve any exception to this General Order.

Any holster worn must provide weapon retention. Officers wearing a uniform without the police equipment belt shall use a black, belt-mounted holster that encloses most of the barrel and frame and firmly secures the firearm. Snaps may be brass-colored or black.

Uniformed officers carrying the Beretta 92FS on a police equipment belt shall use an issued holster.

Non-uniformed, commissioned, and off-duty officers shall carry authorized firearms in a holster that:

- ❑ Securely attaches to the wearer's body or apparel
- ❑ Completely covers the trigger, the trigger guard, and most of the barrel and frame (the front of the holster may not be cut lower than 1 ½ inches below the breech face)
- ❑ Retains the firearm securely during physical activities such as running or jumping
- ❑ If the holster is equipped with a retention device or strap, the officer must be able

to secure or fasten it without using his non-gun hand.

Range staff must approve any holsters not obtained through the Clothing & Supply Section prior to their use.

NCOs shall wear the issued holster on the police equipment belt when:

- ❑ Performing patrol duties
- ❑ Working extra duty employment in uniform

6. Restraint Devices

Flex-Cuffs®

The use of Flex-Cuffs® as a restraint device is generally restricted to incidents where officers plan to make multiple arrests.

When using Flex-Cuffs®, officers will make sure that they are able to slide their pinkie finger between the Flex-Cuff® and the subject's wrist or ankle. Flex-Cuffs® will be checked for proper tightness every 30 minutes. Flex-Cuffs® will only be removed with wire cutters.

Handcuffs

Officers are authorized to use the issued Smith & Wesson Model M-100 handcuffs. Officers may also use Smith & Wesson hinged handcuffs.

Officers wishing to use any other brand or style of handcuff must have them inspected and approved by the Community Policing Institute prior to using them.

The Ripp™ Hobble

The Ripp™ Hobble is authorized for use only when the officer has articulable suspicion that one or more of the following circumstances are present:

- ❑ To restrain subjects that display active resistance
- ❑ To restrain subjects that display threatening behavior toward the officer or others
- ❑ To restrain subjects that the officer believes might try to escape on foot after being handcuffed

Only those officers trained and certified by the Community Policing Institute (CPI) may use the device. It shall be used in accordance with the approved curriculum.

Under no circumstances will the device be used on a compliant or cooperative arrested subject. In addition, the device shall not be used on a subject who is known to be pregnant.

In all cases when the device is deployed, the arrestee will be continually monitored for signs of distress or the development of medical problems. If these problems develop, EMS assistance shall be immediately sought.

Following restraint, the individual shall immediately be moved to a seated, kneeling, or standing position to minimize the possibility of positional restraint asphyxia. The restrained individual should not be left in a prone (face down) or supine (face up) position for any longer than necessary to apply the restraint device. While in these positions, pressure on the individual's back or chest or the weight of individual's own stomach may restrict normal breathing and lead to positional restraint asphyxia.

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An arrestee shall never be placed in a hog-tie position.

When transporting an arrestee in the Ripp™ Hobble, always secure the loose end inside the car. Never leave the strap hanging out of the door.

Each time the Ripp™ Hobble restraint system is utilized, the officer will document it on an Incident Report and a CIR. Documentation will include the reason for use, the condition of the restrained individual, and any injuries to officers or others.

The WRAP™

Identifiable symptoms and behavior patterns of an individual possibly suffering from cocaine/drug induced psychosis or excited delirium include the following:

- ❑ Bizarre and aggressive behavior
- ❑ Violent behavior towards persons or objects
- ❑ Shouting, often irrationally
- ❑ Incoherence
- ❑ Fear
- ❑ Panic
- ❑ Paranoia
- ❑ Dilated pupils
- ❑ High body temperature
- ❑ Public disrobing
- ❑ Profuse sweating
- ❑ Shivering
- ❑ Hiding behind cars, trees and bushes
- ❑ Jumping into water
- ❑ Self-inflicted injuries
- ❑ Unexpected physical strength

If an officer believes that an individual is experiencing cocaine psychosis or excited delirium syndrome, the officer shall:

- ❑ Notify Communications of a possible Signal 90
- ❑ Notify a supervisor the rank of sergeant or above, who shall respond to the scene and authorize the use of the Wrap™
- ❑ Request an EMS unit for transport assistance to a hospital
- ❑ Stand by until adequate officers arrive to initiate the authorized swarm method utilizing the Wrap™ restraint system

If signs of breathing or medical problems develop once the individual is restrained, appropriate first responder medical attention will immediately be administered. PSC will be updated on the subject's medical condition so the responding EMS unit can be advised.

Once the individual is properly restrained in the Wrap™, he will be transported in a seated position via PGFD ambulance to the closest designated hospital within Prince George's County. The designated medical facilities include:

- ❑ Greater Laurel/Beltsville Hospital
- ❑ Prince George's Hospital Center
- ❑ Southern Maryland Hospital

An officer will ride in the ambulance and continually monitor the restrained individual for signs of positional restraint asphyxia.

Only officers trained and certified by the CPI may use the device. It shall only be used in accordance with the approved curriculum.

The Wrap™ is not appropriate for use on compliant, non-violent subjects. In addition, the device shall not be used on a subject who is known to be pregnant.

Supervisor's Responsibilities

Supervisors will immediately respond to the scene of a Signal 90 with the Wrap™ device when notified. The supervisor will determine whether the Wrap™ will be deployed based on the behavior of the subject. If the device is deployed, the supervisor will ensure proper transport to a medical facility.

Each time the Wrap™ restraint system is deployed, the custody officer will complete an Incident Report. The supervisor shall complete a CIR that will include the reason for use, condition of the restrained individual, any injuries to officers or others, and use of force numbers. When the transported subject requires an emergency psychiatric evaluation, the custody officer shall complete the appropriate paperwork.

The supervisor should inspect the Wrap™ after each use for signs of wear and fatigue. All belts should be free from tears, fraying, worn, or damaged fasteners, and damaged stitching. If cleaning is necessary, apply a mild soap or disinfectant. The Wrap™ should be allowed to thoroughly air-dry in an area that is not exposed to direct sunlight. Do not dry-clean or attempt to dry the Wrap™ with a heating device. If any deficiencies are observed in the device, it should be returned to the CPI for repair or replacement.

7. Flak Vests & Gas Masks

Flak vests and gas masks are maintained at facilities designated by the Chief of Police. The commanders of such facilities are accountable for their maintenance and shall ensure they are inspected monthly for readiness.

Distribution of Equipment

Supervisors issuing this equipment to officers not personally assigned such items shall:

- ❑ Provide for the equipment to be transported to the location of intended use
- ❑ Supervise the equipment issuance, listing all officers to whom equipment is issued
- ❑ Ensure the equipment is returned by officers
- ❑ Ensure necessary cleaning, maintenance or repairs are done before returning to storage

Officers issued this equipment shall return it to the issuing supervisor and inform him or her of any equipment defects.

8. Riot Helmets

The riot helmet may only be worn with supervisory approval. On-duty patrol and SOD officers (except motor officers) shall maintain a riot helmet at their assignment or in the police vehicle.

9. Motorcycle Helmets

Officers shall wear a Departmental motorcycle helmet whenever operating any Departmental two-wheeled motorized vehicle.

10. Reflective Safety Vest

The reflective safety vest will be worn as the outermost garment whenever any employee or police explorer is engaged in traffic direction, except during an emergency short-term situation.

11. RoadSpike™

An alternative to stopping a vehicle being pursued is the use of RoadSpike™, a retractable spike barrier strip. This is the only tire-deflation device authorized for use by the Department.

The RoadSpike™ may also be deployed in certain situations with supervisory approval, in which a pursuit would not otherwise be authorized. These situations include serious traffic violations or motor vehicle offenses that create a continuing threat or danger to the public or other police officers, such as:

- ❑ Stolen autos that fail to stop
- ❑ Reckless/negligent driving
- ❑ Known armed individuals that fail to stop
- ❑ Tactical situations such as barricades, civil disturbances, or warrant services
- ❑ DWI

This list is not inclusive.

Only officers who have received both classroom and practical training in use of the device may deploy it. The CPI shall maintain a training program in the use of the RoadSpike™.

The exact location, to include lane of the deployed tire-deflating device, will be communicated to PSC.

The RoadSpike™ shall not be used in situations involving two or three wheeled motorcycles or four-wheel all terrain vehicles.

The RoadSpike™ will not be deployed on exit ramps, merge lanes or turn lanes.

All uses of the RoadSpike™ shall be documented on a CIR and faxed to the CPI prior to the end of duty.

VI. GOVERNING LEGISLATION & REFERENCE

This General Order addresses:

- ❑ Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Standards 1.3.9, 17.5.2, 17.5.3, 22.2.8, 22.3.4, 41.3.4, 41.3.5, 41.3.6, 46.1.6, 53.1.1, 61.3.2, 71.2.1, 71.3.2, 81.2.5, 81.2.7, 82.2.1