

Anchorage Police Department Regulations and Procedures Manual	Operational Procedures 3.06.025	
Policy and Procedure Title Ballistic Shield	Effective Date 9-24-2020	Page 1 of 3
Replaces Prior Policy: N/A	Approved by: Chief Justin Doll	

This policy is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This policy should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

3.06.025 Ballistic Shields

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and limitations for the Anchorage Police Department sworn police personnel for the training and use of a Ballistic Shield.

POLICY

The policy of the Anchorage Police Department is to protect its Officers and Citizens in the best manner possible. The Department recognizes that most calls for service do not rise to the criteria required for the use of SWAT and there will be calls for service where additional ballistic protection may be prudent. The Department also recognizes the time required for the mustering of SWAT where hardening of patrol positions or evacuations of citizens may be necessary. Thus, the Department has adopted the use of Ballistic Shields to add an extra layer of protection for Police Officers during potentially violent confrontations. Consistent with this philosophy, the Department recognizes that the Ballistic Shield is not a tactic in and of itself, but a piece of equipment that may be used to support trained police Tactics. The Ballistic Shield will not be a replacement for the use of SWAT and constant evaluation for the use of SWAT will be made. This policy is not intended to supersede current training and procedural use of Ballistic Shields, Bunkers, Blankets and like equipment by SWAT personnel.

DEFINITIONS

Ballistic Shield: A portable device capable of at least National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Level IIIA ballistic protection.

National Institute of Justice Level IIIA: Ballistic protection tested to stop .357sig and .44 Magnum ammunition fired from longer barreled handguns.

NO RIFLE AMMUNITION PROTECTION.

Authorized Officers: Officers that have met the requirements to deploy with a Ballistic Shield

Deployment: Supervisor evaluation for use of SWAT and then issuance, by supervisor, of the Ballistic Shield to an Authorized Officer.

I. SWAT EMERGENCY CALL OUT

Under no circumstances is using the Ballistic Shield a replacement for requesting SWAT. SWAT shall be called out any time officers find themselves confronted by a situation in which all five of the following conditions exist.

The suspect(s):

- a). Are believed to be armed; and
- b). Have committed a crime or threatened suicide; and
- c). Present a significant threat to the safety of citizens or officers; and
- d). Possess tactical or strategic advantage; and
- e). Have refused to surrender to the police.

II. PROCEDURES FOR USE OF BALLISTIC SHIELDS

A. Sworn Personnel Responsibilities:

Sworn personnel authorized to use a Ballistic Shield shall:

1. Maintain a Department Handgun Qualification of 90% or better
2. Attend and pass Department approved Ballistic Shield training to become authorized Officers
3. Supervisors will store Ballistic Shields in their police vehicles and issue shields to authorized Officers once on scene and an evaluation for an emergency SWAT call out has been made.
4. Annual Qualification

B. Permitted Use

Authorized Officers may be issued a Ballistic shield from a supervisor in accordance with training in, but not limited to, the following instances consistent with APD Ballistic Shield Training:

1. Building searches
2. When moving in open spaces during critical incidents
3. Final clearing of a vehicle during high risk stops
4. Officer/Citizen rescues
5. Hardening of a patrol vehicle for the purposes of blocking or pinning suspects
6. Operations not rising to SWAT Criteria

C. Restrictions

The NIJ level IIIA Ballistic Shield:

1. Does not protect against armor piercing/rifle projectiles and cannot be “stacked” with other IIIA armor (Vest) to attain a “higher” level of protection. If high caliber weapons are known, a threat assessment shall be made for SWAT criteria.
2. Ballistic Shields will not be used as a replacement for a SWAT call-out.

*****END OF DOCUMENT*****