



## **Lakewood Police Department Policy and Procedure**

### **Policy Number: PP – 4919 NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT**

**Effective Date:  
03/24/2025**

#### **A. Policy**

Night Vision equipment provides members of the Lakewood Police Department with a method to see objects or people in the dark, when an alternative light source is not practical. The primary function of night vision is to afford the user the ability to see in low-light conditions, allowing the user to take action, make decisions, and move with a higher degree of safety and effectiveness.

#### **B. Procedure**

##### **1. General**

- a. Suspects will often conceal themselves in dark areas while either attempting to commit a crime or when fleeing from a crime.
- b. Night Vision Devices (NVDs) will allow agents to see in dark areas without the use of an alternative light source that would also illuminate themselves.
- c. NVDs can also be a valuable resource during rescue operations in low-light conditions.
- d. The Lakewood Police Department authorizes the use of NVDs by Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) members and other specially trained personnel. In addition to department-owned equipment, SWAT members are allowed to purchase their own NVD with the prior approval of the SWAT commander. Damage, repair, or replacement of personally owned NVDs is the responsibility of the individual owner.
- e. Agents using this equipment must be familiar with its components, capabilities, and limitations and be able to troubleshoot technical problems if and when they occur during use.
- f. Night Vision Devices (NVDs) include night vision monoculars, thermal imagers, and support equipment including infrared lasers and illuminators.
- g. When using a NVD and contact with a suspect is likely, agents are strongly encouraged to utilize a cover agent.

##### **2. Training**

- a. Agents must attend and successfully complete training for the use of NVDs.
- b. This training should include the nomenclature, proper use of and limitations of NVDs.

#### **C. Rule**

1. Personnel shall receive training in the use of NVDs prior to the use of this equipment on duty.
2. Personnel will not use NVDs for routine operation of a motor vehicle. Agents may use NVDs to operate motor vehicles during tactical operations after receiving training in the use of NVDs for driving.

3. Personnel utilizing NVDs in conjunction with firearms shall qualify prior to use on duty. Personnel shall re-qualify annually. This does not preclude an agent from transitioning to a weapon and using it independently of the NVD.