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|  Kinston Police Department | <u>POLICY: Body Armor</u> | | | | | | <u>POLICY #:</u> 200-17 |
| | <u>NCLEA Standards: 6.23</u> | | | | | | |
| | <u>CALEA Standards: 41.3.5; 41.3.6</u> | | | | | | |
| | <u>NCLM Standards: II.18; II.19;</u> | | | | | | <u>Effective Date:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised | Revision Dates: | 01/01/21 | 02/05/25 | | | | 07-01-2019 |
| Approval: Chief of Police | | | | | | | |

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines on the issuance and use of body armor by the Department.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Kinston Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures.

III. ISSUANCE (NCLEA 6.23) (CALEA 41.3.5)

The Kinston Police Department issues National Institute of Justice certified bullet resistant vests (Body Armor) to all officers, regardless of assignment. As with all issued equipment, each officer is responsible for the care, control, and custody of the body armor issued to them. Department guidelines will be reviewed and body armor shall be issued to all police officers prior to the beginning of uniform field duty in the field training program. Acknowledgment of review will be documented using the approved department form.

Body armor shall be issued when an officer begins sworn service at the Kinston Police Department and shall be replaced when the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.

The Police Chief may authorize issuance of body armor to non-sworn members whose jobs may make wearing of body armor advisable.

IV. USE (NCLEA 6.23) (CALEA 41.3.5)

Generally, the required use of body armor is subject to the following:

- a. Members shall only wear department-approved body armor.
- b. Members shall wear body armor anytime wearing a class B uniform unless exempted by provisions outlined in this policy.
- c. Members shall wear body armor any time they are in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- d. Members shall wear body armor when taking part in department range / firearms training.
- e. Members are not required to wear body armor when they function primarily in an administrative or support capacity and would not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.

- f. Members may be excused from wearing body armor when he/she is involved in undercover or plainclothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor, or when a supervisor determines that other circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.
- g. The team supervisor may allow team members to remove their body armor during periods of extremely high temperatures (90F or above) if the team member chooses to do so.
- h. Members may be excused from wearing body armor when an agency approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude the use of body armor.
- i. In those instances when body armor is not worn, officers should have reasonable access to their body armor.

Due to the inherent danger of certain police activities, some situations occur which dictate that any officer, uniformed or not, shall wear body armor regardless of any previously stated exemption or weather condition. These activities include but are not limited to: pre-planned raids; hostage negotiations when suspect is within firing range; rapid entry; barricaded gunman; arrest of a known fugitive; arrest of an unlawful flight; manhunts; search warrant execution; SWAT call outs; escalating situations; on-range police firearms training. **(CALEA 41.3.6)**

V. INSPECTION

Supervisors should ensure through routine observation and periodic documented inspections that body armor is worn and maintained in accordance with this policy.

Annual inspections of body armor should be conducted for fit, cleanliness and signs of damage, abuse and wear.

VI. CARE AND MAINTENANCE (NCLEA 6.23)

The required care and maintenance of body armor is subject to the following:

- a. Members are responsible for inspecting their body armor for signs of damage, wear and cleanliness at the start of each shift. Unserviceable body armor shall be reported to the supervisor.
- b. Members are responsible for the proper storage of their body armor.
 - 1. Body armor should not be stored for an extended period of time in an area where environmental conditions (e.g. temperature, light, humidity) could potentially degrade its effectiveness.
- c. Members are responsible for the care and cleaning of their body armor pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions.
 - 1. Body armor should not be exposed to any cleaning agents or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer.
 - 2. Failure to follow manufacturer's care instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the body armor. If care instructions for the body armor cannot be located, the manufacturer should be contacted to request the instructions.
- d. Body armor should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended replacement schedule, or when its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.