

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT - BODY ARMOR

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Omaha Police Department that wearing of body armor is mandatory for those officers, who by the nature of their work assignment, are potentially exposed to a greater degree of danger than officers in other work assignments.

PROCEDURE:

I. Assignments Where Officers are Required to Wear Body Armor

A. Uniform Patrol Bureau (UPB).

1. All officers assigned to UPB shall wear body armor.
2. Captains and Lieutenants in uniform may use body armor vests in lieu of wearing body armor.
 - a. Captains and Lieutenants in uniform, whether in a marked or unmarked vehicles, who choose not to wear body armor will have a body armor vest with them and readily available.
3. When required to wear body armor, all employees may substitute the department issued concealed body armor for the optional outer vest carrier (See [Appendix B](#) for outer vest carrier specifications).
 - a. All employees will wear the outer vest carrier with specifications for their rank (See [Appendix B](#) for outer vest carrier specifications).
 - b. The following items shall be worn on the outer vest carrier:
 - (1) Detachable buttons on pockets - silver for officers and gold for command officers.
 - (2) OPD-issued badge.
 - (3) Nameplate.

B. Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB).

1. Officers assigned to CIB will wear body armor when circumstances dictate the wearing of body armor for officer safety. The wearing of body armor may be directed by any CIB command officer.
2. The wearing of body armor by CIB officers is mandatory when:
 - a. An incident is determined by a CIB command officer to be potentially dangerous to the safety of the officers.
 - b. An incident involves the serving of search warrants and/or arrest warrants, both felony and misdemeanor.
 - c. All officers assigned to street responsibilities, such as officers who serve warrants, make arrests, or are assigned to street level investigations.
3. Officers will wear an "Omaha Police" identifier over their outside clothing for further identification purposes, as dictated by their supervisor.

- a. This identifier may be on a raid vest or other jacket, clearly marked with "POLICE" or "OMAHA POLICE."
 - b. This identifier may be on an outer vest carrier, clearly marked with "POLICE" - white lettering for officers and yellow gold lettering for command officers.
- C. All officers in UPB or CIB serving warrants or making high-risk arrests must wear body armor.
- D. All officers, regardless of rank, working in an off-duty capacity while in a police uniform will wear their regular body armor.
- E. Medical Exceptions: Any deviation from the mandatory wearing of body armor because of health or other reasons, must be in writing and cleared through the officer's' respective Deputy Chief.

II. Assignments Where Body Armor is Optional

- A. Employees working an inside assignment are not required to wear body armor.
 - 1. Inside assignment will be defined as an assignment which precludes the officer from leaving an assigned post for any duration of time during their work shift.
- B. Rifle Plate Carriers (Optional): (See [Appendix B](#) for specifications.)
 - 1. Rifle plate carriers will only be worn during high threat incidents, including those where the likelihood of encountering a suspect armed with a firearm may occur.
 - 2. Rifle plate carriers are a supplement to department-issued soft body armor and are not intended to replace it.
 - 3. Rifle plate carriers shall not be worn for routine assignments without approval of the Chief of Police.
 - 4. Rifle plate carriers shall not be worn to outside employment work. (See ["Outside Employment."](#))

REFERENCES:

I. Previous OPD Orders

- A. Previous General Orders: #50-86, 26-87, 30-87, 104-95, 40-11, 10-14, 105-18, 19-23, and 32-25.

II. Accreditation Standards

- A. Relevant CALEA Accreditation Standards: 41.3.5.

III. Other

- A. PPM Monthly Updates: #01-2019.