

	<b>PARADISE VALLEY POLICE GENERAL ORDER</b>  <b>Body Armor</b>	Order Number
		<b>41.8</b>  Date <b>11-20-19</b>

## 41.8 *Body Armor*

- A. All *body armor* worn by *officers* shall be *Department* approved and provided (or the cost reimbursed) and *shall* meet National Institute of Justice standards when purchased.
- B. *Officers* are required to wear *body armor* when involved in field activities, whether or not in uniform. Field activities include those duty assignments and/or tasks that place or could reasonably be expected to place *officers* in situations where they would be required to act in enforcement rather than administrative or support capacities. Field activities specifically include when acting as a member of a patrol unit, when serving a felony or high risk *search warrant*, or when directed to do so by a superior.
- C. Exceptions to the requirement to wear *body armor* during field activities include: when an agency-approved *physician* determines that an *officer* has a medical condition that would preclude wearing *body armor*; when the *officer* is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that their *supervisor* determines could be compromised by wearing *body armor*; or when the *Chief* determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing *body armor*.
- D. *Supervisors* are responsible for ensuring that *body armor* is worn and maintained as required by this policy through routine observation and periodic documented inspections. Annual inspections of *body armor* shall be conducted for fit, cleanliness, damage, abuse and wear.
- E. *Officers shall* routinely inspect personal *body armor* for damage and for general cleanliness. As dirt and perspiration *may* erode ballistic panels, each *officer shall* be responsible for cleaning personal *body armor* in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. *Officers* are responsible for the proper storage, maintenance and care of *body armor* in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, including manufacturer's recommended service life. *Officers* are responsible for reporting damage or excessive wear to the ballistic panels or cover to their *supervisor* and to the individual responsible for the uniform supply function.