

BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Berlin, Maryland

SUBJECT: BODY ARMOR		NO: 200 J-1
APPROVED/EFFECTIVE DATE 14 November 2011	AMENDS	
DISTRIBUTION/DATE A / 18 November 2011	REFERENCES - Maryland State Police G.O. Chap 22, Sec VI., Uniforms and Equipment (H) "Soft Body Armor"	

.10 The purpose of this order is to establish a policy to provide officers with guidelines for the use and care of body armor.

.20 It is the policy of the Berlin Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with other prescribed safety procedures, thus minimizing the possibility of death or injury as a result of violent encounter. It is noted that body armor provides a significant level of protection for law enforcement officers; however, it is not a substitute for the observance of sound officer safety procedures and techniques.

.30 Procedure:

A. Issuance of Body Armor

1. All officers shall be issued agency body armor, however, officers may obtain and wear personally owned body armor approved by the Chief of Police.
2. All body armor utilized must comply with the standards of the National Institute of Justice.
3. Body Armor that is worn or damaged in the line of duty shall be replaced by the agency. Body Armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by an officer shall be the responsibility of the officer.

B. Use of Body Armor

1. Officers shall only wear agency-approved body armor.
2. Recruits shall wear body armor during field training.
3. All uniformed officers are required to wear body armor while on duty and engaged in patrol or field operations unless the exempt as follows:

- a. When a physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude wearing body armor.
  - b. The officer is assigned a function where a vest would interfere with the completion of the assignment.
  - c. When the agency determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.
- C. Officers exempt from wearing body armor are required to have them available while on duty.
- D. Inspections of Body Armor
1. Supervisors shall be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required through routine observation.
  2. Annual review of body armor age shall be conducted with a five year life expectancy.