

POLICE DEPARTMENT HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS



DIRECTIVE: 145-A

REFERENCE STANDARDS: 41.3.5 41.3.6

SUBJECT: Protective Vests and Kevlar Type Ballistic Helmets

PURPOSE: To clarify when every sworn officer will wear a protective vest and Kevlar type ballistic helmet so as to provide maximum officer safety through their use in combination with prescribed officer safety procedures. (41.3.5)

I. AVAILABILITY OF VESTS

- A. The Village will provide up to the agreed contractual amount toward the purchase of a vest to those officers who do not now personally own one.
- B. Officers who currently own a vest will be provided up to the agreed contractual amount toward the replacement of the vest in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.
- C. Officers who don't have a personal vest will take a department protective vest for their tour of duty.

II. MANDATORY WEARING OF THE VEST

- A. If the Village has provided any funds toward the purchase of the vest, it will be mandatory that the officer wear the vest at all times while on duty.
- B. All personnel shooting or observing on the range or serving in the capacity of range officer are required to wear a ballistic vest.
- C. Officers who have purchased their own vest will not be required to wear it all times, but are encouraged to do so while on duty.
- D. Officers who check out a department owned vest will be required to wear it under the following circumstances, but not limited to: (41.3.6)
 - 1. Any call involving a weapon.
 - 2. Any time an officer feels the circumstances are such that the wearing is warranted.

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3. When ordered by a supervisor.

III. EXCEPTIONS

- A. While performing special assignments/duties the Chief of Police or his designee may wave the requirements. Exceptions may include:
 1. When an officer is involved in an undercover assignment that a supervisor determines the wearing of the armor could compromise the operation.
 2. When the department determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate the wearing of the body armor.
 3. When a department approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude the wearing of body armor.
- B. A written request for a wavier must be made to the Chief of Police.
- C. The Chief of Police shall either approve or deny the request in writing within ten (10) days of receipt of the request.
- D. Administrative and support officers will have their body armor immediately accessible in their work areas. Body armor shall be worn when engaging in activities that could necessitate its use.

IV. REPLACEMENT OF BODY ARMOR VEST

- A. It shall be the officer's responsibility to notify the Deputy Chief of Support Services when a vest is damaged or needs replacing. If a replacement vest is needed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation, notification should be made to the Deputy Chief of Support Services at least six (6) months in advance.

VI. VEST STANDARDS

- A. The Village reserves the right to determine the style, color, make, and model of the vest and vest carrier to be purchased.
- B. All body armor must comply with the National Institute of Justice standards for ballistic resistance of police body armor, meeting a minimum threat level of Type IIA.

VII. KEVLAR BALLISTIC HELMET

- A. Kevlar type ballistic helmets are available and issued to police officers on a voluntary basis. Once issued to the officer, the helmet is to become a part of the officer's daily equipment and shall be immediately available when the officer is on duty.

- B. The department issued ballistic helmet meets or exceeds military specification MIL-H-44099A and also exceeds ballistic penetration requirements of the National Institute of Justice Standard 0106.01. Additionally, the helmet exceeds the Probable Ballistic Limit (V50) of 2000 fps and withstands an impact force of 40 foot-pounds without fracture.