

# Body Armor

## 1024.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. All uniformed Deputy Sheriffs, Deputy Coroners Sheriff's Special Officers, Community Services Officers, and Reserve Deputy Sheriffs working in Patrol Operations Command and Investigations & Special Operations Command, shall wear a Department-issued body armor or their own Department-approved body armor at all times while on duty unless specifically exempt by their Commander. See 1024.3 for external body armor exception.
2. All uniformed Deputy Sheriffs, Sheriff's Special Officers, Sheriff's Technicians and Reserve Deputy Sheriffs working in Custody Operations Command and Court Operations Division shall wear Department-issued body armor or their own Department-approved body armor at all times when on duty outside or away from Department facilities or compounds or when working armed positions outside jail security areas. Law Enforcement Managers are exempt from this provision.
3. All non-uniformed safety personnel shall wear Department-issued body armor on duty whenever they are involved in a planned activity, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Service of warrants
  - (b) Arrest, entry, and containment teams
  - (c) Whenever directed to by a supervisor
4. EXCEPTION: In cases where personnel are working in an undercover capacity and the discovery of such body armor could compromise the safety of the officer, wearing of body armor shall be left at the discretion of the undercover officer and their supervisor.
  - (a) In the event a Member is temporarily unable to wear body armor because of a pregnancy, injury, illness or medical condition, the Department shall attempt to reasonably accommodate the needs of the Member.

## 1024.2 ISSUANCE AND REPLACEMENT

The Member's body armor shall be issued through Quartermaster and replaced every three to five years depending on the rated life of the vest.

## 1024.3 EXTERNAL BODY ARMOR CARRIERS

The use of an external body armor carrier is not mandatory. The purpose of this uniform item is to provide Department Members with an alternative method to carry standardized equipment in a safe, efficient, and comfortable manner. Members may choose to wear their body armor in the traditional method by concealing the armor beneath their uniform shirt or they may choose to utilize the external carrier. A Member may remove an external body armor carrier under the following circumstance: 1) in a secured environment, 2) outside of public view, and 3) where no expectation of enforcement action or public interaction is likely.

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#### 1024.4 REQUESTING THE EXTERNAL CARRIER

Members must submit a Uniform Request to Quartermaster requesting an external body armor carrier. External carriers shall only be issued for use with Department-issued or approved body armor.

1. On the Uniform Request, the Member must identify which brand/manufacturer of body armor they have. The Department currently issues body armor manufactured by U.S. Armor and ABA/Safariland. To verify the manufacturer of your body armor, refer to the label attached to the ballistic panel or contact the Armory for further assistance.
2. Once a Purchase Order has been issued, the Purchase Order and body armor shall be taken to the Uniform Center for sizing purposes. The Uniform Center will not accept Purchase Orders for external carriers without being able to examine the existing body armor panels. This is a critical requirement to insure proper sizing of the external carrier.
3. When to request an external carrier:
  - (a) Members may request an initial external carrier at any time.
  - (b) Replacement external carriers may be ordered every five years.
  - (c) Replacement external carriers may also be ordered when new body armor panels are issued that are a different size or a different manufacturer than their original carrier.
  - (d) Replacement external carriers may also be ordered when the carrier becomes unserviceable. Conditions that may make the carrier unserviceable include but are not limited to excessive wear, damage, rips, stains, etc.

#### 1024.5 WEARING THE EXTERNAL CARRIER

External carriers are authorized for wear with Class "C" Uniform only. Law Enforcement managers are exempt from this provision.

1. External carriers are NOT authorized for wear with the Class "A" or "B" Uniform.
2. External carriers are NOT authorized for wear with the Uniform Polo Shirt.
  - (a) Harbor Patrol Bureau, investigative units, and specialty units are exempt from this requirement.
3. External carriers shall be issued in the following colors:
  - (a) Deputy Sheriff and Reserve Deputy Sheriff - **RANGER GREEN**.
  - (b) Sheriff's Special Officer and Community Services Officer - **TAN**.
  - (c) Deputy Coroner - **BLACK**.

#### 1024.6 UNIFORM PATCHES AND INSIGNIA

The following Departmental patches and insignia listed below, depending on the member's job classification, shall be attached to the external carrier at all times and in the following manner:

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1. Name tape (Velcro) (CPC 830.1)
  - (a) Location - Right Velcro chest flap.
  - (b) Color
    1. Deputy Sheriff and Reserve Deputy Sheriff - Green patch, black lettering
    2. Sheriff's Special Officer and Community Services Officer - Tan patch, green lettering
    3. Deputy Coroner - Black patch, gold lettering
2. Sheriff's Star Patch (Velcro)
  - (a) Location - Left Velcro chest flap
  - (b) Color
    1. Deputy Sheriff and Reserve Deputy Sheriff - Gold star patch
    2. Sheriff's Special Officer and Community Services Officer - Gold star patch
    3. Deputy Coroner - Gold star patch
    4. The subdued Sheriff's Star Patch is authorized for investigative units and specialty units only
3. "SHERIFF" Back Patch (Velcro)
  - (a) Location - Velcro back patch
    1. Deputy Sheriff and Reserve Deputy Sheriff - Green patch, gold lettering
    2. Sheriff's Special Officer- Tan patch, green lettering
    3. Deputy Coroner - Black patch, gold lettering
4. "TRAFFIC" Back Patch (Velcro)
  - (a) Location – Velcro Back Patch
    1. Community Services Officer - Tan patch, green lettering
5. Patches representative of specialty pins authorized for wear under section 1046.25, for example, a subdued American flag patch, may be worn on the external body armor carrier. The patches shall be worn on the front of the carrier attached to the vest above the name tape.
6. Morale patches and insignia not mandated or expressly allowed per this section are prohibited from being worn on the external body armor carrier.
7. Modifications to the external body armor carriers inconsistent with the original manufacturer's specifications are not authorized.
8. Only Departmental-approved, and issued external body armor carriers are authorized for duty purposes. The use of any other external carrier system is not authorized.