


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 4.09</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: BODY ARMOR</p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body Armor Bullet Proof Vest Protective Vest 	<p>State Certification Standards: 3.11, 5.2</p>		
<p>Special Instructions:</p>			

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to prescribe the Rabun County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures for providing personnel with guidelines for the proper use and care of body armor.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office to maximize deputies safety through the issuance and use of body armor.

DISCUSSION

All body armor issued must comply with the current minimum protective standards as prescribed by the National Institute of Justice.

DEFINITIONS

BODY ARMOR — A vest or jacket whose material - such as Kevlar or nylon cloth - affords ballistic protection and whose construction may or may not accommodate metal or ceramic inserts.

FIELD DUTY — An operational assignment that causes a deputy to be in the field; on the street; out of the law enforcement headquarters or other facility. Field duty may refer to plain-clothes deputies as well as uniformed deputies.

I. ISSUANCE

- A. Rabun County Sheriff's Office personnel shall be issued body armor. This is to include deputies assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division and to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- B. Sheriff's Office personnel performing law enforcement field duties are required to wear body armor, unless exempted by this policy.
- C. Sheriff's Office personnel not performing uniform field duties shall retain their body armor in the trunk of their Sheriff's Office vehicle for immediate availability.
- D. The wearing of body armor is **mandatory** for all Sheriff's Office personnel in the following situations:
 - 1. Serving a felony or violent misdemeanor arrest warrant;
 - 2. Executing a search warrant;
 - 3. Making a forced entry into a building;
 - 4. Hostage or barricaded suspect incident;
 - 5. Robbery or hold-up alarm in progress call;
 - 6. Service of Temporary Protective Orders (TPO's) involving child custody or the removal of one party from a residence;
 - 7. Searching for an escaped prisoner;
 - 8. Domestic dispute involving violence;
 - 9. Bomb threat;
 - 10. Riot/civil disorder; or
 - 11. Full time Deputies assigned to courthouse and courtroom security.
 - 12. Whenever performing patrol or routine law enforcement activities while in uniform.
- E. Sheriff's Office personnel shall wear departmental issued body armor only.

II. EXCEPTIONS

Sheriff's Office personnel may be exempted from wearing body armor for the following reasons:

- A. When an agency-approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude use of body armor;

- B. When a deputy is involved in undercover or plainclothes work that his/her supervisor determines would be compromised by the use of body armor;
- C. When a deputy is assigned to perform an administrative function; or
- D. When the Sheriff, Chief Deputy or Division Commanders determines an exemption is appropriate.

III. INSPECTIONS

- A. Supervisors shall be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required by this General Order.
- B. There shall be an annual inspection of all body armor for fit, cleanliness, signs of damage, and abuse and wear.

IV. MAINTENANCE & CARE

- A. Each Sheriff's Office employee issued body armor is responsible for the proper storage and daily inspection of their body armor for signs of damage and general cleanliness.
- B. Any damage or wear to the cover or to the ballistic panels will be reported to the employees' immediate supervisor, who will in return report the damage/wear in writing to the Patrol Commander.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County