


HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL		
Issue Date February 2021	Review Date February 2022	Directive Number 2.1.3
Accreditation Index: 2.1.3, 2.1.4		Rescinds: Directive 2.1.3 of November 2019
Chapter: Two – Law Enforcement Function		Section: One – Patrol Equipment
Chief of Police: <i>John F. Viola</i>		

SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE SOFT BODY ARMOR

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide sworn officers for the proper use and care of body armor.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Haverford Township Police Department that all sworn officers shall be issued protective soft body armor. This policy is to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in conjunction with the practice of prescribed officer safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures.
(PLEAC 2.1.3)

III. PROCEDURES

A. Issuance of Body Armor

1. All sworn officers will be issued department approved body armor.
 - a) All body armor must comply with protective and related requirements prescribed under current standards as published by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

B. Use of Body Armor

1. Body Armor is issued to all sworn personnel and will be considered part of the required uniform of the day. All sworn personnel except those on special assignment, in a plain clothes assignment, on desk duty or for medical reasons will wear this equipment.
 - a) All officers who are not required to wear body armor while on duty shall ensure that they have immediate access to their body armor in the event of the need for this equipment.

C. Medical Exemption

1. A sworn officer may request an exemption to this directive for medical reasons.
2. Any request for medical exemption will be on a “Body Armor Exemption” form (Appendage #1) submitted to the Chief of Police. A copy of the form will be maintained in the officers file.
 - a) All officers who are exempt from wearing body armor while on duty shall ensure that they have immediate access to their body armor in the event of the need for this equipment.

D. Wearing of Body Armor

1. Body Armor may be worn either under the uniform shirt or on the outside of the uniform shirt. In either case the department issued body armor must be used with a department issued carrier. If worn on the outside of the uniform shirt a department issued external carriers must be used.

(PLEAC 2.1.3)

E. Pre-planned, high risk incidents

1. Appropriate body armor shall be worn by all officers in pre-planned, high-risk incidents and operations. Appropriate body armor may include the wearing of body armor with higher levels of protection than that provided by the normal duty body armor.
(PLEAC 2.1.4)

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE



Haverford Township Police Department

1010 Darby Road

Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083

Phone: 610-853-1298 Fax: 610-853-3481



BODY ARMOR EXEMPTION REQUEST

I acknowledge that I have been provided personal body armor by the Haverford Township Police Department. I have read our Department policy contained in directive 2.1.3 and understand that all sworn officers, except those specifically exempt, are required to wear body armor while on duty. Directive 2.1.3 also requires that all sworn officers wear body armor when responding to high risk pre-planned events or rapid deployment incidents.

- I request a medical exemption from the daily wear of my issued body armor while on duty.
- Attached is my documentation of a medical condition that precludes the use of body armor.

I further understand that even if my medical exemption is granted that I must comply with the below requirement of directive 2.1.3

All officers who are exempt from wearing body armor while on duty shall ensure that they have immediate access to their body armor in the event of the need for this equipment

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Approved

Denied

Chief of Police: _____ Date: _____
(Signature)

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