

**MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
GENERAL ORDER**

**CHAPTER  
GO-03-07  
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**DATE: 7-1-11**

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**SOFT BODY ARMOR**

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**POLICY**

Research has shown the survivability of certain violent encounters is enhanced when law enforcement officers are wearing body armor designed to provide ballistic protection. It is the policy of this Department that deputy sheriffs assigned to uniformed patrol, court security, transportation, and/or high risk tactical operations shall wear their department issued soft body armor at all times.

**DEFINITIONS**

**SOFT BODY ARMOR** is a ballistic vest issued by the Marin County Sheriff's Office consisting of two Threat Level III-A ballistic panels, one trauma plate, and a fabric carrier designed to be worn beneath the uniform shirt. All department soft body armor shall comply with National Institute of Justice Standard 0101.06.

**UNIFORMED PATROL** is a regular uniformed assignment to the Patrol Division, to a particular short term function within that Division, or to the Civil, Records, and Warrants Division.

**COURT SECURITY DETAIL** is a regular assignment to the Court Security Division, or to a particular short term function within that Division.

**TRANSPORTATION DETAL** is a regular assignment to the Transportation Section of the Custody Division, or to a particular short term function within that Section that requires a deputy to work, in uniform, outside the secured portion of the Marin County Jail. Examples of that type of short term assignment include, but are not limited to, providing prisoner security to, from, or in a hospital or medical office setting.

**HIGH RISK TACTICAL OPERATION** is a uniformed or non-uniformed activity that involves a known degree of risk, such as, but not limited to, the service of search warrants, initial response to a crime scene, participating in an undercover surveillance, and the service of misdemeanor and/or felony bench and arrest warrants.

**PROCEDURE**

The Marin County Sheriff's Office shall issue soft body armor to each deputy sheriff assigned to uniformed patrol, a court security detail, a transportation detail, or to a high risk tactical operation, as defined above. Deputies performing those particular tasks shall wear their assigned body armor at all times. Only agency approved body armor shall be worn.

Deputies assigned to non-uniformed divisions within the department are not required to wear soft body armor but should have it reasonably available to them at all times.

A Deputy otherwise obligated by this Policy to wear soft body armor may be excused from that assignment when an agency approved physician has determined the deputy has a medical condition that

precludes wearing a ballistic vest, or when a deputy's supervisor determines the circumstances surrounding a particular assignment makes the wearing of soft body armor inappropriate or unrealistic.

Deputies are responsible for the regular care and maintenance of their issued body armor in compliance with the instructions described by the manufacturer's user guide. Care and maintenance of soft body armor includes the regular cleaning and proper storage of each issued vest as well.

Deputies shall routinely inspect their ballistic vests for signs of unusual wear and/or damage. Any such wear or damage shall be immediately reported to the Department's Training Sergeant, who will determine whether the soft body armor in question is no longer serviceable. Any unusually worn or damaged vest shall be repaired or replaced as necessary.

#### RELATED STANDARDS

NIJ Standard 0101.06

#### AFFECTED DIVISIONS:

Patrol

Investigations

Jail

Courts Services

Civil and Documentary Services

#### REVISIONS

None

By order of:

ROBERT T. DOYLE  
SHERIFF