

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

No. 730

Supersedes: NA

Effective: June 19, 2019

Page: NA Section: NA

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Dated: March 26, 2002

BODY ARMOR

- I. **PURPOSE:** To provide a high degree of safety for all police officers by establishing procedures for the supply and use of soft body armor.
- II. **POLICY:** The most valuable resource of the Upper Merion Township Police Department is its personnel. Any loss due to injury is a substantial loss to the Department. Therefore, it shall be the policy of this Department to provide protective soft body armor to all sworn officers.
- III. **CROSS-REF:** Policy # 1320, "Appearance of Officers and Employees of Upper Merion Township Police Department".
- IV. **PROCEDURES:**
- A. **PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT:**
- The Department shall issue soft body armor to all sworn officers which meets or exceeds national standards established by the National Institute of Justice for Threat Level II (NIJ Guide 100-01). The Department shall replace body armor as per the manufacturer's specifications.
- B. **MAINTENANCE AND CARE:**
- Officers shall maintain their soft body armor in a clean and serviceable condition. Cleaning shall be done only according to the manufacturer's instructions. All officers are required to periodically inspect their body armor for signs of wear and report any problems to their immediate supervisor.

C. **DAMAGE INSPECTION:**

Soft body armor shall be immediately examined for damage whenever subjected to stress, such as attack by sharp or blunt objects, projectiles, or any other substantial impact. Any attack to the soft body armor shall be reported by written memo to the shift supervisor. If the body armor has been damaged or penetrated it shall be immediately replaced.

D. **WEARING OF BODY ARMOR:**

All uniformed officers working field assignments, including off-duty details, shall wear soft body armor at all times. Vests shall be worn with both panels in place. Officers assigned to non-uniformed and office duties shall have their soft body armor available at the location of their principal assignment.

All officers shall wear soft body armor whenever engaged in any of the following activities:

- ◀ Executing search or arrest warrants.
- ◀ Performing drug enforcement activities, unless a supervisor approves not wearing body armor due to the nature of the operation.
- ◀ Conducting stakeouts or arrests of dangerous subjects.
- ◀ Performing non-uniformed protection and/or security duties.
- ◀ Performing VIP security duties.
- ◀ Performing any assignment deemed to be of a high-risk nature by a supervisor.

It shall be the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that all officers are in compliance with this policy.

APPROVED: *Thomas Nolan*

Chief Thomas Nolan

DATED: **06/19/2019**

APPROVED: *Jeremy Johnson*

Captain Jeremy Johnson

DATED: **06/19/2019**

TO BE REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

DISTRIBUTION: All Police Officers; Township Manager;
File