
DEPLOYMENT OF BALLISTIC PLATES AND CARRIERS

10120.1 PURPOSE

This procedure provides Department members with guidelines for the proper maintenance and deployment of individually issued ballistic plates and carriers.

10120.2 ISSUANCE OF BALLISTIC PLATES AND CARRIERS

The Central Distribution Center Supervisors (CDC) shall be responsible for issuing all sworn members of the Department two ballistic plates, a plate carrier and two "POLICE" insignias. Ballistic plates issued by the Department shall meet or exceed the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Level III ballistic rating.

Routine inspection of the the ballistic plates and carrier shall be the responsibility of the member whom the equipment is issued. In the event it is determined a member's ballistic plates and/or carrier has been damaged, he/she shall immediately notify his/her supervisor in writing. The supervisor will coordinate with the CDC supervisor to ensure replacement equipment is issued and the damaged equipment is returned to CDC. The CDC supervisor is responsible for contacting the appropriate vendor to have the damaged equipment repaired and/or replaced.

10120.2.1 DEPLOYMENT OF BALLISTIC PLATES AND CARRIERS

Ballistic plates and carriers are intended to enhance officer safety during the following types of incidents:

- (a) Active shooters
- (b) Incidents involving a subject armed, or believed to be armed, with high powered firearms
- (c) When members deploy with a patrol rifle

Members shall only deploy with Department-issued plates and plate carriers. The Department issued ballistic plates and carriers are designed to be used in conjunction with department issued soft body armor and, unless extreme circumstances exist, shall be worn over department issued soft body armor and uniform shirt. The policy regarding the use of Body Worn Cameras remains in effect during the deployment of ballistic plates and carriers.

Plate carriers shall have the issued "POLICE" insignias attached to the front and rear of the carrier in a such a manner that readily identifies the member as a police officer. Members may attach a name tape with their last name and first initial to their issued plate carrier, at their own expense. No other patches or insignias shall be displayed on the plate carrier.

10120.2.2 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF BALLISTIC PLATES AND CARRIERS

Ballistic plates and carriers should not be stored for extended periods of time in an area where environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, light, humidity) are not reasonably controlled (e.g.,

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normal ambient room temperature/humidity conditions), such as in automobiles or automobile trunks.

Ballistic plates and carriers should be cared for and cleaned pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions. The instructions can be found on labels located on the external surface of each ballistic plate. The carrier should also have a label that contains care instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the armor.

If care instructions for the ballistic plate cannot be located, contact the manufacturer to request care instructions. Ballistic plates should not be exposed to any cleaning agents, solutions or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer.

10120.3 TRAINING DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Training Division should:

- (a) Monitor technological advances in the body armor industry for any appropriate changes to Department approved ballistic plates.
- (b) Assess weapons and ammunition currently in use and the suitability of approved ballistic plates to protect against those threats.
- (c) Provide training to officers about the safety benefits of wearing body armor.