

Louisville Metro Police Department

<h2>Standard Operating Procedures</h2>	SOP Number: 4.11
	Effective Date: 09/25/03 Prv. Rev. Date: 07/24/22 Revised Date: 09/07/23
	Accreditation Standards: KACP: 10.5
Chapter: Uniforms and Equipment	
Subject: Body Armor	

4.11 BODY ARMOR

4.11.1 POLICY

Uniformed sworn employees of the rank of sergeant and below must wear their departmentally-issued or approved body armor at all times while on-duty, or working an extra job, except as provided in the following paragraph.

Uniformed sworn employees in non-law enforcement assignments, such as those assigned to offices or administrative areas, are not required to wear their body armor unless, in the following situations:

- Acting in a law enforcement activity, outside of a secure area within the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD), as defined in SOP 4.31.3;
- Outside of their assigned office or administrative area; or
- Otherwise directed by a supervisor.

Employees who hold the rank of lieutenant and above will wear their body armor at their own discretion, taking into account their own safety and the safety of others.

Notwithstanding the other sections in this policy, all sworn employees, regardless of rank and whether uniformed or not, must wear their body armor under the following conditions:

- When executing a warrant or a tactical field operation;
- When engaged in any high-risk situation; or
- When directed or ordered by a supervisor.

Employees who are not required to wear their body armor will have it readily available and accessible while on-duty.

4.11.2 BODY ARMOR ISSUANCE (KACP 10.5a)

The Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) issues body armor to all officers. Officers may purchase alternate body armor to be worn while on-duty (refer to SOP 4.11.4). The decision to wear non-issued body armor should be based on the individual needs of each officer.

Issued body armor, regardless of assignment, will be readily available to all officers during on-duty hours.

4.11.3 BODY ARMOR MAINTENANCE

All officers are responsible for the care and safekeeping of their issued body armor, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Officers will not wear body armor which has sustained the impact of a gunshot or when the ballistic panel has been damaged.

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4.11.4 ALTERNATE BODY ARMOR CARRIERS

Alternate body armor carriers are permitted to assist officers in performing police-related functions by allowing versatility in how they carry necessary and required uniform equipment. Alternate body armor carriers will be standardized and uniform in order to present a professional appearance at all times. The following body armor carriers are optional uniform items that may be purchased by officers. Only the listed body armor carriers are approved for wear with LMPD duty uniforms. Previously issued carriers for plainclothes officers may not be worn with the uniform except in an emergency situation (e.g., active gunfire).

Point Blank Tailored Armor Carrier (TAC): The TAC, in midnight blue, is an optional uniform item that can be purchased by any officer. It is worn on the outside of the uniform.

The TAC may be worn:

- With the Class B uniform.
- With the Class C uniform (navy blue polo shirt).
- By any sworn member, at any time, during an emergency situation.

The TAC will have:

- The standard LMPD cloth badge or a similar badge made of rubber or a polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-type of material. Officers will have a silver badge and commanding officers will have a gold badge embroidered on the left breast area.
- The member's first initial and last name will be embroidered on the right breast area. Lettering will be silver for officers and gold for commanding officers.
- The protective plates from the officer's issued body armor will be removed and placed in the TAC (refer to SOP 4.11.2).

Information for purchasing a TAC can be found on the LMPD Intranet. Click on the "Research and Development" button, click on the "Other Information" link, and double click on the "Uniform Contracts" folder.

Point Blank Outer Duty Carrier (ODC)—Laser Cut: The ODC, in black, is an optional uniform item that can be purchased by any officer. It is worn on the outside of the uniform. The ODC is designed to transfer weight from the officer's belt to the vest and to ease the access of the necessary uniform items. All equipment pouches attached to the ODC will meet the manufacturer's specifications and guidelines. The addition of equipment pouches that are not made by Point Blank will require the approval of the LMPD Body Armor Program Administrator prior to use.

The ODC may be worn:

- With the Class B uniform.
- With the Class C uniform (navy blue polo shirt).
- By any sworn member, at any time, during an emergency situation.

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4.11.4 ALTERNATE BODY ARMOR CARRIERS (CONTINUED)

The ODC will have:

- The standard LMPD cloth badge or a similar badge made of rubber or a PVC-type of material. It will be attached with Velcro or sewn to the ODC over the left breast area. Officers will have a silver badge and commanding officers will have a gold badge.
- The member's first initial and last name will be printed on a Velcro patch and attached on the right breast area. Lettering will be reflective silver for officers and reflective gold for commanding officers.
- A single "POLICE" identification panel attached with Velcro to the front and to the back of the ODC. Officers will have "POLICE" in silver reflective lettering and commanding officers will have "POLICE" in gold reflective lettering.

The size of the name tape and "POLICE" identification panel will be standardized based on the dimensions of the ODC.

The following duty equipment and pouches are authorized for carry on the ODC:

- Departmentally-approved Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray
- Radio
- Issued flashlight
- ASP or similar authorized expandable baton
- Tourniquet pouch
- Medical glove pouch
- Body-Worn Camera (BWC) pouch
- Handcuff pouch and/or strap matching the specific belt worn
- Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) utilizing the currently-issued Blackhawk holster. The CEW will be attached in a cross-draw manner if it is mounted on the ODC.
- One (1) patrol rifle magazine in a soft or hard pouch, black in color.

Handgun ammunition pouches are not approved for carry on the ODC.

The above mentioned items are the only approved items listed for wear on the ODC. Additional patches and/or Velcro insignias are not authorized for wear on the ODC.

The protective plates from the officer's issued body armor will be removed and placed in the ODC (refer to SOP 4.11.2).

Information for purchasing an ODC can be found on the LMPD Intranet. Click on the "Research and Development" button, click on the "Other Information" link, and double click on the "Uniform Contracts" folder.

Mocean External Vest Carrier: The Mocean External Vest Carrier, in dark navy, is an optional uniform item that may be purchased by any departmentally-certified bike, All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), or Electric Standup Vehicle (ESV) officer. It is worn on the outside of the uniform.

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4.11.4 ALTERNATE BODY ARMOR CARRIERS (CONTINUED)

The Mocean External Vest Carrier may be worn with:

- The Class E uniform.
- By any sworn member, at any time, during an emergency situation.

The Mocean External Vest Carrier will have:

- The standard LMPD cloth badge. Officers will have a silver badge and commanding officers will have a gold badge embroidered on the left breast area.
- The member's first initial and last name will be embroidered on the right breast area. Lettering will be white for officers and gold for commanding officers.
- The protective plates from the officer's issued body armor will be removed and placed in the Mocean External Vest Carrier (refer to SOP 4.11.2).

Officers will have one (1) of the body armor options readily available at all times.

4.11.5 BODY ARMOR REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS, AND REPLACEMENT

No repairs or alterations to issued body armor will be made without the approval of the Range Supervisor.

Officers, whose body armor is damaged in the line-of-duty, will contact the Range Supervisor to obtain a temporary loan of another protective vest.

Officers may be held responsible for the replacement of issued body armor if it is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond serviceability due to negligence. The replacement of any alternate body armor carrier will be at the expense of the individual officer.