



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



POLICY NUMBER	
OPR:14	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/28/2008	ORIGINAL ISSUED ON: 4/15/1993
REVISION NO: 4	

SUBJECT: WEARING OF PROTECTIVE VESTS

1.0 PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to mandate the wearing of protective vests.

2.0 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department of Public Safety to provide its commissioned employees with protective vests and to mandate their usage which will enable the employees to perform their duties in the safest possible manner.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all commissioned members of the Department of Public Safety.

4.0 REFERENCES

- A. CALEA Chapter 41 Patrol

5.0 DEFINITIONS

NONE

6.0 PROCEDURE

- A. The wearing of the protective vest by each officer will be regulated according to the provisions below:
 1. All commissioned personnel wearing any departmental uniform will wear the protective vest issued by the department or protective vest approved by the chief.
 2. The wearing of the protective vest is **NOT** optional for officers in uniform who normally work in an office environment.
 3. The wearing of the vest is optional for agents/officers in civilian clothes.
 4. The wearing of the protective vest is optional for aircrew while operating departmental aircraft.

WEARING OF PROTECTIVE VESTS

5. The wearing of the protective vest is optional for agents while in uniform or quasi uniform during the actual processing of secured crime scenes or during interviews or interrogations in secured settings. Agents must wear protective vests to accomplish any other investigative tasks away from the crime scene such as canvassing neighborhoods, interviews and interrogations in unsecured settings, etc. The term quasi uniform is used to describe those outer garments that, when worn together, resemble a state police uniform or that tend to identify the department by their markings. An example of a quasi uniform includes, but not limited to, the wearing of a polo shirt with a state police logo, fatigue or military trousers, and a ball cap labeled with any state police logo.
 6. All commissioned officers will wear the protective vest while involved in the planned execution of arrest and search warrants or other planned high risk situations, e.g., firearm qualifications.
 7. All plainclothes commissioned officers, not required to wear a protective vest, will have access to their protective vest e.g.; in their unit or office, while on-duty in case of unplanned emergencies.
 8. An officer may wear a non-issue protective vest provided it meets or exceeds the design and threat level capabilities of the issued vest and is approved by the chief.
- B.** There are no other exceptions to this policy.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS

NONE

8.0 APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: s/John Denko
DPS Cabinet Secretary

DATE: April, 28 2008