

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS
& REHABILITATION

NUMBER: 320.00

EFFECTIVE DATE: 18 April 2022

SUBJECT: BODY ARMOR

POLICY DIRECTIVE

PURPOSE:

To ensure the distribution and proper use of approved body armor to designated correctional staff for use in situations that may require body protection.

REFERENCE:

None.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Superintendents shall be responsible for enacting Operational Procedures and Post Orders to ensure compliance with this Policy Directive.

CANCELLATION:

Any previous written instruction on the subject including DOC Policy Directive 320.00, dated 01 January 2012; and RJA Policy 9021, dated 18 November 2015.

APPLICABILITY:

All facilities that have custody of adult inmates and applicable work units within the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). This Policy is available for general distribution.

DEFINITIONS:

Body Armor: Protective clothing designed to absorb or deflect physical attacks. While it is primarily associated with armor plates that are used with bulletproof and ballistic vests and plate carriers, it covers a wide range of safety equipment that can cover many different parts of the body for additional protection.

Non-Secure Transport: Transportation of an inmate for reasons such as authorized furloughs, job assignments, work details, community service projects and intra-agency

custody transfers to a less secure facility in which the risk of escape, other criminal violation or risk to public safety is professionally evaluated as being minimal.

Secure Transport: Transportation of an inmate for any purpose other than those identified as non-secure transports. This includes transports for medical treatment, disciplinary reasons, apprehension or arrest, court appearances, intra-agency custody transfers to an equal or more secure facility, funerals, and humanitarian deathbed visits.

POLICY:

- I. The Director of Security Services is delegated authority to approve specifications for all security-related equipment including body armor for all facilities/work units. DCR staff shall wear only agency approved and issued body armor as directed.
 - A. The use of body armor is mandatory for **all secure transports of adult inmates** and at other times and circumstances as warranted and directed by the facility Superintendent or designee.
 - B. The Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Training and Staff Development (BTSD), the Director of Parole Services and Chief of Special Operations or their respective designees may also mandate the use of body armor when warranted and appropriate.
 - C. Body armor cannot make the wearer immune to all potential threats. Staff utilizing body armor shall always exercise extreme caution and follow standard safety procedures at all times.
- II. Staff who are issued personal body armor will familiarize themselves with the manufacturer's recommendations concerning wear, care, and maintenance and maintain the body armor accordingly. Staff shall not alter or modify body armor.
 - A. Superintendents, directors and work unit supervisors as appropriate will be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required by the manufacturer's recommendations through routine observation and periodic documented inspections.
 - B. Annual inspections of body armor shall be conducted for fit, cleanliness, and signs of damage, abuse and wear. Body armor that is deemed not serviceable shall be replaced.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.

APPROVED SIGNATURE: _____


Betsy C. Jividen, Commissioner


Date