

# Georgia Department of Public Safety Policy Manual

<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>PROTECTIVE VESTS</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> <b>6.04</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> <b>SWORN EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>DATE REVISED</b> <b>1/31/2014</b>

## 6.04.1 Purpose

To establish policy and procedures for sworn members concerning issuance, use and care of protective vests.

## 6.04.2 Policy

Any sworn member that is issued a firearm shall be issued a protective vest and shall use and maintain it in accordance with this policy.

## 6.04.3 Procedures

### A. Wearing of Protective Vests

1. Sworn members are required to wear their protective vests while on patrol.
2. Supervisors are strongly encouraged to lead by example and wear their protective vests as well. It will be the individual supervisor's decision to wear the protective vest during the performance of administrative duties.
  - a. All sworn members, including supervisors, will be required to wear protective vests when assigned to pre-planned, high-risk situations, including, but not limited to the following:
    - 1) When assigned to civil disturbance details;
    - 2) When on a raid, and
    - 3) When serving a warrant on a known dangerous felon.
  - b. When directed to do so by a supervisor.
3. Protective vest shall be worn while in uniform during off-duty police employment.
4. Normally, protective vests are to be worn under the uniform shirt. However, in instances of extreme emergency, the vest may be worn over the uniform shirt.

### B. Care of Protective Vests

1. The vests are to be kept in a clean and serviceable condition:

- a. Vests are not to be stored wet;
  - b. If a vest becomes unserviceable, due to damage or wear, it is to be returned to the Supply Section for repair or replacement.
  - c. If a vest is damaged it shall not be worn and the sworn member shall forward a memorandum to the Commanding Officer/Division Director, through the chain of command, describing the damage and the circumstances under which it occurred. The Supply Section, upon authorization of the Commanding Officer/Division Director, shall make arrangements for issuance of a new vest.
2. Protective vests are to be cleaned only in the manner described in the manufacturer's cleaning instructions attached to the vest.
  3. The vest or the protective cover shall not be altered in any manner.