
	<b>GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		
	<b>Ballistic Shield</b>		
	<b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	<b>600.6</b>	
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>05/01/2014</b>	41.3.5, 41.3.6, 46.1.2, 46.1.4, 46.1.9.	
<b>Authorized by:</b>		SIGNATURE	DATE
<b>Mark P. Sroka</b> CHIEF OF POLICE			

**I. DEPARTMENT POLICY**

The Department authorized shield is a threat-level III shield capable of stopping most handgun rounds and “00” buckshot. Only those officers who have successfully completed the Department-approved ballistic shield training course will be authorized to utilize the ballistic shield.

Officers who were initially trained in the use of the ballistic shield must successfully complete any Department-approved refresher training as directed by the Senior Firearms Instructor or Chief of Police.

**II. GUIDELINES FOR USE**

**A. Situations For Which Use Is Permitted**

1. Under no circumstances is using the ballistic shield a replacement for requesting the Emergency Response Team (ERT).
2. The ballistic shield may be used to evacuate bystanders or injured persons if deployment of the shield will maximize the safety of the officer and the bystanders or evacuees.
3. The ballistic shield shall never be used in place of an officer’s personal body armor. Body armor shall be worn by officers deploying the shield.
4. When available, the ballistic shield should be used in the following circumstances:
  - *Building searches;*
  - *When moving in open spaces in critical situations;*
  - *Final clearing of a vehicle in high-risk stops, after all known occupants have been removed;*
  - *Officer/citizen rescues;* and
  - *High-risk operations.*

5. When planning and responding to a potential or real civil disturbance, consideration should be given by supervisors to having the ballistic shield deployed or stored at the command post or staging area until needed.

**C. Operational Readiness of Shields**

1. When not carried in an on-duty patrol vehicle, the ballistic shields shall be stored in the police facility.
2. Officers will return all ballistic shields to the police facility at the conclusion of their tour of duty.
3. Officers will inspect the ballistic shield for any damage prior to removing it from the police facility and report any damage to the appropriate supervisor. If inspection of the shield by the officer or a member of the Firearms Training Staff concludes that the shield is deficient, the shield shall be taken out of service and shall remain out of service until the deficiency(s) is corrected.
4. When carried in a patrol vehicle, ballistic shields should, if possible, be transported in an area of the police vehicle not visible to the public.