

## **Breakout Session Discussion Questions**

### **Breakout Session Topic I: Body Armor Research and Development, Standards and Testing Methods**

What should the Federal government's role be in body armor research and development and armor standards and testing to ensure ongoing performance and safety?

The current NIJ body armor testing program is voluntary and does not require manufacturer participation or mandate that public safety agencies purchase only NIJ-compliant armor. Should the existing program continue as a voluntary compliance testing program or should compliance with NIJ Standards be required?

The current NIJ body armor testing program only tests new armor samples voluntarily submitted from manufacturers. Should the body armor testing program include a mechanism for ensuring the performance of armor during the production process and throughout its use and how should such a program be structured and funded?

To help guide future body armor research and development, what are the operational requirements for armor? Please identify any issues or areas of concern not currently addressed by the Standard that you would like to see incorporated into a future revision.

### **Breakout Session Topic II: Outreach and Communication with the Public Safety Community Regarding Body Armor Issues**

Is the information that is currently provided by the Office of Justice Programs helpful in assisting you with your procurement/replacement decisions or other questions regarding bullet-resistant armor? Can you provide examples of where it has/has not been helpful?

How can this information best be disseminated in a timely manner and in a way that it is easily understood?

What additional information is needed to assist you in your decision making and how can OJP ensure its timely dissemination?

It is critical for OJP to have access to and be able to share timely information with the public safety community about problems with armor that occur in the field. What is the best

mechanism for OJP to establish to obtain information from public safety agencies on their armor procurement and testing experiences?

*\*Participants will be assigned to breakout sessions. Each topic will be discussed twice; therefore each participant will have the opportunity to discuss both topics.*