

Uniform Regulations

1023.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The uniform policy of the Fountain Valley Police Department is established to ensure that uniformed officers will be readily identifiable to the public through the proper use and wearing of department uniforms. Employees should also refer to the following associated Policy Manual sections:

Section 700 - Department Owned and Personal Property

Section 1008 - Body Armor

Section 1022 - Grooming Standards

The Uniform and Equipment Specifications manual is maintained and periodically updated by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. That manual should be consulted regarding authorized equipment and uniform specifications.

The Fountain Valley Police Department will provide uniforms for all employees required to wear them in the manner, quantity and frequency agreed upon in the respective employee group's collective bargaining agreement.

1023.1.1 MAINTENANCE OF UNIFORM

Officers shall maintain, in a clean and serviceable condition, such articles of uniform as prescribed for their rank and for the duty to which they are assigned. All sworn personnel shall possess and maintain, ready for immediate use, the uniform, equipment and other required articles prescribed in this Manual.

1023.1.2 WHEN TO BE WORN

All sworn personnel shall wear the uniform and carry the applicable articles during all tours of duty except:

- (a) When attending court, unless so directed.
- (b) When performing established plain-clothes duty assignment.
- (c) When attending events where wearing of civilian attire is considered to be more suitable for the occasion.
- (d) When so directed by the Chief of Police.

1023.1.3 MIXTURE OF UNIFORM AND CIVILIAN CLOTHING

Except as directed by proper authority or where their assignment otherwise permits, all Officers shall be in complete uniform attire when on duty. At their discretion, Officers may wear uniform attire when traveling to and from work in a private vehicle. Officers will not be in uniform when off duty. For Officer safety, no badge or police insignia should be visible to the public when driving private vehicles.

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1023.1.4 ALTERING STYLE OF UNIFORM

Uniforms shall be made of the material and in the style prescribed, and such style shall not be altered or changed in any manner whatsoever unless authorized by the Chief of Police.

Any article of uniform or equipment with the Fountain Valley Police Department logo, badge or seal associated with this Department must be authorized by the Chief of Police prior to implementation.

Jewelry or personal ornaments, other than those authorized in this Manual, shall not be affixed to any part of the uniform or equipment.

1023.1.5 WEARING OR CARRYING BADGE

Officers, when in uniform, shall wear the regulation badge on the outside of the outermost garment over the left breast and always in sight. As an option, the Department cloth badge will be worn on the left breast of the duty jacket. When off duty, all officers may carry their badge and shall carry their identification card. Officers on-duty but not in uniform shall carry their badge and identification card.

1023.1.6 SUNGLASSES

Sunglasses worn by on-duty personnel shall be of conservative style and color. Uniformed Officers shall not wear mirror-finish sunglasses or glasses with bright colored earpieces while on duty.

1023.1.7 WEARING OF HEADGEAR

Departmentally approved dark blue baseball caps may be worn during inclement weather only (that being either during rainy or extremely hot weather). Personnel are permitted to wear the department approved beanie during inclement weather and only between the hours of 2200 and 0600.

At scenes of disasters, extended fixed posts, traffic control, etc., where the visibility of the officer's presence and personal comfort is desirable, wearing of the cap will be allowed. Should a field Supervisor so instruct or proper decorum dictate, an officer will remove his or her cap from the head. The cap is to be viewed as an equipment item with a special protective function rather than a uniform component to be routinely worn.

1023.2 WEARING AND CONDITION OF UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Police employees wear the uniform to be identified as the law enforcement authority in society. The uniform also serves an equally important purpose to identify the wearer as a source of assistance in an emergency, crisis or other time of need.

- (a) Uniform and equipment shall be maintained in a serviceable condition and shall be ready at all times for immediate use. Uniforms shall be neat, clean, and appear professionally pressed.
- (b) All peace officers of this department shall possess and maintain at all times, a serviceable uniform and the necessary equipment to perform uniformed field duty.
- (c) Personnel shall wear only the uniform specified for their rank and assignment.

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- (d) The uniform is to be worn in compliance with the specifications set forth in the department's uniform specifications that are maintained separately from this policy.
- (e) All supervisors will perform periodic inspections of their personnel to ensure conformance to these regulations.
- (f) Civilian attire shall not be worn in combination with any distinguishable part of the uniform.
- (g) Uniforms are only to be worn while on duty, while in transit to or from work, for court, or at other official department functions or events.
- (h) If the uniform is worn while in transit, an outer garment shall be worn over the uniform shirt so as not to bring attention to the employee while he/she is off-duty.
- (i) Employees are not to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages while wearing any part of the department uniform, including the uniform pants.
- (j) Mirrored sunglasses will not be worn with any Department uniform.
- (k) Visible jewelry, other than those items listed below, shall not be worn with the uniform unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.
 - 1. Wrist watch
 - 2. Wedding ring(s), class ring, or other ring of tasteful design. A maximum of one ring/set may be worn on each hand
 - 3. Medical alert bracelet

1023.3 UNIFORM CLASSES

1023.3.1 CLASS A UNIFORM

The Class A uniform is to be worn on special occasions such as funerals, graduations, ceremonies, or as directed. The Class A uniform is required for all sworn personnel. The Class A uniform includes the standard issue uniform with:

- (a) Long sleeve shirt with tie
- (b) Polished shoes

Boots with pointed toes are not permitted.

1023.3.2 CLASS B UNIFORM

All officers will possess and maintain a serviceable Class B uniform at all times.

The Class B uniform will consist of the same garments and equipment as the Class A uniform with the following exceptions:

- (a) The long or short sleeve shirt may be worn with the collar open. No tie is required
- (b) A white, navy blue or black crew neck t-shirt must be worn with the uniform

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- (c) All shirt buttons must remain buttoned except for the last button at the neck
- (d) Shoes for the Class B uniform may be as described in the Class A uniform
- (e) Approved all black unpolished shoes may be worn
- (f) Boots with pointed toes are not permitted

1023.3.3 CLASS C UNIFORM

The Class C uniform may be established to allow field personnel cooler clothing during the summer months or special duty. The Chief of Police will establish the regulations and conditions for wearing the Class C Uniform and the specifications for the Class C Uniform.

1023.4 INSIGNIA AND PATCHES

- (a) **Shoulder Patches** - The authorized shoulder patch supplied by the Department shall be machine stitched to the sleeves of all uniform shirts and jackets, three-quarters of an inch below the shoulder seam of the shirt and be bisected by the crease in the sleeve.
- (b) **Service stripes, stars, etc.** - Service stripes and other indicators for length of service may be worn on long sleeved shirts and jackets. They are to be machine stitched onto the uniform. The bottom of the service stripe shall be sewn the width of one and one-half inches above the cuff seam with the rear of the service stripes sewn on the dress of the sleeve. The stripes are to be worn on the left sleeve only.
- (c) **The regulation nameplate, or an authorized sewn on cloth nameplate,** shall be worn at all times while in uniform. The nameplate shall display the employee's first and last name. If an employee's first and last names are too long to fit on the nameplate, then the initial of the first name will accompany the last name. If the employee desires other than the legal first name, the employee must receive approval from the Chief of Police. The nameplate shall be worn and placed above the right pocket located in the middle, bisected by the pressed shirt seam, with equal distance from both sides of the nameplate to the outer edge of the pocket.
- (d) **When a jacket is worn,** the nameplate or an authorized sewn on cloth nameplate shall be affixed to the jacket in the same manner as the uniform.
- (e) **Assignment Insignias** - Assignment insignias, (SWAT, FTO, etc.) may be worn as designated by the Chief of Police.
- (f) **Flag Pin** - A flag pin may be worn, centered above the nameplate.
- (g) **Badge** - The department issued badge, or an authorized sewn on cloth replica, must be worn and visible at all times while in uniform.
- (h) **Rank Insignia** - The designated insignia indicating the employee's rank must be worn at all times while in uniform. The Chief of Police may authorize exceptions.

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1023.4.1 MOURNING BADGE

Uniformed employees shall wear a black mourning band across the uniform badge whenever a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty. The following mourning periods will be observed:

- (a) An officer of this department - From the time of death until midnight on the 14th day after the death.
- (b) An officer from this or an adjacent county - From the time of death until midnight on the day of the funeral.
- (c) Funeral attendee - While attending the funeral of an out of region fallen officer.
- (d) National Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15th) - From 0001 hours until 2359 hours.
- (e) As directed by the Chief of Police.

1023.4.2 SHIRTS

- (a) LONG SLEEVE SHIRT: Navy blue in color, tailored in accordance with specifications as set forth by the Chief of Police. All stitching throughout shall be of double-stitch type.
- (b) SHORT SLEEVE SHIRT: Navy blue with same specifications as long sleeve shirt with exception of short sleeves and sport collar.
- (c) INSTRUCTIONS - BASIC SHIRT:
 - 1. Shirts shall be worn complete with shoulder patches, service stripes, appropriate Insignia or rank and nameplate.
 - 2. When the short sleeve shirt is worn, all buttons except the neck collar button shall be buttoned unless a tie is worn. A white crew neck tee shirt shall be worn under an open-collar uniform shirt. As an option, black crew neck tee shirts may be worn under the uniform shirt. Personnel choosing this option shall assure the shirts are replaced when they begin to fade. This option shall apply to sworn personnel only.
 - 3. Either the short sleeve uniform or the long sleeve uniform shirt may be worn throughout the year upon the Officer's discretion.
 - 4. Whenever the long sleeve shirt is worn, the wearing of the necktie is optional, except in instances where a Class A uniform is mandated.

1023.4.3 EISENHOWER DRESS JACKET

The dress jacket shall be of the Eisenhower-type, navy blue in color and detailed in accordance with specifications as set forth by the California Highway Patrol. The length of the jacket is to be tailored to the individual officer and must extend 1-1/2" below the bottom of the Sam Browne belt. This jacket may be worn by any sworn officer with either the short or long sleeve shirt and tie.

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1023.4.4 FIELD JACKET

Duty (work) jackets shall be black nylon "Tuffy" style or lightweight black nylon windbreakers. The jackets shall have departmental patch affixed to each shoulder, along with the cloth badge patch affixed on the outside in the appropriate location.

1023.4.5 TIES-CLASS A ONLY

The tie shall be black in color, of plain cloth material and may be equipped with a clip-on or breakaway device. Length of the tie visible beneath the knot shall be at least 11". The tie shall be approximately 3-1/2" to 4" wide at its widest point.

- (a) TIE BAR: The tie bar shall be silver in color, plain, without ornamentation and shall be worn parallel to shirt pocket buttons.

1023.4.6 PANTS

Pants shall be navy blue in color, tailored in accordance with specifications as set forth by the Chief of Police, with flashlight pocket. The length shall be such that there will be a slight break at cuff line.

1023.4.7 FOOTWEAR

- (a) The following is the only authorized footwear for patrol use, excluding Canine. All footwear is to be polished to a high gloss and maintained in a clean, professional manner.
 1. Shoes shall be smooth, plain toe, black in color, low cut or hightop, center-lace type. Shoes with a design or stitching on the toe shall not be permitted. All uniformed officers shall be required to wear rubber soled and heeled shoes.
 2. Socks shall be dark blue or black in color and shall be without any design. White socks shall be permitted only if the Police utility/combat-style boot is worn.
- (b) Optional Footwear:
 1. Boots shall be plain toe, black in color, military-type lace up with Vibram-type sole or black leather and nylon boot with rubber sole.

1023.4.8 DRESS BELT

The belt shall be basket weave black leather, between 1-1/2" to 2" in width with a plain silver metal buckle.

1023.5 CIVILIAN ATTIRE

There are assignments within the Department that do not require the wearing of a uniform because recognition and authority are not essential to their function. There are also assignments in which the wearing of civilian attire is necessary.

- (a) All employees shall wear clothing that fits properly, is clean and free of stains, and not damaged or excessively worn.

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- (b) All male administrative, investigative and support personnel who elect to wear civilian clothing to work shall wear button style shirts with a collar, slacks or suits that are moderate in style.
- (c) All female administrative, investigative, and support personnel who elect to wear civilian clothes to work shall wear dresses, slacks, shirts, blouses, or suits which are moderate in style.
- (d) The following items shall not be worn on duty:
 - 1. T-shirt alone
 - 2. Open toed sandals or thongs
 - 3. Swimsuit, tube tops, or halter-tops
 - 4. Spandex type pants or see-through clothing
 - 5. Distasteful printed slogans, buttons or pins
- (e) Variations from this order are allowed at the discretion of the Chief of Police or designee when the employee's assignment or current task is not conducive to the wearing of such clothing.
- (f) No item of civilian attire may be worn on duty that would adversely affect the reputation of the Fountain Valley Police Department or the morale of the employees.

1023.5.1 SAM BROWNE

Belt shall be black in color, basket weave Sam Brown type, 2-1 1/4" wide with six sets of buckle and stud holes in the billet. The buckle shall be of silver metal, Sam Browne type.

1023.5.2 AMMUNITION CASE

The reserve ammunition case shall be black in color, basket weave and worn on the side opposite of the holster and centered on the belt between the buckle and the baton holder. Snaps shall be silver in color.

1023.5.3 BUCK KNIFE AND CASE

A "Buck" or similar type of knife and basket weave black leather case with a silver or hidden snap is optional equipment and may be worn on the Sam Browne belt. This item will be purchased by the officer.

1023.5.4 CUFF CASE

Cuff case shall be black in color, basket weave with pear-shaped flap and silver snaps. It shall be worn centered over either hip pocket. No more than two cuff cases may be worn.

1023.5.5 HOLSTER

The official holster shall be basket weave and black in color. The holster shall be worn on the side for which it was designed. The official firearm shall be carried in the holster.

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All snaps shall be silver in color.

1023.5.6 KEEPERS

Keepers shall be basket weave with double silver snaps.

1023.5.7 KEY STRAP AND BATON RING

The key strap shall be basket weave black leather with silver snap and silver ring. The baton ring shall be basket weave black leather with baton ring. An enclosed key caddy may also be worn.

1023.6 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police, Fountain Valley Police Department employees may not wear any part of the uniform, be photographed wearing any part of the uniform, utilize a department badge, patch or other official insignia, or cause to be posted, published, or displayed, the image of another employee, or identify himself/herself as an employee of the Fountain Valley Police Department to do any of the following (Government Code §§ 3206 and 3302):

- (a) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any political campaign or initiative.
- (b) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any social issue, cause, or religion.
- (c) Endorse, support, or oppose, any product, service, company or other commercial entity.
- (d) Appear in any commercial, social, or non-profit publication, or any motion picture, film, video, public broadcast, or any website.

1023.6.1 BADGE

When in uniform, all officers shall wear the official badge currently issued to them. The badge will be attached to the badge holder provided on the outermost garment and shall be clearly visible at all times. A cloth badge may be substituted for the badge on the field jacket. The badge will be provided by the Department and applied at the officer's expense.

A cloth badge may be obtained through the Department Training Officer.

1023.6.2 SHOULDER PATCH

The authorized Department shoulder patch shall be used. The patch is to be sewn onto the sleeve below the seam at the shoulder and not cross-stitched. Center of patch shall be bisected by the press of the sleeve.

Shoulder patches (1 set per Officer) may be obtained through the Department Training Officer.

1023.6.3 FIVE-YEAR SERVICE STRIPES

Five-year service stripes shall be white and may be embroidered just above the left shirt cuff on a long-sleeve uniform shirt. One stripe represents each five years of current Police service.

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1023.6.4 IDENTIFICATION CARD

While on duty, all officers shall have in their possession the identification card currently issued to them unless a special assignment prohibits carrying police identification.

1023.6.5 NAMEPLATE

The nameplate shall be worn centered on the top portion of the right pocket flap, aligned with the bottom row of stitching and shall be kept polished to a suitable luster at all times.

A cloth nametag may be substituted on the field jacket. This nametag will be purchased at the officer's expense. The nametag will be black background with white letters and shall be centered as above.

1023.7 OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT - MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT

- (a) Any of the items listed in the Uniform and Equipment Specifications as optional shall be purchased totally at the expense of the employee. No part of the purchase cost shall be offset by the Department for the cost of providing the Department issued item.
- (b) Maintenance of optional items shall be the financial responsibility of the purchasing employee. For example, repairs due to normal wear and tear.
- (c) Replacement of items listed in this order as optional shall be done as follows:
 - 1. When the item is no longer functional because of normal wear and tear, the employee bears the full cost of replacement.
 - 2. When the item is no longer functional because of damage in the course of the employee's duties, it shall be replaced following the procedures for the replacement of damaged personal property (see the Department Owned and Personal Property Policy).

1023.7.1 RETIREE BADGES

The Chief of Police may issue identification in the form of a badge, insignia, emblem, device, label, certificate, card or writing that clearly states the person has honorably retired from the Fountain Valley Police Department. This identification is separate and distinct from the identification authorized by Penal Code § 25455 and referenced in the Retired Officer CCW Endorsement Policy in this manual.

A badge issued to an honorably retired peace officer that is not affixed to a plaque or other memento will have the words "Honorably Retired" clearly visible on its face. A retiree shall be instructed that any such badge will remain the property of the Fountain Valley Police Department and will be revoked in the event of misuse or abuse (Penal Code § 538d).

1023.7.2 POLICE BATON

The baton is to be made of good quality hickory, oak or other material of equal density. The baton shall be black in color, unweighted, equipped with a rubber grommet and not less than 25" nor more than 27" long with a diameter of not less than 1-1/8" nor more than 1-1/4" at its widest

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point The handle is to be plain. The side-handled baton, also called the "PR-24" and Department-issued, is also authorized, as is the "ASP" collapsible baton.

1023.7.3 HANDCUFFS AND KEYS

Handcuffs are to be American-made of chromium, nickel-plated or blue-steel finish (Peerless or Smith and Wesson) with a minimum of two keys to fit.

1023.7.4 FLASHLIGHT

A flashlight with fixed focus and white light shall be issued. Other appropriate types of lights (including mini-mags) may also be used.

1023.7.5 PEN

A pen shall be carried. The pen shall be a ballpoint-type with black ink.

1023.7.6 GLOVES

Plain black leather gloves, lined or unlined, will be used by Patrol Officers. Plain white gloves may be used by Traffic Control Officers. Wearing of "sap gloves" is prohibited.

1023.7.7 RAINCOAT

The regulation raincoat shall be yellow material with badge holder and snap fasteners. Yellow foul-weather suits may be substituted and worn in their entirety.

1023.7.8 HEADWARE

The departmental helmet or Department-approved baseball style caps may be worn during inclement weather.

1023.8 UNAUTHORIZED UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

Fountain Valley Police Department employees may not wear any uniform item, accessory or attachment unless specifically authorized in the Uniform and Equipment Specifications or by the Chief of Police or designee. Fountain Valley Police Department employees may not use or carry any safety item, tool or other piece of equipment unless specifically authorized in the Uniform and Equipment Specifications or by the Chief of Police or designee.

1023.9 NON-SWORN PERSONNEL UNIFORM

Non-sworn personnel assigned to the following programs are required to wear a uniform:

- Records Bureau
- Communications
- Community Services Officers
- Parking Control Officers
- ID Lab

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- Police Aides
- Cadets
- RSVP's

The type of uniforms that the personnel in each program are required to wear will be subject to the approval of the Chief of Police or designee.

The supervisors in the programs listed above are responsible for assuring that their employee's uniforms are in compliance at all times. All uniforms shall be worn in good repair, clean and must be free of wrinkles or the appearance of fading. Uniforms shall be properly fitted. Employees may only wear their uniform while on-duty. Employees may wear their uniform going to and from work but all patches, badges and embroidered badges shall be covered and may not be visible. Any employee reporting for duty wearing their uniform inappropriately or in violation of this order may be directed to correct their uniform and may be subject to discipline.

Maternity uniforms are available in all of the required uniforms below. An employee shall consult with a Support Services supervisor to discuss what uniform is appropriate and when it should be worn if the need arises.

Employees should consult with a Support Services supervisor prior to purchasing any uniforms if there is any question that their selection is appropriate and in compliance with the requirements outlined below.

The two types of uniforms are Class B and Class C. Every non-sworn employee shall maintain a Class B uniform unless specifically excused by the Chief of Police or designee. The specifications for each are as follows:

1023.9.1 CLASS B UNIFORM

SHIRTS - French Blue, uniform style, button down shirt. Uniform shirts shall be worn complete with shoulder patches, badges and nameplates. Short sleeves should be approximately 4" above the top break of the elbow.

PANTS - Dark navy blue in color, wool, wool blend or polyester, uniform style pants.

BELTS - Uniform belts shall be basket weave black leather, between 1" - 2" in width with a plain silver metal buckle.

FOOTWEAR

- (a) Field Personnel - Shoes shall be rubber soled shoes. Shoes shall be smooth, plain toe, black in color, low cut or high top, center-lace type. Shoes with a design or stitching in a different color aren't permitted. All footwear is to be polished and maintained in a clean, professional manner.

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- (b) Station Personnel - Same as above. Female non-sworn personnel have the option to wear black, smooth leather, closed toe, "pump" style slip-on shoes, along with hose or stockings of a dark or neutral color. The heel height should not exceed 2".
- (c) Socks shall be dark blue or black in color and without any design. White socks shall be permitted only if the Police utility/combat-style boot is worn and where the sock is not visible.

FIELD PERSONNEL - For headwear, raingear and other miscellaneous uniform attire, refer to General Order § 1046.7.

1023.9.2 CLASS C UNIFORMS

The Class C uniform can be worn by those Support Services non-sworn employees who are not assigned to the front desk or in the field. This uniform can be worn as approved by the Chief of Police, Captain or Support Services Supervisor. This attire may be appropriate for many City events taking place outside of the Police Department.

SHIRT - The shirt shall be a polo-style shirt, with the Fountain Valley Police embroidered badge on the left side. The employee's last name, first name or initial, and job title embroidered on the right side. The job title shall be the actual job classification such as Dispatcher, Records Specialist, Community Services Officer, Police Services Officer or Cadet. The shirt shall be navy blue or white, and can be long or short sleeved. The shirt shall be worn tucked in with a belt or untucked if side vents and fit are appropriate for leaving untucked.

PANTS - The pants shall be full-length, straight-legged, slacks, black or dark navy in color. Pants must be fade resistant material. Jeans are not permitted. Pants may have pleats and must have belt loops to accommodate a belt (described below). The style must be appropriate for a business environment. Uniform pants as described in a Class B uniform can be worn.

BELT - The belt shall be black or dark navy in color, smooth leather with a plain silver buckle. The style and width must be appropriate for a business environment. A belt shall be worn if the pants have belt loops.

FOOTWEAR - Same as outlined for a Class B uniform.

JACKETS/SWEATERS

(a) Station Personnel-A black or dark navy jacket or sweater in fade resistant material can be worn. Neither shall have any designs, pictures or wording on them other than City of Fountain Valley or Police Department insignia. The style of either must be conservative, appropriate for a business environment and sized appropriately.

Grey or navy colored sweatshirts can be worn if the employee is not visible to the public such as in the Communications Center. The sweatshirt shall have the Fountain Valley Police embroidered badge on the left side. The employee's last name, first initial, and job title embroidered on the right side. The job title shall be the actual job classification such as Dispatcher, Records

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Specialist, Community Services Officer, Police Services Officer or Cadet. The shirt shall be navy blue, and can be long or short sleeved.

1023.9.3 CLASS D UNIFORMS - LOAD BEARING VESTS

CLASS D (Load Bearing Vest): The "Safariland #DN5735 Front Opening Patrol Vest Carrier" (LBV) has been approved as a uniform option for Patrol Officers. The approved LBV will be purchased at the Officer's expense and shall incorporate the ballistic panels from the Department-issued concealable vest. Officers wearing an LBV are responsible for the up-keep and replacement of any damaged, worn, or unserviceable equipment. The Chief of Police may authorize additional or alternate models of LBVs as necessary.

- (a) The LBV will be black in color. The LBV shall be worn with a patch reading "Police" in all capital block letters, measuring 2.5 inches in height attached to the back. The LBV shall also bear the Officer's last name on a sewn patch with all capital block letters measuring .75 inches in height over the right front pocket. The "Police" patch and name patch shall be embroidered in silver matching the Department-issued shoulder patch against a black background. The Department-issued metal badge shall be worn over the left breast and always in sight.
- (b) Class B or C uniforms shall be worn underneath the LBV. As an option, the "5.11 Tactical PDU Rapid Shirt" may be worn underneath the LBV, or another shirt as authorized by the Chief of Police. Authorized shoulder patches are to be sewn onto the sleeves per Policy.
- (c) A maximum of 5 pouches on the front and 2 pouches on the back of the LBV are authorized. Double stacking of pouches on the LBV is not authorized.
- (d) Firearms shall not be carried on the LBV. Tasers may be worn on the LBV on the opposite side of the Officer's firearm.
- (e) Officers wearing a LBV shall wear it at all times when in a place where contact with the public is likely. Officers shall also wear their LBV while interacting with individuals in custody (adults and juveniles).
- (f) Officers will make certain their LBV is secure at all times when not in use and inaccessible to unauthorized personnel.
- (g) Loose items such as knives, jewelry, or other items not secured in a LBV pouch should generally not be affixed or adhered to the LBV.

1023.10 HOLSTER OPTIONS

In place of the traditional Sam Browne holster issued by the Department, officers working a uniform patrol assignment may purchase a drop-down holster at their own expense. These holsters must meet the following criteria:

- 4 inch maximum drop from the bottom of the belt to the top of the holster

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- Any swivel feature may only traverse a maximum of 90° to the front
- Black in color
- Basket weave finish
- Possess a positive retention feature consisting of either a hood, thumb break or tensioning device
- Made by a reputable and established manufacturer

Because of changing materials and technology, specific manufacturers and models are not part of this order. Officers should consult with the department supervisor who oversees Arrest and Control Training to assure the holster they are considering for purchase meets minimum standards prior to purchase and usage. The Chief has delegated authority to this supervisor to make a determination on the suitability of holsters utilized by Department personnel.

Duty firearm holsters known as thigh holsters are not authorized for any personnel working a uniform patrol assignment with the exception of officers assigned to the canine program. Officers assigned to the West Orange County SWAT Team may use thigh holsters when in a SWAT uniform.

1023.11 NYLON DUTY BELTS

Officers assigned to a Patrol function and wearing a Department approved LBV may also, at their own expense, wear a nylon duty belt. The nylon duty belt shall:

- Be black in color
- Made by an established and reputable manufacturer
- Be worn with a black nylon keepers secured to the trouser belt
- Be worn with black nylon accessories with the exception of the holster
- Accessories shall also be made by an established and reputable manufacturer

The purchase, care and maintenance of the nylon duty belt alternative lies solely with the Officer. Nylon duty belts which do not fall under these provisions or are deemed unserviceable may be worn. The Patrol Division Commander or his/her designee is authorized to make that determination.