

UNIFORM COMMITTEE

NOTICE

1.12

October 8, 2015

TO: All Concerned Personnel

FROM: Chairperson, Uniform Committee

SUBJECT: NEWLY APPROVED UNIFORM ITEMS

The Uniform Committee and the Chief of Police have approved the following uniform and personal equipment items:

1. APPROVAL OF THE POINT BLANK ALPHA ELITE AXIIIA AND AXIIIAF LEVEL IIIA CONCEALABLE BODY ARMOR WITH SPEED PLATE

Over the past few years, the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) has received complaints regarding the currently issued concealable body armor. As a result, the Department filed a grievance with the Department of General Services regarding these issues. During mediation, the contract holder and bid winner offered the Department a substitution, with the stipulations that the substitution had to meet the requirements of the original bid specifications. The Department then conducted a product evaluation to determine a viable option for substitution. Based upon the results of the evaluation, effective immediately, the Point Blank Alpha Elite AXIIIA and AXIIIAF Level IIIA concealable body armor with speed plate shall be the officially issued body armor for all Department personnel. Department personnel who currently are issued concealable body armor that is not within six months of expiration will continue to wear their current vest until such time as the vest is no longer serviceable or reaches its ballistic expiration date.

Note: All Department personnel are encouraged to inspect their current issued body armor for expiration. If your body armor is expired, or will expire within the next six months, Department personnel shall report to Supply Division for fitting and replacement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE PARACLETE SOST-500 HARD ARMOR PLATE

Between 2013 and 2015, Metropolitan Division Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and K-9 evaluated several tactical vests and hard armor plates. The Paraclete SOST-500 Stand Alone Hard Armor Plate was deemed to be the plate most conducive to certain high risk missions. Therefore, the Paraclete SOST-500 Hard Armor Plate is approved for use as tactical vests by all Department personnel. The plates **shall** be worn in a tactical vest and **in-conjunction** with Level IIIA ballistic panels (soft body armor).

Exception: Metropolitan Division SWAT personnel assigned to perform airborne sniper operations may wear the Paraclete SOST-500 Hard Armor Plate in a “stand alone” configuration for airborne sniper operations only.

3. APPROVAL OF POLISHED UNIFORM BUTTONS

Department policy currently prohibits officers from polishing the buttons on Department uniforms. Many officers would opt to polish their buttons for wear on the Department uniform due to the professional appearance the highly polished buttons present. Therefore, the use of polished buttons with the Department uniform is now authorized.

The Department Uniform and Personal Equipment Specifications Manual, Part I: Sworn Personnel, Section I: Miscellaneous Uniform Items, Department Buttons is hereby amended to read as follows (changes are italicized):

DEPARTMENT BUTTONS

Shall be silver-plated and oxidized, roll relieved with the burnished roped edge, burnished lettering “**LOS ANGELES POLICE**” around a burnish star centered in 18 percent nickel silver. The entire front of the button is baked lacquered to prevent tarnishing. **THE BUTTONS MAY BE POLISHED.** Should the button require cleaning it could be washed with a mild soap and water. The size shall be 24 ligne for a basic uniform (cap, jacket, shirt) and 36 ligne for the Staff and Command officers dress coat and female police officers’ uniform coat. Thirty-six (36) ligne buttons, with countersunk flat eye backs, shall be used on the non-functional side of the dress coat. *If the buttons are polished, they shall be maintained highly polished at all times. Silver-plated oxidized buttons **SHALL NOT** be combined with polished buttons on the same uniform or garment.*

4. APPROVAL OF WEAR OF BODY WORN CAMERAS ON DEPARTMENT UNIFORMS

All body worn cameras shall be worn as an attachment to a Department approved uniform. The camera shall be worn forward facing, worn mounted from the waist up, and on the outer most garment.

No Department uniform shall be altered to accommodate the wearing of a body worn video camera. Only Department approved attachments are authorized for use in mounting the body worn camera to a Department approved uniform. The Department will continue to evaluate the best practices regarding placement and wear of body worn video devices.

All Concerned Personnel

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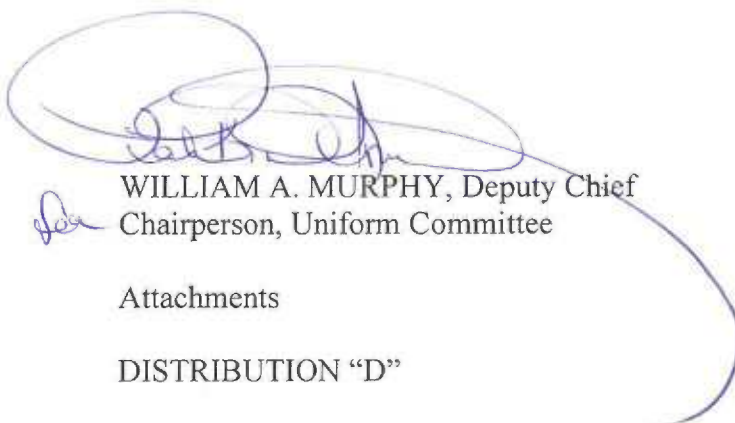
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If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Sergeant Richard Evans, Uniform and Equipment Coordinator, Police Sciences and Training Bureau, at (213) 486-7098.

APPROVED:



SEAN W. MALINOWSKI, Commander
Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of Police



WILLIAM A. MURPHY, Deputy Chief
Chairperson, Uniform Committee

Attachments

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