

CHAPTER 1
UNIFORM POLICY
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CHAPTER 1
UNIFORM POLICY

1. AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS.

a. General. To achieve the professional image expected of members of this Department, each uniformed employee shall assume the responsibility for presenting an appearance which is representative of the Department.

b. Policy.

(1) There are four types of uniforms authorized for wear by uniformed employees of the CHP. These uniforms are:

(a) Formal uniform (Class A).

(b) Work uniform (Class B).

(c) Utility uniform.

(d) Cold weather uniform.

(2) Each type of authorized uniform shall include the appropriate accouterments, accessories, and equipment, as listed in Annex A of this chapter.

(3) The wearing of uniform items, accouterments, or equipment not authorized by this manual is prohibited.

(4) All uniforms shall conform to the specifications contained in Highway Patrol Guide (HPG) 73.6, Uniform and Equipment Specifications Guide, or the specifications contained in bid packages for state purchased/issued uniform items.

2. TYPES OF AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS.

a. Formal Uniform (Class A).

(1) Formal Uniform Required. All uniformed employees, regardless of rank or assignment, shall possess and maintain a properly fitting formal uniform, complete with required accouterments and equipment items, ready for immediate use.

(2) Intent. The intent of the formal uniform is to ensure all personnel present as similar an appearance as possible at specific types of events, or when there is a need for uniformity in the dress of CHP personnel.

(3) Policy for Wearing.

(a) The formal uniform shall be worn by all uniformed personnel when representing the Department at official functions such as funerals, memorial services, formal personnel inspections, Academy graduations, award presentations, or as directed by an employee's commander.

(b) Employees may wear the formal uniform as a work uniform at their discretion. However, the formal uniform shall not be worn when the need for uniformity or officer safety dictates otherwise.

(4) Composition of the Formal Uniform. The formal uniform consists of the items listed in Annex B of this chapter.

b. Work Uniform (Class B).

(1) Intent. The intent of the work uniform is to provide uniformed employees the discretion to wear alternate uniform items while still presenting a professional law enforcement image during the performance of their duties.

(2) Policy for Wearing. Employees may wear the work uniform while performing their regular duties unless otherwise directed by the employee's commander. The washable work uniform shall **not** be worn during formal events (e.g., funerals, memorials, or other events as directed by the commander), even when the green jacket is **not** being worn.

(3) Uniform Shirt. Except as provided in paragraph 2.b.(2) above, employees may wear either the long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt on a year-round basis, as part of the work uniform.

(4) Composition of the Work Uniform. The work uniform consists of the items listed in Annex C of this chapter.

(5) Work Uniform Neckwear Policy. The work uniform neckwear policy is designed to give employees flexibility in choosing the type of neckwear which best suits their individual comfort level. Within the parameters of this flexibility, however, employees shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) When the green jacket is worn as part of the work uniform, it may only be worn in conjunction with the long-sleeved shirt and tie. The green jacket shall not be worn with the washable work uniform. Whenever the

mock turtleneck or the dickey is worn, it shall be worn over the undergarment shirt and under the uniform shirt. The undergarment shirt shall not be visible.

NOTE: The previously authorized turtleneck and dickey with the CHP logo monogram is only permitted for wear until no longer serviceable. The turtleneck or dickey is to be worn in accordance with the policy outlined in Chapter 6, Regulations for Optional Uniform Items, of this manual.

(b) The dickey may be worn under the short-sleeved shirt without a jacket.

(c) The mock turtleneck or dickey may be worn under the long-sleeved shirt without a jacket.

(d) Regardless of the type of neckwear worn with the work uniform, a uniform shirt is always required.

(e) The necktie shall not be worn with the short-sleeved shirt unless a jacket is worn.

(6) Undergarment Policy. If an undergarment is worn and visible with the tan work uniform, it shall be white in color, irrespective of the color of the ballistic vest carrier worn. The collar of the white undergarment shall not be frayed, ragged, stretched to excess, discolored, or stained.

c. Utility Uniform.

(1) Utility Uniform Required. All uniformed employees, regardless of rank or assignment, shall possess and maintain, ready for immediate use, a properly fitting long-sleeved utility uniform, complete with shoulder patches, departmental cloth badge, embroidered last name, and required equipment items.

(2) Intent. The intent of the utility uniform is to provide uniformed employees an alternative uniform to be worn at the direction of the employee's Division commander for civil disturbances, natural or man-made disasters, or any circumstance in which duties would expose an employee's regular work uniform to excessive soiling and damage. The utility uniform is also intended to provide specified personnel, whose regular duties would expose their work uniform to excessive soiling and damage, an alternative uniform **while they are engaged in the performance of those duties**.

(3) Primary and Incidental Wearers. In lieu of the formal or work uniform, personnel listed below, as either **primary** or **incidental** wearers, are authorized to wear the utility uniform.

(a) Primary Wearers.

1 Definition. Primary wearers are those persons assigned on a full-time basis to duties requiring the wearing of a uniform other than the formal or work uniform.

2 Policy for Wearing. Primary wearers are authorized to wear the utility uniform, the work uniform, or the formal uniform while engaged in the performance of their duties.

3 Approved Primary Wearers.

a Uniformed personnel assigned to the Commercial Program.

b Level 1 or 2 trained commercial officers, driving all-white Primary Crash Factor Vehicles (PCFV) on a full-time basis.

c Personnel permanently assigned to the Canine Program.

d Bomb detection officers who are canine-equipped.

e Full-time vehicle identification number (VIN) officers.

f Division personnel permanently assigned to Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Teams (MAIT).

g Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Teams' associate members while performing MAIT duties.

(b) Incidental Wearers.

1 Definition. Incidental wearers are those persons who are authorized to wear the utility uniform **only** while **engaged** in a work task which necessitates the wearing of a uniform other than the formal or work uniform.

2 Policy for Wearing. Incidental wearers are authorized to wear either the utility uniform, the work uniform, or the formal uniform, while engaged in the performance of their duties.

3 Approved Incidental Wearers.

a Area VIN officers.

b Motorcycle officers (other than enforcement duties).

- c Area training officers.
- d Area range/weapons officers.
- e Personnel driving an all-white PCFV on a part-time/rotational basis.
- f Special services and commercial vehicle enforcement facility commanders, while engaged in the activities directly related to their primary responsibility.
- g Drug Recognition Evaluator, while conducting initial certification evaluations.
- h Mobile Field Force members (including Type 1 Special Response Teams [SRT]) when engaged in emergency duties, or as authorized by Assistant Commissioner, Field (SRT optional uniform items and accouterments are listed in Annex F of this chapter.
- i Uniformed members, in response to the declaration of a Tactical Alert.

(4) Composition of the Utility Uniform. The utility uniform consists of the items listed in Annex D of this chapter.

(5) Neckwear Policy. When a jacket is worn with the utility uniform, either the mock turtleneck or dickey may be worn.

NOTE: The previously authorized turtleneck and dickey with the CHP logo monogram is only permitted for wear until no longer serviceable. The turtleneck or dickey is to be worn in accordance with the policy outlined in Chapter 6 of this manual.

(6) Undergarment Policy. If an undergarment is worn and visible with the blue utility uniform, it shall be dark navy blue in color, irrespective of the color of the ballistic vest carrier worn. The specifications for the authorized dark navy blue undergarment may be found in HPG 73.6, Chapter 2, Uniform Items.

(7) Departmental Cloth Badge Policy. The utility uniform shall have the departmental cloth badge stitched to the area above the wearer's left shirt pocket of the utility uniform. The departmental cloth badge authorized for wear is available through the Academy Post Exchange (PX). If a jacket is worn, a departmental badge shall be attached to the outermost garment.

(8) Wearing of the Utility Uniform.

(a) When the utility uniform is worn with combat-style boots, the uniform legs may be bloused.

(b) When the utility uniform is worn with any other style of footwear, the uniform legs shall not be bloused.

(9) Prohibitions—Utility Uniforms.

(a) The material used to construct the shirt and trousers shall be the 65 percent polyester/35 percent cotton, “ripstop” material. The wearing of any other type of utility uniform, coverall, or commercial uniform is prohibited.

(b) The CHP back patch is no longer authorized.

(c) The wearing of the utility uniform during a civil disturbance may be worn only at the direction of an employee’s Division commander.

(d) The wearing of the utility uniform is prohibited during normal weather patterns, which may include fog, rain, mist, and other similar conditions. Exceptions may apply to situations involving severe or extended weather events.

d. Cold Weather Uniform.

(1) Intent. The intent of the cold weather uniform is that it be worn only by employees in designated cold weather Areas.

(2) Definition of Cold Weather Areas. Cold weather Areas are those commands, designated by the Division commander, where the following situations exist:

(a) Extremely cold weather conditions are seasonally normal on an annual basis.

(b) An employee’s health, welfare, or ability to perform required duties would be impacted by lack of special cold weather clothing.

(c) The work or formal uniform would provide inadequate protection against cold weather.

- (3) Policy for Wearing. Employees assigned to designated cold weather Areas may wear the cold weather uniform while performing their regular duties during periods of cold weather, unless directed otherwise by their commander.
- (4) Composition of the Cold Weather Uniform. The cold weather uniform is comprised of the items listed in Annex E of this chapter.
- (5) Neckwear Policy. When a jacket is worn with the cold weather uniform, either the mock turtleneck or dickey may be worn.
- (6) Acquisition of Cold Weather Uniform Items. Employees assigned to designated cold weather Areas may requisition the cold weather cap and insulated boots pursuant to procedures outlined in Highway Patrol Manual 11.2, Materials Management Manual; Chapter 10, Police Protective and Safety Equipment–Uniformed Employees. The cold weather jumpsuit may be purchased and worn by employees assigned to designated cold weather Areas at the employee’s own expense.
- (7) Prohibited Items. The long, blue car coat, also known as the cold weather coat, is not authorized. The long, blue car coat, or cold weather coat, is not to be confused with the parka, which is an authorized cold weather uniform item. See Chapter 6 of this manual for parka specifications.
- (8) Undergarment Policy. If an undergarment is worn and visible with the cold weather uniform, it shall be dark navy blue in color, irrespective of the color of the ballistic vest carrier worn.

3. CAMPAIGN HAT.

a. General.

- (1) There are two versions of campaign hats available for uniformed employees: the **required** felt campaign hat, and the **optional** straw campaign hat. The straw campaign hat may be worn year-round unless decorum dictates otherwise.
- (2) All uniformed employees, regardless of rank, **shall** possess the felt campaign hat for their particular rank, complete with a hat/cap piece and appropriate accouterments.
- (3) When performing patrol duties, uniformed employees operating a patrol car **shall** keep the campaign hat (felt or straw) readily available within the vehicle.

b. Policy for Wearing. The campaign hat shall be worn by uniformed employees under the following conditions:

(1) As part of the formal uniform when attending official functions such as funerals, memorial services, formal personnel inspections, Academy graduations, awards presentations, or as directed by the commander.

(2) When uniformed employees are performing traffic control or crowd control duties, and peace officer recognition is essential.

(3) When on the grounds or within the confines of the State Capitol.

c. Public Contact. All uniformed employees should wear the campaign hat (if, in the uniformed employee's opinion, time and circumstances permit) during critical, uniformed employee-public contacts (e.g., accident scenes, media contacts) where a high degree of officer recognition is essential.

4. ACCOUTERMENT POLICY.

a. General.

(1) Only the accouterments/pins authorized in this manual are to be worn by CHP personnel while in uniform. Accouterments are to be worn on the formal/work uniform and green dress jacket only.

(2) The only authorized accouterment for wearing on the blue patrol jacket and/or cold weather jumpsuit is the badge. All other items may damage the integrity of the material.

(3) The accouterments shall be placed on the uniform from the wearer's perspective from left to right.

b. Left Pocket. The left pocket flap is reserved solely for the Medal of Valor, Officer of the Year, U.S. flag, U.S. military flag, or other special pin (e.g., Peace Officers' Memorial), as determined by the Commissioner.

(1) The Medal of Valor pin shall be attached to the left pocket flap of the shirt or green dress jacket, 1/2 inch below the top edge of the flap and centered above the button.

(2) The Officer of the Year pin shall be attached to the left pocket flap of the shirt or green dress jacket, 1 inch to the left of the right edge and centered midway between the top and bottom of the flap. Officers who have received an Officer of the Year pin, and wish to wear the U.S. flag pin, may attach the Officer of the

Year pin on the left pocket flap of the shirt or green dress jacket, 1 inch to the right of the left edge and centered midway between the top and bottom of the flap.

(3) The U.S. flag pin may be attached to the left pocket flap of the shirt or green dress jacket, 1 inch to the left of the right edge and centered midway between the top and bottom of the flap.

(4) Employees who have been honorably discharged from one of the U.S. armed forces, or who are currently serving in the active or reserve forces, may wear the U.S. military flag pin. These dual flag pins shall be worn in lieu of, and in the same location as, the U.S. flag pin. These pins are optional and purchased at the employee's expense. The Academy PX carries pins for the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. The lapel pins sold at the Academy are the only authorized brand and size.

(5) Special pins authorized for short-term wear, such as the Peace Officer's Memorial pin, are to be worn only during a specified time period and in the manner designated by the Commissioner.

c. Right Pocket.

(1) No more than three departmentally authorized pins may be worn **at any time** on the right uniform pocket or green dress jacket.

(2) Officers may choose which three pins they elect to wear from the pins they have earned.

(3) Pins are to be placed on the right pocket flap, beginning on the inside and working out.

(4) If multiple pins are worn, the smallest pin is to be worn in the middle above the button.

(5) No pins are to be worn above the name tag.

5. HELMETS.

a. General.

(1) The U.S. flag decals shall be placed on all motorcycle, mounted duty, bicycle patrol, and aviation helmets.

(2) Only those decals obtained through the departmental supply services process shall be affixed to the helmets.

b. Decal Placement.

(1) Motorcycle and Mounted Duty Helmets. The U.S. flag decals shall be centered on the back of the helmet in the black portion, 1/2 inch below the gold edge.

(2) Bicycle Helmets. The U.S. flag decals shall be centered on the left side of the helmet directly above the CHP logo.

(3) Aviation Helmets. The U.S. flag decals shall be centered on the back of the helmet, 1 1/2 inches above the base of the helmet.

ANNEX A
REQUIRED ITEMS

EQUIPMENT AND ACCOUTERMENTS REQUIRED
FOR ALL UNIFORM COMBINATIONS

1. The following items are required regardless of type of uniform worn:
 - a. Departmental badge (the cloth badge is required for wear on the utility uniform).
 - b. Departmental ID card.
 - c. Valid driver's license.
 - d. Duty belt complete with double-magazine pouch, two fully loaded magazines, handcuff case, holster, and Rapid Containment Baton with holster.
 - e. Primary weapon (S&W Model M&P .40) with a fully loaded magazine and chambered round of ammunition.
 - f. Soft body armor.
 - g. Handcuffs and key.
 - h. Flashlight (during hours of darkness).
 - i. Approved footwear.
 - j. Socks.
 - k. Trouser belt.
 - l. Pen (black or blue ink) or pencil.
 - m. Insignia of rank (as applicable).
 - n. Service stripes (green jacket, tan long-sleeved shirt).

ANNEX A

REQUIRED ITEMS (*continued*)

EQUIPMENT AND ACCOUTERMENTS REQUIRED FOR ALL UNIFORM COMBINATIONS

o. Nameplate (see paragraph 4.a.[2] of this chapter for exception to wearing on the outer garment).

Note: Refer to paragraph 2.aa. in Chapter 5, Regulations for Required Uniform Items, of this manual for policy on removing the nameplate in specific situations.

p. Pocket watch or wristwatch.

2. Weapons, Holsters, Magazine Pouches, and Ammunition. Refer to Highway Patrol Manual 70.8, Firearms Manual, for instructions and specifications regarding weapons, holsters, magazine pouches, and ammunition.

ANNEX B

FORMAL UNIFORM (CLASS A)

REQUIRED UNIFORM AND ACCOUTERMENTS FOR FORMAL UNIFORM

In addition to the items listed in Annex A of this chapter, the following items are required as part of the formal uniform:

1. Departmental hat/cap piece.
2. Felt campaign hat or helmet (as applicable). The cap is authorized for Assistant Chief and above.
3. Green dress jacket with shoulder patches (aiguillette as required for honor guard only).
4. Long-sleeved shirt with shoulder patches (55 percent Dacron polyester/45 percent wool gabardine).
5. Necktie or bow tie (as applicable).
6. Trousers or breeches (as applicable)—100 percent wool.

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ANNEX C

WORK UNIFORM (CLASS B)

UNIFORM AND ACCOUTERMENTS FOR WORK UNIFORM

In addition to the items listed in Annex A of this chapter, the work uniform may consist of those items listed under Formal Uniform and may also include the following optional items.

1. Straw campaign hat.
2. Blue patrol jacket.
3. Leather jacket (motorcycle duty only).
4. Departmentally approved washable work uniforms with either short or long sleeves. The currently approved washable work uniforms are:
 - a. Spiewak Sorbtek Ripstop with EXS.
 - b. Spiewak 74 Polyester/24 Wool/2 Lycra Blend.
 - c. Spiewak Breeches 74 Polyester/24 Wool/2 Lycra Blend.

The work uniforms shall be worn as a like set (same material).

5. Neckwear.
 - a. Long-sleeved shirt—Necktie, bow tie, mock turtleneck, or dickey (no jacket required).
 - b. Short-sleeved shirt—Dickey (no jacket required).
 - c. Short-sleeved shirt—Necktie or bow tie (jacket required).

Other than the mock turtleneck or dickey, all visible undergarments shall be white in color.

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ANNEX D
UTILITY UNIFORM

UNIFORM AND ACCOUTERMENTS
FOR UTILITY UNIFORM

In addition to the items listed in Annex A of this chapter, the utility uniform may consist of the items listed below:

1. Cotton utility cap. Authorized only for those officers assigned to specific duties or under specific circumstances as stated in Chapter 6, Regulations for Optional Uniform Items, paragraph 2.dd., of this manual.
2. Blue patrol jacket.
3. Mock turtleneck or dickey.
4. The blue utility uniform shall be comprised of the following: 65 percent polyester/35 percent cotton ripstop material; navy blue in color; long- or short-sleeved; and complete with a departmental cloth badge, shoulder patches, and embroidered last name. The blue utility uniform may be treated with a Teflon[®] fabric protector.

Note: Refer to paragraph 2.mm. in Chapter 6 of this manual for policy on removable hook-and-pile name and ID badges for use with the utility uniform.

5. Navy blue undergarment.

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ANNEX E

COLD WEATHER UNIFORM

UNIFORM AND ACCOUTERMENTS FOR COLD WEATHER UNIFORM

In addition to the items listed in Annex A of this chapter, the cold weather uniform may consist of the items listed below:

1. Cold weather cap with cap piece.
2. Cold weather jumpsuit (uniform shirt and trousers are not required to be worn with the cold weather jumpsuit).
3. Blue patrol jacket.
4. Parka.
5. Mock turtleneck or dickey.
6. Insulated boots.
7. Cotton utility cap (only authorized when worn in conjunction with the cold weather jumpsuit).

Other than the mock turtleneck or mock dickey, all visible undergarments shall be dark navy blue in color.

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ANNEX F

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM UNIFORM

UNIFORM AND ACCOUTERMENTS FOR SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

In addition to the items listed in Annex D of this chapter, the Special Response Team uniform may consist of the items listed below:

1. Kevlar® tactical helmet with face shield.
2. Black “turtle suit/vest” style protective pads (front and back upper torso).
3. Black knee, shin, ankle, and foot guard combination.
4. Black elbow pads and knee pads.
5. Black leather gloves.
6. Black ballistic nylon web belt.
7. Black ballistic nylon belt slide loops (keeper straps), handcuff case(s), aerosol projector holster, baton holster, magazine pouch.
8. Black ballistic nylon or molded nylon drop style holster.
9. Black ballistic nylon backpack/gear carryall (twin shoulder strap style).
10. Hydration pack (CamelBak® or equivalent).
11. Blue cotton utility cap.
12. Black ballistic belt clip for gas mask carrying bag.
13. Black molded nylon flashlight holder.
14. Black two-cell lithium flashlight (Streamlight® or equivalent).

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