

## UNIFORM REGULATIONS

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### OFFICIAL POLICE UNIFORMS

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**Purpose:** To specify the official uniform of the North Little Rock Police Department and establish regulations for its wear.

**Policy:** It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department (NLRPD) to ensure sworn officers maintain a professional appearance that is becoming of the department's prestige and mission. The appearance of an officer sets the important first impression of the officer and the department by citizens. By appearance, sworn members must immediately project all the department represents and instill trust and confidence with citizens.

**Summary of Changes:** Removed motorcycle uniform from the policy, added the outer vest carrier, restriction on hard knuckled gloves, time frame of Flying Cross uniform and change to officer name plate. Wearing of awards on the Class "B" Duty uniform is now permitted and wearing of FTO patch.

#### **Procedure:**

##### **1. Class "A" Dress Uniform:**

- 1.1 The Class "A" Dress uniform will be worn for attending funerals, awards ceremonies or when otherwise ordered by the chief of police or a division commander. All officers will maintain one complete Class "A" Dress uniform in excellent condition. Components of the Class "A" Dress uniform are as follows:
- 1.2 Shirt: The shirt will consist of a navy blue, long sleeve (Blauer) shirt.
  - 1.2.1 Rank for Shirts: All rank for lieutenants and above will be worn on the collar of the shirt. Authorized rank in gold **must** be worn on the collar of the shirt, parallel to the outer edge of the shirt collar. Lieutenants will wear a single gold bar and captains a double gold bar. Sergeants will wear the cloth sergeant chevron on each sleeve, officer first class will wear the two striped chevron on each sleeve and field training officers (FTO) a patch on each sleeve.
  - 1.2.2 Metal Name Tag: The name tag will have the member's first initial, last name and date of service (Ex. J. Wilson Serving Since 2004) inscribed. Members with prior law enforcement experience may include those years of service on the name tag. The name plate will be worn centered immediately above the right breast pocket of the uniform shirt.
  - 1.2.3 "P" Buttons: The buttons will be worn on the shirt pockets and epaulets.
  - 1.2.4 Metal Shirt Badge: The badge will be worn over the left breast pocket.
  - 1.2.5 Shoulder Patch: An NLRPD shoulder patch will be sewn on both shoulders. Approved unit patches may be worn on the right shoulder in lieu of the NLRPD shoulder patch. Only the NLRPD shoulder patch will be worn on the left shoulder.
  - 1.2.6 Service Stars/Bars: The service stars/bars will be sewn to the left sleeve of the long sleeve shirt and are mandatory for the Class "A" Dress uniform. Members with prior law enforcement experience may include those years of service on the shirt sleeve (star = 5 years; bar = 1 year).
  - 1.2.7 Awards: Any authorized ribbons awarded will be worn above the right pocket of the shirt and below the name plate, aligned with the top edge of the pocket and centered. Ribbons will be arranged in the proper order of precedence. No more than 4 awards will be worn in a single row at a time.
    - 1.2.7.1 The award order of precedence: Medal of Honor, Valor, Purple Heart, Chief's Award, Lifesaving, Achievement, Merit, Leadership, Education, Firearms and Safe Driving (reading from left to right).
  - 1.2.8 Tie: The regular full or clip on navy blue with a length to the belt buckle **must** be worn with the Class "A" Dress uniform at all times. The tie will be at least 3 1/3 inches in width. Tie tacks or clasps are authorized as long as they are conservative and in keeping with a professional police image.
- 1.3 Trousers: navy blue wool blend (Blauer) with or without a pant liner.
  - 1.3.1 The trousers will be worn straight leg, un-cuffed with a half-brake length.
- 1.4 Shoes: The shoes will be black and polished toe.
- 1.5 Socks: The socks will be either black or dark blue if visible while wearing the Class "A" Dress uniform.
- 1.6 Hat: The hat is navy blue, round top cap/military cut with strap and the NLRPD cap badge.

- 1.7 Duty Jacket: The Blauer 3 in 1 which will serve as the cold weather jacket with a removable liner which will serve as a secondary jacket. The jacket is waterproof and will also serve as a rain coat. The duty jacket may be worn with the Class "A" Dress uniform only when authorized; accessories worn on the jacket will be gold for all ranks. Monogrammed name (first initial and last name) will be centered over the right chest of the jacket. NLRPD shoulder patches will be sewn on both shoulders. An authorized specialty patch may be worn on the right shoulder in lieu of the NLRPD patch. An NLRPD badge patch will be sewn on the left breast area of the jacket. Lieutenants and above will wear gold color rank insignia on the epaulets of the jacket. Sergeant and officers first class will wear cloth chevrons on the sleeves of the jacket and field training officers (FTO) will wear a patch on the sleeves.
- 1.7.1 Another option for protection against weather will be black/chartreuse, reversible jacket with or without the hood liner.
- 1.8 Duty Belt: The leather weapons belt with leather accessories **must** be worn (no nylon belts or gear will be worn) with the Class "A" Dress uniform. It will be black leather, basket weave or smooth design with a gold buckle.
- 1.9 Gloves: The gloves will be black in color and worn only when protection from the cold weather warrants the use. This style of glove will not be worn with a short sleeve duty shirt. Sap gloves, sap type gloves, knuckle gloves or any glove with a hard element along the knuckles are prohibited. Officers needing protection from blood, saliva and crime scene considerations etc. will be latex.

## 2. Class "B" Duty Uniform:

- 2.1 The Class "B" Duty uniform is the standard uniform of the department and will be worn as the daily attire by all uniformed officers, except as may be otherwise provided within this policy. Components of the duty uniform are as follows:
- 2.2 Shirt: The shirt will consist of a navy blue wool blend, short sleeve or long sleeve (Blauer) shirt or the Blauer hybrid shirt. If worn under the outer vest carrier, the hybrid shirts will have the sewn on badge patch on the left chest area and the officer's name embroidered on the right chest area.
- 2.2.1 Rank for Shirts: All rank for lieutenants and above will be worn on the collar of the shirt. Authorized rank in gold **must** be worn on the collar of the shirt, parallel to the outer edge of the shirt collar. Lieutenants will wear a single gold bar and captains a double gold bar. Sergeants will wear the cloth sergeant chevron on each sleeve, officer first class will wear the two striped chevron on each sleeve and field training officers (FTO) will wear a patch on each sleeve.
- 2.2.3 Metal Name Tag: The tag will have the member's first initial, last name and date of service (ex. J. Wilson Serving Since 2004). Members with prior law enforcement experience may include those years of service on the name tag. The name plate will be worn centered immediately above the right breast pocket of the uniform shirt.
- 2.2.4 Metal Shirt Badge: The badge will be worn over the left breast pocket.
- 2.2.5 Shoulder Patch: An NLRPD shoulder patch will be sewn on both shoulders. Approved unit patches may be worn on the right shoulder in lieu of the NLRPD shoulder patch. Only the NLRPD shoulder patch will be worn on the left shoulder.
- 2.2.6 Service Stars/Bars: The stars/bars will be sewn to the left sleeve of the long sleeve shirt and are optional for the Class "B" Duty uniform. Members with prior law enforcement experience may include those years of service on the shirt sleeve (star = 5 years, bar = 1 year).
- 2.2.7 Awards: Officers will have the option of wearing any authorized ribbons awarded above the right pocket of the shirt and below the name plate, aligned with the top edge of the pocket and centered. Ribbons will be arranged in the proper order of precedence. No more than 4 awards will be worn in a single row at a time.
- 2.2.7.1 The award order of precedence: Medal of Honor, Valor, Purple Heart, Chief's Award, Lifesaving, Achievement, Merit, Leadership, Education, Firearms and Safe Driving.
- 2.2.8 Tie: When wearing the long sleeve shirt the navy blue clip-on tie is optional wear. The tie will be at least 3 1/3 inches in width. Tie tacks or clasps are authorized as long as they are conservative and in keeping with a professional police image. A mock turtleneck or a turtleneck dickey is also acceptable. The mock turtleneck or turtleneck dickey **must** be dark blue in color and have NLRPD embroidered in gold lettering on the left side of the neck
- 2.2.9 Undershirts: The shirt worn with the Class "B" Duty uniform will be white, black, or blue in color. Undershirts will not have any visible lettering or design.
- 2.3 Trousers: The pants will be navy blue wool blend (Blauer) with or without pant liner or 5.11 Stryke pants.
- 2.3.1 The pants will be worn straight leg, un-cuffed with a half-break length.
- 2.4 Officers who purchased the Flying Cross uniform may continue to wear the uniform until 07/01/2020 when the uniform will no longer be utilized by the department. The supplier for uniforms will have a list of approved uniforms and all uniforms must be purchased from the approved list.

- 2.5 Shoes/Boots: The shoes/boots will be black, smooth grained leather or a synthetic material having an acceptable likeness to leather with a medium plain toe.
- 2.5.1 Shoes/boots must be listed on the approved uniform purchase list at the approved uniform vendor(s).
- 2.6 Socks: The socks will be either solid black or dark blue if visible. When wearing boots, any color is allowable as long as the sock is not visible.
- 2.7 Hat: The hat is navy blue, round top cap/military cut with strap and the NLRPD cap badge. A 5.11 ball cap with "POLICE" lettering has been approved for rainy weather wear or when the duty assignment requires the officer to be exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods. A 5.11 beanie hat with "POLICE" lettering has been approved for cold weather wear. These are the **only** hats approved for wear.
- 2.8 Duty Jacket: The jacket is a Blauer 3 in 1 which will serve as the cold weather jacket with a removable liner which will serve as a secondary jacket. The jacket is waterproof and will also serve as a rain coat. Monogrammed name (first initial and last name) will be centered over the right chest of the jacket. NLRPD shoulder patches will be sewn on both shoulders. An authorized specialty patch may be worn on the right shoulder in lieu of the NLRPD patch. An NLRPD badge patch will be sewn on the left breast area of the jacket. Lieutenants and above will wear large gold color rank insignia on the epaulets of the jacket. Sergeant and officers first class will wear cloth chevrons on the sleeves of the jacket and field training officers (FTO) will wear a patch on the sleeves.
- 2.8.1 Another option for protection against weather will be black/chartreuse, reversible jacket with or without the hood liner.
- 2.9 Duty Belt: The leather or nylon duty belt may be worn with the appropriate accessories as authorized on the approved uniform purchase list at the approved vendor. The belt will be black leather, basket weave design with gold buckle or the nylon Velcro style.
- 2.10 Gloves: The gloves will be black in color and worn only when protection from the cold weather warrants the use. This style of glove will not be worn with a short sleeve duty shirt. Sap gloves, sap type gloves, knuckle gloves or any glove with a hard element along the knuckles are prohibited. Officers needing protection from blood, saliva and crime scene considerations etc. will be latex.
- 2.11 Light: A small flashlight may be worn on the epaulets of the shirt or the outer vest carrier for officer safety reasons.
- 2.12 Outer Vest Carrier: The approved outer vest carrier can be worn in conjunction with the Class "B" Duty uniform.

### 3. K9 Uniform:

- 3.1 Shirt: The shirt will consist of a navy blue wool blend, short sleeve or long sleeve (Blauer) shirt or the Blauer Hybrid shirt. If worn under the outer vest carrier, the hybrid shirts will have the sewn on badge patch on the left chest area and the officer's name embroidered on the right chest area.
- 3.1.1 The K9 patch is authorized for wear over the right breast pocket of the K9 uniform or outer vest carrier.
- 3.2 Trousers: Navy blue wool blended (Blauer) pants with or without a pant liner or 5.11 Stryke pants.
- 3.3 A 5.11 ball cap with "POLICE" lettering has been approved for rainy weather wear or when the duty assignment requires the officer to be exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods. A 5.11 beanie hat with "POLICE" lettering has been approved for cold weather wear. These are the **only** hats approved for wear.
- 3.4 Outer Vest Carrier: The approved outer vest carrier can be worn in conjunction with the K9 Unit uniform.

### 4. Training Unit/PAL Uniform:

- 4.1 Members of the Training Unit will be authorized to wear the Training Unit uniform in lieu of the Class "B" Duty uniform for daily wear and while engaged in training activities. This uniform is also acceptable for the officer assigned to the Police Athletic League (PAL).
- 4.1.1 The uniform is not to be worn when the Class "A" Dress uniform or Class "B" Duty uniform is called for or when the chief of police or division commander advises differently.
- 4.1.2 This uniform will consist of the 5.11 Tactical series polo shirt or Proper polo shirt in dark blue or red with gold embroidered name, and unit designator clearly displayed. The pants will be 5.11 or Proper brands in khaki or dark blue in color.
- 4.1.3 The boot will be a tactical style in black, khaki or coyote/desert tan.
- 4.1.4 The approved outer vest carrier can be worn in conjunction with the Training Unit uniform.

### 5. Summer/Special Event/Bike Uniform:

- 5.1 The uniform will consist of the Blauer hybrid shirt in dark blue with sewn on shoulder patches, badge patch and embroidered name. The pants will be the 5.11 Stryke in dark blue. The 5.11 Taclite shorts in dark blue or khaki will be authorized during extreme weather conditions at the discretion of the chief of police or division commander. Black shoes or boots will be worn.
- 5.1.1 Nylon weapons belt and nylon accessories will be worn.

5.2 This uniform is to be worn as authorized by the chief of police or division commander.

5.2.1 Supervisors may wear the uniform for special events or off-duty assignments only.

5.2.2 This uniform when worn with long pants may be worn to court and to semi-formal appearance. No shorts will be authorized for court wear.

5.3 Officers assigned to, and **actively participating in**, bike patrol may wear this uniform while riding police bikes, with the approved accessories as follows:

5.3.1 Black bike shorts may be worn in lieu of the 5.11 Stryke pants.

5.3.2 Black winter pants, if required in cold weather.

5.3.3 Padded short liner (black).

5.3.4 Bicycle gloves (black).

5.3.5 Windbreaker jacket (blue) with or without liner.

5.3.6 Bicycle patrol bag (black).

5.3.7 Bicycle patrol rain/cold weather gear.

5.3.8 Bicycle helmet will be worn and fastened when on the bike at all times.

#### 6. Special Purpose Attire:

6.1 The uniform may be issued to members of SWAT, SRT and CNT with approval of the chief of police. Such attire will only be worn when performing the functions of these specialty units.

#### 7. Honor Guard Uniform:

7.1 The uniform will be worn for official honor guard functions only. The components of the Honor Guard uniform are as follows:

7.1.1 Shirt is a blue wool blend zipper front, long sleeve with epaulets.

7.1.2 Mock turtleneck or turtleneck dickey with NLRPD embroidered in blue.

7.1.3 "P" Buttons silver in color will be worn in place of all buttons on the shirt, i.e. epaulets, cuffs, pockets and front over zipper.

7.1.4 The silver metal badge will be worn on the left side of the shirt over the pocket.

7.1.5 Honor Guard patch will be on the right shoulder, NLRPD patch on the left. No stars or bars will be worn.

7.1.6 Pant is a blue wool blend with or without pant liner.

7.1.7 Shoes are lace up shoes and must be worn with black socks.

7.1.8 White leather formal, with silver hat band.

7.1.9 Leather weapons gear will only be worn with a silver belt buckle, highly polished and four (4) sets of double keepers with silver snaps.

#### 8. Outer Vest Carrier

8.1 The outer vest will be the Point Blank molle vest, dark blue in color for all officers wearing the Point Blank Body Armor. This carrier **must** be equipped with the gold NLRPD patch badge on the left chest area, embroidered/screen printed in non-reflective silver will be the officer's name (first initial and last name) on the right chest area and "POLICE" on the center of the chest area. The word "POLICE" will be embroidered/screen printed in reflective silver and placed on the back panel of the vest carrier. The Taser, radio, microphones loop, small light and tourniquet carrier can be affixed to the front of the outer carrier; no other items are authorized. The E-collar will also be authorized to wear on the vest for K9 handlers. Acceptable areas for wear of the outer vest carrier include: United States Federal Court, Pulaski County Circuit Court and District Court.

8.2 Officers that have not been issued Point Blank Body Armor will be allowed to wear their current outer vest carrier. When issued Point Blank Armor, the Point Blank Armor outer carrier will be required.

#### 9. Non-Sworn Uniforms:

9.1 Non-sworn uniforms are described in Policy Directive 15-05.

#### 10. Uniform Regulations:

10.1 Members authorized to wear the police uniform will wear only as provided herein the authorized uniform in authorized combinations. Only items as authorized on the uniform purchase list may be worn for uniform wear.

10.2 All personnel assigned to wear the official uniform will report for roll call or detail at the designated time in complete uniform. Members may not wear the dress uniform unless wear of the dress uniform is directed by policy directive or as ordered by the chief or assistant chief of police, or a division commander.

10.3 All employees are responsible for the proper maintenance and repair to any uniform clothing, leather, or accessories issued to them. Employees are responsible for keeping their uniforms neat, clean, well pressed, and in good repair at all times. Leather goods, footwear, and metal accessories will present a clean and well-polished appearance.

- 10.4 An incomplete uniform will not be worn at any time. No item of the official uniform will be worn except as part of a complete uniform.
- 10.5 No substitutions for required uniform items will be allowed unless specifically approved by the chief of police.
- 10.6 No member of the department will wear the uniform or any part of the uniform while on administrative leave or under suspension for any cause.
- 10.7 All sworn officers of the department will maintain at least one complete Class "A" Dress uniform ready for use at all times.
- 10.8 Any member who is terminated or resigns will return all uniform clothing items and accessories belonging to the department to the commander of the Support Services Division or the designated representative.
- 10.9 Members will be required to account for damaged or lost items. Members may be required to pay for items that are damaged or lost due to negligence.
- 10.10 Use of the uniform headgear is optional except when attending formal or semi-formal functions outdoors. Uniform headgear will not be worn indoors. When worn, the dress cap will be worn level on the head as viewed from the front. The front of the tip of the cap bill will be level with the top of the eyebrows when viewed from the side.
- 10.11 Use of the reflective traffic safety vest is mandatory when an officer is on foot and conducting any police action that places an officer in a public or private traffic way for an extended period. This includes, but is not limited to: traffic control, accident scenes, crime scenes, or when dealing with traffic obstructions. Use of the reflective traffic safety vest is optional for bicycle officers.
- 10.12 Wearing of eyeglasses with the uniform:
- 10.12.1 Mirror sunglasses will not be worn while in uniform.
- 10.12.2 Glasses should be conservative and in keeping with a professional police image.
- 10.12.3 Glasses with unusually colored lenses or frames will not be worn while in uniform.
- 10.13 The uniform will not be worn off duty unless:
- 10.13.1 When traveling to or from work;
- 10.13.2 Appearing in court;
- 10.13.3 Engaging in off-duty employment in an approved capacity or other authorized function.
- 10.14 The following items are authorized to be purchased and worn by uniformed members of this agency:  
[CALEA 1.3.4]
- 10.14.1 Additional set of handcuffs.
- 10.14.2 Smaller black flashlight.
- 10.14.3 Safety gloves.
- 10.14.4 Secondary firearm (at officer's expense).
- 10.14.5 Knife (at officer's expense).
- 10.14.6 Outer vest carrier.
- 10.15 Items that are worn on the belt shall be carried in holders that conform to the department specifications of the belt being worn.
- 10.15.1 Secondary firearm shall be carried pursuant to Section 3 in Policy Directive 11-3, Carrying and Use of Weapons.
- 10.15.2 Knives shall be carried in a concealed manner. Folding pocket- knives with a clip may be carried with only the clip exposed.
- 10.16 Personal communications devices may be carried in a plain black holder attached to the duty belt, or may be carried concealed in a uniform pocket. [CALEA 41.3.4]
- 10.17 Requests to wear any personal item not listed shall be forwarded through the member's chain of command to the division commander for approval. [CALEA 41.3.4]

## 11. Specialty Patches:

- 11.1 Special assignment patches are authorized for certain additional duty assignments for wear on specific uniforms. Only special assignment patches authorized by this policy directive may be worn. Special assignment patches will not be worn on the bike uniform.
- 11.2 Authorized patches for the wear on NLRPD uniform:
- 11.2.1 The special operations patch may be worn in lieu of the right shoulder patch on the Class "A" Dress and Class "B" Duty uniforms.
- 11.2.2 Honor guard patch is authorized to be worn in lieu of the right shoulder patch on the Class "A" Dress, Class "B" Duty, or Honor Guard uniforms.
- 11.2.3 K-9 patch is authorized for wear over the right breast pocket on the duty uniform only. K-9 patch will not be worn on the Class "A" Dress uniform.

11.3 Modifications/Changes: Modifications, changes, additions and deletions to the official uniform and/or its wear may only be made by change to the policy or amendment by memorandum with the signature of the chief of police.

**12. Enforcement:**

12.1 It is the responsibility of all supervisors to ensure members adhere to the uniform standards.

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Mike Davis  
Chief of Police