



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE HANDLER UNIFORM		NO: K-485	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Because Canine Deputies work in varied environments and need to carry specialized equipment, it is recognized they require a uniform that allows them to accomplish their unique tasks. As such, deputies assigned to the Canine Unit are authorized to wear the patrol uniform described below.

Uniform Shirt

Tan, Blauer "Ripstop Armorskin" long or short sleeve base shirt. The shirt weighs approximately 12 ounces and is made of a 65/35 polyester and cotton blend "Ripstop" fabric.

The Blauer uniform shirt will be equipped with red Kern County Sheriff's Office sew-on patches located on both shoulders, an embroidered Kern County Sheriff Office badge (left chest), embroidered Deputy's name (right chest), and an embroidered "K9 Unit" identifier (right chest). The name and unit identifier will be embroidered in gold thread.

The shirt will be worn in conjunction with an external carrier, which will allow Canine Deputies to carry their required Sheriff's Office-issued patrol equipment and additional canine equipment in functional areas on the carrier.

External Armor Carrier

Tan, Safariland "Protech" New Oregon City External Armor Carrier.

The external carrier is custom made to fit each deputy's issued and previously custom-fitted Sheriff's Office issued "Point Blank" soft body armor plates.

The carrier is equipped with dedicated spots for identifiers. The carrier will be equipped with a velcro Kern County Sheriff's Office badge (left chest), unit identifier (left chest/ K9 UNIT) and personnel name identifier (right chest). The front identifier strips will be tan and embroidered with gold thread. The rear "Sheriff K9" identifier will be green, heat pressed and in bold gold lettering.

The carrier is also equipped with molle attachments on the front and upper torso area, which will allow Canine Deputies to carry required equipment such as body worn cameras, electronic collar transmitters, heat alarm/door pop controller, outing tool, and tourniquet.

Uniform Pants

Green, 5.11 Tactical Class C uniform trouser, as described in KCSOPPM Section K-0300.

Footwear

Black, as described under: Footwear, General Specifications in KCSOPPM Section K-0300

Accessories

All items worn on the utility belt, will conform to the specifications described in KCSOPPM Section K-0303

DIRECTIVE 1. UNIFORM-CALLOUTS

In callout situations, canine handlers shall make every attempt to wear the approved canine handler uniform. If wearing the approved uniform is not practical, handlers shall wear clean, appropriate clothing. In addition, at a minimum they shall wear their assigned uniform external ballistic panel carrier. This carrier provides ballistic protection to the wearer and is designed to display “Sheriff K9” identifiers which are necessary to identify the wearer as a canine handler and member of the Sheriff’s Office.

K-485-2

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