

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



Issue: 24-40

TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: November 26, 2024

KCSO DPPM K-0401 Soft Body Armor

The purpose of this training bulletin is to remind all sworn staff (Deputies, Detentions, Park Rangers, and Community Service Technicians) of the guidelines regarding the use of soft body armor per KCSO DPPM K-0401, specifically, the following:

“USE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

Generally, the use of body armor is required subject to the following:

- Deputies shall only wear agency-approved body armor.
- Deputies shall wear body armor anytime they are in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- Armed Detentions Deputies shall wear body armor when working any of the following assignments:
 - Hospital guard;
 - Any off-site inmate transportation;
 - Lerdo jail Main Gate;
 - Any other off-site duties or assignments occurring outside of jail grounds.
- Deputies may be excused from wearing body armor when they are functioning primarily in an administrative or support capacity and could not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- Body armor shall be worn when a deputy is working in uniform or taking part in Sheriff's Office range training.
- A deputy may be excused from wearing body armor when he/she is involved in undercover or plainclothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor, or when a supervisor determines that other circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.
- Deputies may be excused from wearing body armor when they are engaging in specific assignments where the wearing of body armor could pose a health risk due to heat exposure or environmental conditions. These assignments can include but not limited to:
 - Air Support

- Off-Road Highway Team
- Search and Rescue
- Any other assignment determined by a supervisor.

Note: Deputy Sheriff's and armed Detentions Deputies, shall be excused from wearing body armor when they are working inside of a jail, **unless otherwise directed** by a supervisor during an emergency or other exigent circumstance."

Sworn staff who have been issued an outer panel carrier (OPC) to wear with the department Class C Hybrid uniform **shall** wear the OPC with the soft body armor inserted. Deputies are **not** authorized to wear the OPC without the soft body armor inserted, as the rifle plates are not meant and/or authorized to be utilized as the sole piece of ballistic protection.

Proper fitting and maintenance of body armor is essential for optimal performance. This minimally includes ensuring your body armor is not expired by physically checking the expiration dates periodically. All affected personnel are reminded only department-approved/issued attachments are authorized for use with the OPC and **shall not** be mounted toward the sides of the OPC in a manner that hinders drawing force options, specifically firearms.

Supervisors are encouraged to conduct random equipment checks for compliance and address any violations appropriately, utilizing progressive discipline if necessary.

Please review KCSO DPPM K-0401 in its entirety. The policy can be viewed via the below link:

[K 0401 - Body Armor.doc](#)

For additional reference, the interoffice memorandum disseminated by Chief Deputy Bishop on March 29, 2024, regarding OPCs has been attached to this training bulletin for review.

By acknowledging this training bulletin, you indicate you have read and understand both this training bulletin regarding KCSOPPM K-0401, and the policy itself. All sworn personnel are required to read and acknowledge this training bulletin by **December 27, 2024**.



Kern County

SHERIFF

Interoffice Memorandum

To: Deputy Sheriffs, All Ranks
From: Chief Deputy Todd Bishop *TAB*
Date: March 29, 2024
Re: Outer Panel Carrier Order Form – **Deadline Friday April 5, 2024**

Deputy Sheriffs – All Ranks,

In the next couple weeks, more information and policy updates will be sent out regarding requirements for the optional “Class C Hybrid” uniform which uses the newly authorized and issued Outer Panel Carrier (OPC) option. One important change in the new uniform standard; it will utilize the current Class D uniform shirt, so a new uniform piece will be required for purchase if you do not currently own a Class D shirt. If you are not planning to wear the new Class C Hybrid uniform and want to remain wearing the concealable soft armor, you can disregard this memorandum.

Each OPC is custom made to your existing soft armor panel sizes. It is imperative that you accurately identify the proper size and indicate if it is a front or rear panel. Although there may be some variations on the look of the labels on the inside of each ballistic panel, the attached order form includes a photograph of where to find most sizes.

Each OPC will be authorized for up to five pouches to be attached using the sewn-on Molle attachment points, but that does not mean you are required to have five pouches. Each deputy should think about which items they would like to have off their belt and if there is a corresponding authorized OPC pouch for that item. The updated policy will require Deputies to have on their duty belts, at a minimum, their issued handgun, holster, handgun magazines, and issued magazine pouch. Additionally, no pouches will be allowed to be worn past the armpit cut out on the OPC’s gun side (to prevent impeding the firearm from being drawn from the holster), so plan accordingly for the amount of space you expect for your panel sizes.

The authorized High Speed Gear (HSG) pouches have been added to this form, along with photos for reference. Place your initials on the line next to your choices, again, up to five total.

Once completed, scan and email: propertyroom@kernsheriff.org or drop off the order forms at the property room. Do not inter-office mail these forms due to the shortened ordering window. The deadline for the attached order form is **Friday, April 5, 2024**.

An ordering window for Detentions Deputies will be open after next fiscal year’s budget is approved.

Please call the property room (661) 868-5642 if you have any questions.

Todd Bishop, Chief Deputy
Support Services Bureau

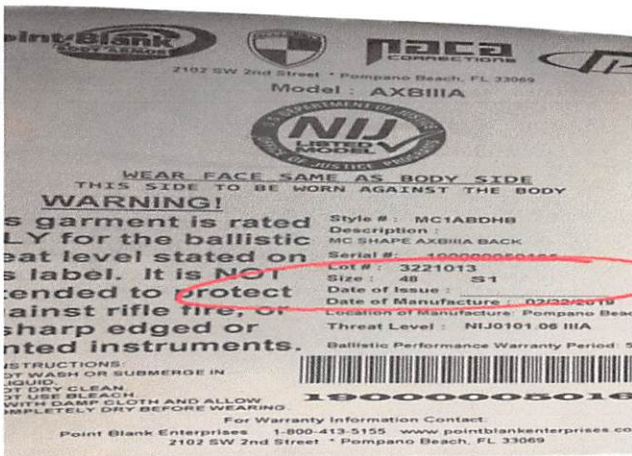


Kern County SHERIFF

Outer Panel Carrier Order Form



Outer Panel Carrier



Inner Vest Label

Front Size _____

Rear Size _____

Name/CAD ID _____



Flashlight Pouch



Radio Pouch



Short OC



Baton Pouch



TQ Pouch



Single Rifle Pouch



Single Cuff



DBL Cuff



Taser holster