



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: UNIFORM CLASS DESCRIPTIONS		NO: K-400	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025

The Kern County Sheriff's Office includes members from numerous classifications. There are a wide range of job duties among these classifications and not all of them require the wearing of a uniform. Due to the varying needs of divergent jobs within the Sheriff's Office, it is necessary to authorize several different types and classes of uniforms for Sheriff's personnel.

The Sheriff-Coroner will determine which personnel shall wear a uniform during their tour of duty. The following are the only authorized types and classes of Sheriff's Office uniforms.

- Deputy Sheriffs
 - Class A
 - Class B
 - Class C
 - Class C Hybrid
 - Class D
 - Special Event Western Uniform
- Detentions Deputies
 - Class A
 - Class B
 - Class C
 - Class D
- Detentions Officers
 - Class A
 - Class B
 - Class C
 - Class D
- Park Rangers
 - Class A
 - Class B
 - Class C
 - Class D

The above listed types and classes of uniforms are the preferred wear for all uniform personnel. However, it is recognized that certain job classifications have clothing needs that may not be met by the above uniforms. Therefore, the following personnel are authorized to wear modified uniforms pursuant to this policy:

- Air Support Unit Personnel
- Bicycle Patrol Unit Personnel
- Chaplains of the Volunteer Services Section
- Citizen Service Unit Personnel
- Communications Specialists of the Communications Section
- Sheriff's Explorers
- Honor Guard Unit Personnel
- Off Road Vehicle Team Unit Personnel
- Rangemaster and Assistant Rangemasters of the Firearms Unit
- Recruit Training Officers of the Training Division
- Reserve Deputies
- Search and Rescue Unit Personnel
- Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) Personnel
- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit Personnel
- Identification Technicians with the Crime Scene Investigations Unit
- Sheriff's Aides
- Community Service Technicians (CST)

Any work unit requesting to wear a modified uniform shall demonstrate specific and legitimate needs that are not addressed by Sheriff's Office Class A, B, C, C Hybrid or D uniforms.

- The Air Support Unit's need for fire-retardant clothing is an example of a legitimate need.

Specifics regarding modified uniforms are detailed in other sections of this manual.

*****Detailed descriptions of italicized uniform items are found in KCSOPPM K-300 and KCSOPPM K-301*****

All Deputy Sheriffs, Detentions Deputies, Park Rangers, and Detentions Officers shall possess and maintain at least a Class A Uniform as described below. Personnel who wear a uniform while on duty shall comply with all specifications listed in this and other sections of the uniform regulations.

Class "A" or Formal Uniform

The Class A Uniform is to be worn at formal events, including, but not limited to, any official ceremony, funeral, inspection, or when specified by a ranking officer of the Sheriff's Office. A Class A Uniform may otherwise be worn at the wearer's option.

The Class A Uniform consists of two (2) different generations. Generation 1 Shirts and Trousers shall only be worn in conjunction with each other, and Generation 2 Shirts and Trousers shall only be worn in conjunction with each other. There are no exceptions to this policy.

The previous Class A Jacket is no longer permitted to wear.

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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The Class A Uniform shall consist of:

- *Cap*
 - *Class A Uniform (Campaign) with cap piece*
 - *Class A Uniform (Western)*
 - *The Class C (cold weather) cap shall not be worn with the Class A Uniform.*
 - *The Class D (baseball style) cap shall not be worn with the Class A Uniform.*
 - *The Class E (watch cap) shall not be worn with the Class A Uniform.*
 - *No caps shall not be worn inside a Detentions Facility or Courtroom*
- *Shirt*
 - *Class B – Generation 1 long sleeve*
 - *Class B – Generation 2 long sleeve*
 - *Appropriate Sheriff's Office and rank insignia*
 - *Name plate, metal*
 - *Sheriff's Office Badge, metal*
- *Tie with tie bar*
- *Trousers*
 - *Class B – Generation 1*
 - *Class B – Generation 2*
- *Belt, Trouser*
- *Socks*
- *Footwear, General Specifications*
- *Duty belt* - to **minimally** include the following items (Deputy Sheriffs and authorized Detentions Deputies and Park Rangers only):
 - *Glock pistol with holster*
 - *One set of handcuffs with case*
 - *Baton ring*
 - *Magazine Pouch with 2 magazines and ammunition*

Class "B" Uniform

The Class B Uniform is a standard uniform for general wear and serves as the foundation for the Class A uniform. Except as specified under the Class A policy, the Class B Uniform may be worn at the wearer's option.

The Class B Uniform shall consist of:

- *Cap, Class B Uniform (Campaign) with cap piece*
- *Cap, Class B Uniform (Western)*
 - *The Class C (cold weather) cap shall not be worn with the Class B Uniform.*
 - *The Class D (baseball style) cap shall not be worn with the Class B Uniform.*
 - *The Class E (watch cap) shall not be worn with the Class B Uniform.*

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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- The *Cap, Class A Uniform (Campaign)* or *Cap, Class A Uniform (Western)* are only authorized for wear with the Class A Uniform.
 - *No caps shall not be worn inside a Detentions Facility or Courtroom.*
- *Jacket*, following jackets are authorized for wear with the Class B Uniform:
 - *Standard Duty*
 - *Alternate Duty*
 - *Cold Weather*
 - *Alternate Cold Weather*
 - *Windbreaker*
- *Shirt*
 - *Class B – Generation 1 long sleeve or short sleeve*
 - *Class B – Generation 2 long sleeve or short sleeve*
 - Appropriate Sheriff's Office and rank insignia
 - Name plate, metal
- Sheriff's Office Badge, metal
- If soft body armor is worn, all visible portions of the vest cover shall be black in color.
- Visible undershirts shall be crew neck, black or white, clean, and in good repair.
- *Turtleneck* (optional)
 - The turtleneck is authorized for wear under the long sleeve shirt only.
- *Trousers*,
 - *Class B – Generation 1*
 - *Class B – Generation 2*
- *Trouser Belt*
- *Socks*
- *Footwear, General Specifications*
- *Gloves* (optional)
- *Duty Belt* - to minimally include the following items (Deputy Sheriffs and authorized Detentions Deputies and Park Rangers only):
 - Glock pistol with holster
 - One set of handcuffs with case
 - Baton ring
 - Magazine pouch
 - 2 magazines and ammunition
 - HT Radio
 - OC Holder
 - OC Spray
- *Duty Belt* - to minimally include the following items (Detentions Officers only):
 - One set of handcuffs with case
 - Baton ring
 - HT Radio
- Non-Duty Belt and Accessories (Deputy Sheriffs and authorized Detentions Deputies and Park Rangers only).
 - The Glock pistol with a paddle holster may be worn with the Class B Uniform in lieu of the Duty Belt only when approved by the concerned division commander.

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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- The paddle holster must be either one of the approved holsters issued by the property room or if purchased by the individual deputy, match the exact specifications of the issued holster.

Class “C” Uniform

The Class C Uniform is a standard uniform for general wear. The Class C Uniform shirts and trousers consists of two (2) different brands, Blauer and Elbeco. Despite minor differences between the two brands, mixing uniform pieces from both is permitted. For example, wearing an Elbeco Class C shirt with a Blauer Class C trouser, is allowed.

The Class C Uniform shall consist of:

- *Cap, Class B (Campaign)* with cap piece
- *Cap, Class B (Western)*
 - *The Class B Uniform cap (campaign or western)* is the preferred headgear while wearing the Class B or C uniforms. However, there are situations when the Class B cap is impractical or unsuitable. These situations include extreme weather conditions such as torrential rain or extreme wind. When the current conditions make the Class B cap temporarily unsuitable, the *Class D (baseball style)* is authorized for wear with the Class C, Class C Hybrid, or Class D uniform only.
 - The *Class C (Cold weather)* cap may be worn during periods of extreme cold weather. The *Class C* cap shall not be worn while inside a courtroom.
 - The *Class D (baseball style)* cap is only authorized during extreme weather conditions such as torrential rain, extreme wind, or extreme sunshine.
 - The *Class E (Watch Cap)* may be worn during periods of extreme cold weather.
 - The *Cap, Class A Uniform (Campaign)* or *Cap, Class A Uniform (Western)* are only authorized for wear with the Class A Uniform.
 - *No caps shall not be worn inside a Detentions Facility or Courtroom.*
- *Jacket*, The following jackets are authorized for wear with the Class C Uniform:
 - *Standard Duty*
 - *Alternate Duty*
 - *Cold Weather*
 - *Alternate Cold Weather*
 - *Windbreaker*
- *Shirt*
 - *Class C Uniform – Blauer*
 - *Class C Uniform – Elbeco*
 - *Appropriate Sheriff's Office and rank insignia.*
 - *Sheriff's Office badge, metal*
 - *Name plate, metal*
- If soft body armor is worn, all visible portions of the vest cover shall be white or black in color and match the color of the undershirt.
- Undershirt
 - Clean, crew neck, white or black in color and in good condition.

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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- *Turtleneck* (optional)
 - The turtleneck is authorized for wear under the long sleeve shirt **only**.
- *Trousers*
 - *Class C Uniform – Blauer*
 - *Class C Uniform - Elbeco*
- *Trouser Belt*
- *Socks*
- *Footwear, General Specifications*
- *Gloves* (optional)
- *Duty Belt and Non-Duty Belt Specifications* (Deputy Sheriffs and authorized Detentions Deputies and Park Rangers only).
 - Per Class B Uniform (Above)

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Class C Hybrid Uniform

The Class C Hybrid Uniform is an optional uniform that is authorized for wear in specific assignments listed below, but only when a Class C Uniform is authorized. The wearer is considered out of uniform if the outer panel carrier is not worn, unless a Class D uniform is permitted.

The Class C Hybrid Uniform shall consist of:

- *Cap, Class B (Campaign)* with cap piece
- *Cap, Class B (Western)*
 - *The Class B Uniform Cap (campaign or western)* is the preferred headgear while wearing the Class B or C uniform. However, there are situations when the Class B cap is impractical or unsuitable. These situations include extreme weather conditions such as torrential rain or extreme wind. When the current conditions make the Class B cap temporarily unsuitable, the *Class D (baseball style)* is only authorized for wear with the Class C, Class C Hybrid, or Class D uniform.
 - The *Class C* (Cold weather) cap may be worn periods of extreme cold weather.
 - The *Class D* (baseball style) cap is only authorized during extreme weather conditions such as torrential rain, extreme wind, or extreme sunshine.
 - The *Class E* (Watch Cap) may be worn during periods of extreme cold weather.
 - The *Cap, Class A Uniform (Campaign)* or *Cap, Class A Uniform (Western)* are only authorized for wear with the Class A Uniform.
 - *No caps shall not be worn inside a Detentions Facility or Courtroom.*
- *Jacket*, The following jackets are authorized for wear with the Class C Hybrid Uniform:
 - *Standard Duty*
 - *Alternate Duty*
 - *Cold Weather*
 - *Alternate Cold Weather*
 - *Windbreaker*
 - *OPC Standard Duty*
- *Shirt, Class D Uniform Blauer*, long or short sleeve.
 - Sheriff's Office badge, embroidered

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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- Name plate, embroidered
- Outer Panel Carrier (OPC)
 - Up to five (5) pouches authorized on exterior of OPC (refer to KCSOPPM K-0300)
- Undershirt
 - Clean, crew neck, white or black in color and in good condition.
- *Turtleneck* (optional)
 - The turtleneck is authorized for wear under the long sleeve shirt **only**.
- *Trousers*
 - *Class C Uniform – Blauer*
 - *Class C Uniform - Elbeco*
- *Trouser Belt*
- *Socks*
- *Footwear, General Specifications*
- *Gloves* (optional)
- *Duty Belt and Non-Duty Belt Specifications* (Deputy Sheriffs and authorized Detentions Deputies and Park Rangers only).
 - At a minimum, the Class C Hybrid duty belt shall have:
 - Duty Belt Magazine Holder – Handgun
 - With handgun magazines
 - Duty Belt Handgun Holster
 - With issued handgun

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Class D or Optional Uniform

The Class D Uniform is an optional uniform; however, the wearing of this uniform requires pre-approval by the concerned Section Manager.

The Class D Uniform is permitted for use in work environments where the wearer needs to be identified as a member of the Sheriff's Office but is performing duties that are not suitable for the Class A, B, C, or C Hybrid uniform.

Examples include:

- Training personnel
- Casual Sheriff's Office functions (Retiree barbecue, etc.)
- Non uniformed enforcement (Gangs, Bicycle Patrol, etc.)
- Attending an in-town training course

The Class D Uniform is not authorized for wear in any uniformed patrol assignment or formal public event.

The Class D Uniform shall consist of:

- Headwear: Except during extreme weather conditions, headwear is not authorized for wear with the Class D Uniform.

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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- The Class A and Class B Caps shall not be worn in conjunction with the Class D Uniform.
- *The Class D (baseball style) Cap* is only authorized during extreme weather conditions such as torrential rain, extreme wind, or extreme sunshine.
- *The Class C (Cold weather) Cap* may be worn during periods of extreme cold weather.
- *Jacket*, The following jackets are authorized for wear with the Class D Uniform:
 - *Standard Duty*
 - *Alternate Duty*
 - *Cold Weather*
 - *Alternate Cold Weather*
 - *Windbreaker*
 - *OPC Standard Duty*
- *Shirt, Class D Uniform Blauer*, long or short sleeve.
 - Sheriff's Office badge, embroidered
 - Name plate, embroidered
- If soft body armor is worn, all visible portions of the vest cover shall be black in color.
- *Undershirt*
 - Clean, crew neck, white or black in color, and in good condition.
- *Turtleneck (optional)*
 - The turtleneck is authorized for wear under the long sleeve shirt only.
- *Trousers*
 - *Class C Uniform – Blauer*
 - *Class C Uniform - Elbeco*
- *Trouser Belt*
- *Socks*
- *Footwear, General Specifications*
- *Gloves (optional)*
- *Duty Belt and Non-Duty Belt Specifications* (Deputy Sheriffs and authorized Detentions Deputies and Park Rangers only).
 - Per Class B Uniform (Above)

Special Event Western Uniform

The Special Event Western Uniform is an optional uniform; however, the wearing of this uniform requires pre-approval and is only to be worn at select special events determined by the Patrol Bureau Chief Deputy.

The Special Event Western Uniform is not authorized for wear in any uniformed patrol assignment or formal public event.

The Special Event Western Uniform shall consist of:

- Headwear: Cap, Class A Uniform (Western), or Cap, Class B Uniform (Western).

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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- *Jacket*, The following jackets are authorized for wear with the Special Event Western Uniform:
 - *Standard Duty*
 - *Alternate Duty*
 - *Cold Weather*
 - *Alternate Cold Weather*
 - *Windbreaker*
 - *OPC Standard Duty*
- *Shirt, Special Event Western Uniform.*
 - Undershirt
 - Clean, crew neck, white or black in color, and in good condition.
- *Trousers, Special Event Western Uniform.*
- *Trouser Belt*
 - *Solid brown, tan, or black leather*
- *Socks*
- *Footwear, General Specifications:*
 - All black, brown, or tan leather cowboy boots
- *Duty Belt* (Deputy Sheriffs only)
 - Per Class B Uniform specifications listed above; or
 - Per Class C Hybrid Uniform specifications (OPC) listed above

K-400

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 05/02/2025	REVISED: 05/02/2025	UPDATED: 05/02/2025
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