



# Kern County Sheriff's Office Policies and Procedures

TITLE: LAPEL INSIGNIA		NO: K-0900	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: 06/03/2025	REVISED: 06/03/2025	UPDATED: 06/03/2025

## POLICY

Uniformed members of the Sheriff's Office may wear lapel insignias on their uniform provided they comply with the specifications and regulations listed below.

Authorized lapel pins are to be worn on the Class A, Class B and Class C uniform on the right front shirt or jacket pocket, centered on the corner of the pocket flap nearest to the center of the shirt or jacket (Fig. 1). No more than (2) lapel pins will be worn at a time. If the U.S. flag or military pin is worn in conjunction with any other single lapel pin, then the U.S. flag or military pin shall be worn on the area of the pocket nearest the shirt center (Fig. 2). The Sheriff may designate a temporary authorized pin for special events or purposes.



Fig. 1 – One insignia



Fig.2 – Two insignias

### **Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) Members Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- The requirement for wearing the Sheriff's Office approved SWAT team pin on the Sheriff's uniform is limited to current SWAT team members who have successfully completed the requirements set forth in the SWAT manual.

### **Distinguished Marksman Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- The requirement for wearing the Sheriff's Office approved Distinguished Marksman pin on the Sheriff's uniform is limited to current POST certified Deputy, PC 832 certified Detentions Deputy, and Park Ranger ranks who have successfully completed the requirements set forth in KCSOPPM G-0210.

### **Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) Members Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- The requirement for wearing Sheriff's Office approved SERT team pin on the Sheriff's uniform is limited to current SERT team members who have successfully completed the requirements set forth in the SERT manual.

### **Canine Handlers Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- The requirement for wearing the Sheriff's Office approved K-9 team pin on the Sheriff's uniform is limited to current K-9 team members who have successfully met the requirements as set forth in the Canine manual.

### **Field Training Officer (FTO) Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- Those authorized to wear the Sheriff's Office approved FTO lapel pin on the Sheriff's uniform is limited to those members assigned to the Field Training Program as Field Training Officers.
- The Sheriff's Office approved lapel insignia for Field Training Officers is a clutch back pin with gold 5/16" letters reading "FTO."

### **Detentions Training Officer (DTO) Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- Those authorized to wear the Sheriff's Office approved DTO lapel pin on the Sheriff's uniform is limited to those members assigned to the Detentions Training Program as Detentions Training Officers.
- The Sheriff's Office approved lapel insignia for Detentions Training Officers is a clutch back pin with gold 3/8" letters reading "DTO."

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### United States (U.S.) Flag Insignia

- Members of the Sheriff’s Office are authorized to wear a U.S. flag pin on their uniform or non-uniform clothing. The U.S. flag pin may be worn in addition to one other authorized pin. The U.S. flag pin is to be metal or hard plastic and no larger than 1” x 1”. For non-uniform clothing, the U.S. flag pin is to be worn on the clothing in the upper chest area.

### United States (U.S.) Military Insignia

- Members of the Sheriff’s Office who previously served in, and were honorably discharged from, or who are currently serving in a reserve capacity in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, may wear the U.S. military pin of their branch of service in lieu of the U.S. flag pin.
- The military pins shall be approximately 1”-1 ¼ “wide, brass metal, to depict the U.S. flag next to the appropriate military branch’s flag. Prior service brand pins as depicted in Fig. 3 or equivalent.

Fig. 3



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### **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- Members of the Sheriff's Office CISM team may wear the lapel pin of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF). They must be active members authorized by the CISM Commander (KCSOPPM J-0400 of this manual).

### **Search and Rescue Authorized Lapel Insignia**

- Those completing the California State Office of Emergency Services Search Management Course may wear the lapel insignia earned at either the winter or summer course.

### **Special Assignment Insignia**

Insignia designating special assignments other than those listed above are to be worn on the uniform shirt or jacket of the Class A or Class B uniform, ½ inch above the nameplate.

- Bomb Technician authorized Lapel Insignia
  - Those authorized to wear the lapel insignia must have the Sheriff's Office - approved training and be officially designated as a current Bomb Technician.
- Air Support Unit authorized Lapel Insignia
  - Those authorized to wear the lapel insignia must be officially designated as current Command Pilots or Tactical Flight Officers.

### **Contract City Lapel Insignia**

- Those deputies assigned to a contract city are authorized to wear a lapel pin depicting the city to which they are assigned. The lapel pin will be approved by the Division Commander and authorized by the Chief Deputy Sheriff.

### **LEGACY PIN PROGRAM**

The Legacy Pin Program is a means to identify former members of specialized units and honor them with Legacy Pins to be worn on their uniforms. All Legacy Pins will be purchased personally by each eligible employee if they choose to participate in the program.

To wear a Legacy Pin there will be a set criteria and approval process:

1. Sheriff's employees will submit a memo, via chain of command, to the specialized unit's Commander for review (Attachment A sample memo).
2. Employees will receive an e-mail either approving or denying their request.
3. Once approved, the employee may wear the Legacy Pin on their uniform in compliance with KCSOPPM Section K-0900.

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The following are the eligibility criteria for each specialized unit:

**Bomb Squad**

1. Must have completed the FBI HDS School and have been a certified Bomb Technician.
2. Must have been an active member on the Bomb Squad for at least 5 years.
3. Left the team in good standing.
4. Approved by the Bomb Squad Unit Commander.

Current Bomb Squad Pin

The current Bomb Squad pin for a Bomb Technician is a gold colored “Bomb Crab”.

Legacy Bomb Squad Pin

The Legacy Pin will be the same design with a gray flat matte finish.

**Air Support Unit**

1. Must have been assigned to the ASU in a part-time and/or full-time capacity for a total of at least 5 years.
2. Left the Air Unit in good standing.
3. Approved by the Air Unit Commander.

Current ASU Pin

The current ASU pin for active ASU members:

- Pilots wear gold-colored wings with the Sheriff’s Office star in the middle.
- Non-Pilots (all other crew members) wear silver-colored wings with the Sheriff’s Office star in the middle.

Legacy ASU Pin

The Legacy Pin will be of the same design with the wings being a gray flat matte finish.

**SWAT**

1. Must have completed SWAT school.
2. Must have been an active operator on the SWAT team for a total of at least 5 years.
3. Left the team in good standing.
4. Approved by the SWAT Commander.

Current SWAT Pin

The current SWAT pin for active operators is round with a gold wreath on the outer edge, red outer circle with the words, “Kern County Sheriff’s Office,” a blue center with the acronym, “SWAT”.

Legacy SWAT Pin

The Legacy Pin will be the same design with the center being gray in color instead of blue.

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## K-9

1. Graduated initial required training with their respective K-9 partner.
2. Must have had 5 years of deployment with a K-9, or the service life of their K-9 partner.
3. Left the team in good standing.
4. Approved by the K-9 Unit Commander.

### Current K-9 Pin

The current K-9 pin for an active K-9 handler is gold with the letter and number “K-9”.

### Legacy K-9 Pin

The Legacy Pin will be the same design with a gray flat matte finish.

## SERT

1. Must have completed the SERT Basic Operator Academy or have been selected to the team before the SERT Basic Operator Academy was established.
2. Must have been an active operator on SERT for a total of at least 5 years.
3. Left the team in good standing.
4. Approved by the Division Commander.

### Current SERT Pin

The current SERT pin for a SERT member is gold with the letters “S.E.R.T.”.

### Legacy SERT Pin

The Legacy Pin will be the same design with a gray flat matte finish.

## CNT

1. Must have gone through Basic Negotiations School.
2. Must have been an active member on the team for a total of at least 5 years.
3. Left the team in good standing.
4. Approved by the CNT Unit Commander.

### Current CNT Pin

The current CNT Pin for a negotiator is square with a dark blue background and gold trim and the words “Hostage Negotiator”.

### Legacy CNT Pin

The Legacy Pin will be the same design with a white background and gray lettering and trim.

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