

<b>MESA POLICE</b>  Department Policy Manual	<b>Department Uniform Accessories &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>DPM 1.9.10</b> Effective 08/25/2016 Revised 02/12/2025
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## 1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with guidelines for uniform accessories for sworn and other designated members.

## 2. ACCESSORIES

The following information is provided as general guidelines for uniform accessories (gloves, helmet, vests, etc.) for sworn and other designated members. [\[ALEAP 10.5A\]](#)

### 2.1 Ballistic Vests [\[ALEAP 10.5B\]](#)

- A. The following members are authorized to wear a ballistic vest:
  1. All sworn members.
  2. Holding Facility Officers when transporting prisoners.
  3. Police Service Officers (PSO).
  4. Municipal Security members.
  5. Anyone specifically designated by the Chief of Police or designee.
- B. Members may choose the make, model, and type of ballistic vest purchased and worn. However, the ballistic vest must be National Institute of Justice (NIJ) certified level II or IIIA.
  1. Level IIA is not authorized.
- C. Members shall not wear the Small Arms Protective Insert (SAPI) plate carrier as standalone protection against gunfire or in lieu of a full ballistic vest, unless approved by a commander in a specialty division.
  1. If a member chooses to add an SAPI plate, they may do so in addition to the soft body armor.
- D. All vests shall provide **full** front, back, and side/torso coverage. There shall be no gap where the front and back panels meet on each side.
- E. Ballistic vest purchase is required by all authorized members. Reimbursement is available for the purchase of the vest as directed by [DPM 1.9.65 Uniform Replacement & Ballistic Vest Reimbursement](#).
- F. It is mandatory for sworn members to wear their ballistic vest in the following situations:
  1. When working a uniformed patrol assignment or uniformed off-duty employment.
  2. All SWAT response operations.
  3. All pre-planned warrant operations.
  4. Any time a supervisor orders wearing vests.
- G. It is mandatory for all Holding Facility officers to wear their ballistic vest when transporting prisoners.

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- H. For all other situations, authorized members should have the ballistic vest readily accessible at all times while on duty.

## 2.2 Gloves

- A. Optional, purchased by the member.
- B. Members may wear gloves plain black in color.
- C. Sap gloves or gloves with hardened knuckles are not authorized.

## 2.3 Helmets

- A. The only authorized helmets are Department issued:
  - 1. Ballistic helmets.
    - a. The ballistic helmet shall be worn centered and straight on the head with the tip of the visor in line with the eyebrows and the chinstrap fastened.
    - b. Members will have the ballistic helmet readily available at all times while on duty. For patrol, the helmet must be in the member's vehicle to be available for use.
    - c. Members shall wear a ballistic helmet in the following situations:
      - Crowd control.
      - When told to by a supervisor.
      - Any other pre-planned, high-risk, tactical situation.
  - 2. Motorcycle helmets.
    - a. Motorcycle helmets will have silver hatbands.
    - b. For information regarding wear of a motorcycle helmet, see [TRF 1.4 Uniforms](#).
  - 3. Bicycle helmets.
    - a. See [DPM 2.9.5 Use of Department Bicycles](#).

## 2.4 Identification

- A. Sworn members shall carry the following police identification at all times when on-duty:
  - 1. Wallet Certification Card; and
  - 2. Member photo identification card.
- B. Other designated professional staff members shall carry their member identification card at all times when on-duty.
- C. A badge may be visibly worn in lieu of the photo identification card.

## 2.7 Outer Vest Carriers

- A. Outer vest carriers are only authorized for specific uniforms as noted in [DPM 1.9.5A1 Department Uniform & Appearance Standards Manual](#).

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- B. For members in certain specialized assignments, outer vest carriers may be provided by the Department or reimbursed by submitting a request through their chain of command to their Division Commander.
- Employees will make **no modifications** to outer vest carriers that are Department issued or reimbursed by the Department.
- C. For all other members, outer vest carriers are **optional**. Members are eligible for reimbursement through the ballistic vest reimbursement process. See [DPM 1.9.65 Department Uniform Replacement & Ballistic Vest Reimbursement](#).
- D. Outer vest carriers must be clean and well maintained at all times. Vest carriers that are damaged and/or faded must be removed from service and replaced.
- E. Authorized outer vest carriers are listed in [DPM 1.9.10A1 Authorized Vest/Armor Manufacturers & Ordering Guide](#). Effective 02/12/2025, all outer vest carriers ordered must comply with the ordering guide.
- Any vest carrier ordered prior to the effective date is “grandfathered” until expiration. Any new outer vest carriers ordered after this date must conform to the ordering guide.
  - For the **Class C** uniform, the **Blauer Armorskin Ballistic Vest Cover System**. The outer vest carrier must be:
    - Dark blue (commonly referred to as “NYPD blue”) in color to maintain the look of a traditional police uniform. This is the **only** exterior vest that is authorized to be dark blue.
    - Made of either polyester or a wool blend material only.
    - Worn only with Blauer’s Armorskin base shirt (long or short sleeve) with matching fabric. No other shirts are authorized to be worn with this carrier.
    - Blauer’s Armorskin Ballistic Vest Cover System **will not** display “POLICE” on the back of the carrier.
    - Members must wear their metal badge and name tag with the Blauer Armorskin Vest Cover System.
    - Members can make small alterations to the exterior vest which include:
      - Removal of reflective tape under pockets.
      - Holes for radio/Axon wires that are hidden under shoulder tabs, or inside the vest (holes cannot be visible).
      - Removal of the “Napoleon pocket” under the main chest pocket (to create more room for FI cards, etc.).
      - A strip of Velcro can be added to both sides of the carrier to support the zippers. Velcro must be concealed with the same material from carrier to maintain a professional look.
    - No** additional pockets or pouches can be added to the Blauer Armorskin Ballistic Vest Cover System.

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- h. Members can purchase and wear the Armorskin suspension system only to be worn with the Blauer Armorskin Vest Cover System.
- 3. For the **Class D Uniform**, the following is authorized:
  - a. Outer vest carriers must be black.
  - b. Outer vest carriers must be designed to specifications to include 100% nylon carriers and will not be shiny in appearance.
  - c. Members will make **no modifications** to the outer vest carrier, which are beyond the authorized configuration.
  - d. Outer vest carriers must display:
    - Velcro "POLICE" patch centered mid-back on the exterior rear of the carrier. The patch will include silver embroidered block letters. This is provided by the Department and is available in Evidence & Supply for issuance to members.
    - Cloth badge, as indicated in [DPM 1.9.5A1 Department Uniform & Appearance Standards Manual](#), affixed to the front left side of the vest. Cloth badge is available from the local uniform shop and must be ordered by the member.
    - Officer name (First initial of first name, full last name. **No ID#**). embroidered in 3/8-inch silver block lettering centered on the right front, directly above the pocket. This must be ordered by the member.
  - e. Outer vest carriers can display one specialty patch or American Flag patch, as listed in [DPM 1.9.5A1 Department Uniform & Appearance Standards Manual](#). The patch will be affixed to the front of the vest.
  - f. The outer vest carrier is designed as a "load bearing" vest with pouch pockets added to the exterior. Officers may also purchase the carrier without the exterior pouch pockets as a non-load bearing vest carrier.
  - g. Outer vest carriers are authorized to have the following pouch/pocket configurations to the front of the carrier, with a maximum of **five** pouches/pockets:
    - TASER Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) pouch.
      - Outer vest carrier TASER CEW pouches must be mounted on the opposite side from their primary duty weapon.
    - Radio pouch.
    - OC spray pouch.
    - Mini light pouch.
    - Handcuff pouch.
    - Glove pouch.
    - Cell phone/digital recorder pouch.
    - ASP baton pouch.
    - Utility Pouch.

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- h. Outer vest carriers are authorized to have the following pouch/pocket configurations to the back of the carrier, with a maximum of **two** pouches/pockets:
  - Handcuff pouches.
  - Utility pouch.
- i. Additional ammunition for the primary duty weapon is **not** allowed on the outer vest carrier. The only exception is one rifle magazine.
- j. No additional pouches and/or combinations are authorized.**
- 4. The following is authorized by the MPD as non-patrol (specialty assignment or off-duty) outer vest carriers:
  - a. This configuration is for members who do not wear a regular uniform in the course of their duties (such as detectives or specialty positions or for use during off-duty assignments) to be worn non-uniform.
  - b. If the Patrol Vest Carrier is worn in a non-uniformed assignment, it will require "POLICE" visible on the back or a "bust jacket" with "POLICE" visible on the back.
  - c. If a "bust vest" is worn in a non-uniformed assignment, it will require an MPD cloth badge on the left front side of the vest and an MPD patch or "POLICE" embroidered on the right front side of the vest.
  - d. Outer vest carriers must be black.
  - e. Outer vest carriers must be designed to specifications to include 100% nylon carriers and will not be shiny in appearance.
  - f. The outer vest carrier is designed as a "load bearing" vest with pouch pockets added to exterior.
  - g. The outer vest carrier will be designed with **no** military creases sewn into the carrier front or rear.
  - h. Outer vest carriers must have the cloth Mesa PD breast badge affixed to the left front.
  - i. Outer vest carriers will display the word "POLICE" in block lettering in silver or white visible on the front of the vest carrier. Members may also have their name embroidered in 3/8-inch silver block lettering on the right front.
  - j. Outer vest carriers shall display "POLICE" in 3-inch, silver or white embroidered block letters centered mid-back on the exterior rear of the carrier (when not wearing a "bust jacket" with "POLICE" visible on the back).
  - k. Outer vest carriers are authorized to have the same pouch/pocket configurations as the Class C or Class D patrol outer vest carriers.

## 2.5 Raincoats

- A. Optional equipment purchased by the member.
- B. Raincoats will be high visibility, reversible fluorescent/black.

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- C. The raincoat must have “**POLICE**” visible on the back and front whether the coat is short or long.
- D. A cloth badge is optional on the front left side of the raincoat.
- E. Authorized brands are:
  - 1. Blauer.
  - 2. Neese.
  - 3. Flying Cross.

## 2.6 Reflective Vests [ALEAP 10.5C]

- A. Reflective vests are Department issued and consistent with current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) visibility standards.
- B. Reflective vests will be accessible to sworn and other designated professional staff members at all times while on duty.
- C. The member’s name will be placed on the back inside flap.
- D. Reflective vests shall be worn in the following situations:
  - 1. Directing traffic.
  - 2. Accident investigations.
  - 3. Any incident requiring the member to be in or near a roadway, except while conducting a traffic stop.
  - 4. As directed by a supervisor.
- E. Reflective vests are available in Evidence & Supply.

## 3. UNIFORM DUTY BELT & HOLSTERS

### 3.1 Material & Color

#### A. Duty Belts:

- 1. All duty belts and associated accessory carriers will be black in color, constructed of the same material, and be consistent in appearance.  
Authorized materials include:
  - a. Smooth, un-tooled, leather;
  - b. Simulated laminate leather; or
  - c. Department approved nylon.

#### B. Duty Holsters:

- 1. Duty holsters shall be made of the following:
  - a. Synthetic laminate; “nylon look” or “leather look”.
  - b. Cordura nylon;
  - c. Kydex; or
  - d. Cowhide.
- 2. All duty holsters for ~~sworn~~ Department uniforms will be black.
- 3. Leather or synthetic laminate leather will be a polished smooth black finish to match duty gear.

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4. Nylon or nylon-look holsters will be worn with nylon gear.
5. Nylon/Kydex holsters shall be worn with nylon duty belt.
  - a. Black nylon duty belt gear can be mixed with other approved nylon duty belt gear.
  - b. Nylon and leather mixing of duty belt gear is not allowed.

### 3.2 Duty Belts

- A. Leather duty belts will be the Black Sam Browne Belt.
  1. Leather duty belts and accessories will be:
    - a. Smooth finish, free of any visible hardware; or
    - b. May use chrome silver buckle and snaps.
- B. Nylon duty belts will be:
  1. Uncle Mike's Sidekick Professional Series;
  2. Safariland Nylok or Kydex; or
  3. Black Bianchi "Accu-Mold".
- C. Duty belts will be 2.25-inches in width.
- D. When worn, the inner belt will be concealed.
- E. Keepers may be used with the duty belt to secure to the inner belt.
- F. Place the primary duty firearm holster on the strong-hand side of the duty belt.
- G. If a TASER CEW is carried on the duty belt, the holster shall be located on the support side of the body. See [DPM 2.1.35 Conducted Energy Weapon \(CEW\) Protocols](#).
- H. Arrange remaining equipment conveniently and orderly on the gun belt.

### 3.3 Firearm Holsters

- A. Only members authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to [DPM 1.6.5 Authorized Firearms & Ammunition](#) shall carry a firearm or holster.
- B. The following are authorized holster manufacturers:
  1. Safariland.
  2. Bianchi International.
  3. Don Hume.
  4. Gould & Goodrich.
  5. Blackhawk.
  6. Michaels of Oregon (Uncle Mike's).
  7. Tex Shoemaker.
- C. **Primary retention devices** will consist of one of the following:
  1. Thumb break;
  2. Rotating hood or strap; or
  3. Mechanical thumb or finger release device.
- D. **Secondary retention devices** will consist of one of the following:
  1. Thumb or finger released mechanical device;



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2. Ejection port detent; or
3. Passive tension/pressure device.
- E. **Light bearing holsters** will meet the following requirements:
  1. Meet the above specs; and
  2. Holster shall be a specific fit for weapon and light combination.
- F. Method of carry:
  1. Strong side carry only.
  2. High ride belt loop.
  3. Jacket slot belt loop with a drop length of the officer's choosing but no more than three inches.
- G. Swivel holsters (i.e., California style) are not authorized.
- H. [Refer to DPM 1.9.45A1 Sworn and Professional Staff Non-Uniform Dress Code Manual](#) for authorized holsters for sworn staff who are not in uniform.
- I. Thigh holsters are not authorized for patrol wear, with the exception of:
  1. TASER CEW holster.
  2. Safariland 6004 Drop Flex Adapter (DFA) for Class C & D patrol uniforms only.

## 4. OTHER ACCESSORIES & CARRIERS

### 4.1 Material & Color

- A. All duty accessory carriers/cases/holders shall be:
  1. Black in color.
  2. Made of nylon or leather (unless stated otherwise); and
  3. Be made of the same type of material.
- B. Baton holders may also be made of plastic.
- C. Accessory carriers shall match the duty belt material and there will be no mixing of materials (i.e., if a duty belt is made of nylon, accessory carriers will be nylon) unless stated otherwise.
- D. All accessory holders/pockets/pouches worn on an outer vest carrier should be of the same material and consistent in appearance.

### 4.2 Batons

- A. All officers working in a patrol function or uniformed off-duty capacity must have one of the following batons at all times:
  1. Black expandable baton (ASP, Rapid Containment Baton (RCB), or Monadnock expandable PR-24 model); or
  2. A black PR-24 side handle baton.
- B. See [DPM 2.1.25 Impact Weapons](#) for training and certification requirements prior to carrying and information on authorized use.



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- C. If the ~~ASP~~ expandable baton is worn, it must be carried on the duty belt or outer vest carrier.
- D. If the Monadnock expandable PR-24 model baton is worn, it must only be carried on the duty belt.
- E. Baton rings are not issued and need to be purchased by the member.

#### 4.3 Chemical Agents

- A. Chemical agents are Department issued.
- B. Holders are not issued and need to be purchased by the member.

#### 4.4 Flashlights

- A. Members may purchase and carry a flashlight, either battery operated or rechargeable.
- B. Members can also carry a "mini" flashlight.
- C. Members can utilize an approved firearm light with proper weapon mounted light training provided by the Range.

#### 4.6 Gloves

- A. Gloves (e.g., PPE, nitrile, rubber, etc.) may be carried in a flap covered case.

#### 4.7 Handcuffs

- A. All handcuffs will be hinged or chain and silver or black in color.
  - 1. Any exceptions must be approved by the Chief of Police or designee.
  - 2. Approved handcuff manufacturers include:
    - a. Peerless.
    - b. Smith & Wesson.
    - c. ASP.
- B. Officers are required to carry at least one pair of handcuffs while on duty.
- C. Officers will engrave their name and member identification number on them.
- D. Cases will have a flap covering, open top with retention device, or handcuff strap designed to carry handcuffs.

#### 4.8 Knives

- A. The Department authorizes the carrying and use of a knife as a tool. The use of a knife can include, but is not limited to:
  - 1. A rescue device to extract people from vehicles or burning buildings.
  - 2. Clearing brush when searching for missing persons.
  - 3. Cutting barricade tape.
- B. The carrying of a knife is optional and officers must purchase their own knife/knives.
- C. A knife may be a **folding knife** with a locking device or a **fixed blade knife**.
- D. **Folding Knife:**

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1. The blade of a side-folding knife shall be one sided and shall not exceed 4.5-inches in length.
2. A folding knife must be folded and secured by a fastening device and have a locking device, which helps hold the folding knife in an open position.
3. A folding knife can only be clipped in a pocket or waistband, inside the pants or vest, if the folding knife has a safety retention device on it (clip) which helps hold the knife in a secured position. In this manner, three quarters of the folding knife is concealed in the pocket or waistband.
4. A folding knife can be carried on the gun belt in a black case with a snap or Velcro closure.

**E. Fixed Blade Knife:**

1. The blade of a fixed blade knife shall be one sided and shall not exceed 4.5-inches in length.
2. A fixed blade knife must be secured in a scabbard, a sheath, or other fastening device to ensure officer safety, retention, and concealment of the entire knife (blade and handle) from public display.

#### **4.9 Leg/Arm Restraints**

- A. Restraints are Department issued. See [DPM 2.4.65 Restraining Devices](#) for approved restraints.
- B. Officers can carry restraints concealed in a uniform pocket, in an extra case (i.e., handcuff case) on the gun belt, or in a pursuit case.

#### **4.10 Magazines**

- A. Magazine holders:
  1. Can be worn either upright or sideways;
  2. Hold a minimum of two magazines; and
  3. Will include flap covers or be open top with retention device (i.e., tension screw).

#### **4.11 Radios**

- A. Officers will carry their Department-issued portable radio in a black protective holder.

#### **4.12 Sunglasses**

- A. Conservative style sunglasses are allowed.
- B. Sunglasses are not to be worn indoors.
- C. Sunglass retainers (leashes, lanyards) are allowed and must be navy blue or black. They must be free of logos, writing, or images and be plain.

## **REFERENCES**

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- [DPM 1.6.5 Authorized Firearms & Ammunition](#)
- [DPM 1.9.5A Department Uniform & Appearance Standards](#)
- [DPM 1.9.5A1 Department Uniform & Appearance Standards Manual](#)
- [DPM 1.9.10A1 Authorized Ballistic Vest Manufacturers & Ordering Guide](#)
- [DPM 1.9.65 Department Uniform Replacement & Ballistic Vest Reimbursement](#)
- [DPM 2.1.25 Impact Weapons](#)
- [DPM 2.1.35 Conducted Energy Weapon \(CEW\) Protocols](#)
- [DPM 2.4.65 Restraining Devices](#)