

502 UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

- I. PURPOSE: To establish a policy designed to regulate the official wear of the authorized police uniform, uniform accessories, and authorized equipment.
- II. SCOPE: This standard operating procedure shall apply to all sworn members of the Tampa Police Department, including Reserve Officers.
- III. DISCUSSION: An officer's uniform and equipment reflects the level of professionalism and pride associated with the organization. The uniform not only represents authority but identifies the officer as an official representative of the department. The uniform will not be worn in any manner that violates the spirit of this procedure and/or may bring discredit to the department. No unauthorized patches, decals, insignia, markings, or objects may be affixed to the uniform without the permission of the Chief of Police.
- IV. DEFINITIONS:
 - A. Dress Uniform: For majors and above, long-sleeve, midnight blue shirt with buttons on the shirt pockets and epaulets corresponding to rank, tie, stripe-less trousers, and midnight blue, eight-point cap with corresponding rank shield/braid.
 - B. Formal Uniform: For captains and above, midnight blue dress coat, midnight blue, eight-point cap with corresponding rank shield and gold band and buttons, midnight blue trousers, white long-sleeve shirt or blouse, and midnight blue tie or female crossover tie.
 - C. Primary Duty Uniform: For all officers, the primary duty uniform will consist of the midnight blue long or short-sleeve shirt, worn open collar, with appropriate insignia, and midnight blue trousers. If required, the uniform cap will be the midnight blue, eight-point cap with corresponding rank shield/buttons.
 - D. Utility/Training Uniform: For all officers, the primary Training uniform will consist of a grey T-shirt (short-sleeve and long-sleeve--worn at the option of the officer) with an imprinted badge on the left breast and "Police" on the back. The Training uniform will also include navy tactical (BDU style) pants.

For all officers (Lieutenants and below), the primary Utility uniform will be navy tactical pants with a matching long-sleeve tactical shirt. This uniform must be authorized by the Chief of Police to be worn in special circumstances, including hurricane and other disaster relief situations, search and rescue operations, and others as designated by the Chief of Police.

E. Service Awards, and Appurtenances:

1. Service awards are issued for recognition of personal and/or unit merit and accomplishment that are authorized by the Chief of Police for wear on the uniform.
2. Appurtenances are devices affixed to service awards. They are worn to denote additional awards in lieu of duplicating the wear of identical awards bars.

V. PROCEDURES: The following describes the approved official uniforms, badges, insignia, accessories, and equipment of the Tampa Police Department, including the wearing of the uniforms and plainclothes which shall consist of and be limited as defined below:

A. Staff Officers (Officers with the rank of major or above):

1. The formal uniform is the midnight blue dress coat, midnight blue, eight-point, service cap with corresponding rank shield and gold braid and buttons, midnight blue trousers, white long-sleeve shirt or blouse, and midnight blue tie or female crossover tie.
2. The dress uniform is a long-sleeve, midnight blue shirt with gold buttons on the shirt pockets and epaulets, midnight blue, eight-point, service cap with corresponding rank shield and gold braid and buttons, tie, and stripe-less trousers. All awards, appurtenances, longevity stripes, and specialty pins authorized for wear on the dress uniform will be worn at staff discretion.
3. The primary duty uniform may be worn as the uniform of the day at the discretion of the officer. When required, the eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with the corresponding color and rank shield will be worn with this uniform

B. Captains:

1. The formal uniform is the midnight blue dress coat, midnight blue, eight-point, service cap with corresponding rank shield and gold band and buttons, midnight blue trousers, white long-sleeve shirt or blouse, and midnight blue tie or female crossover tie.
2. The dress uniform is the midnight blue, long-sleeve shirt, tie, stripe-less trousers, and eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with corresponding rank shield and gold band and buttons All awards, appurtenances,

longevity stripes, and specialty pins authorized for wear on the dress uniform will be worn.

3. The primary duty uniform may be worn as the uniform of the day at the discretion of the officer. When required, the eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with the corresponding color and rank shield will be worn with this uniform

C. Lieutenants:

1. The dress uniform is the midnight blue, long-sleeve shirt, tie, stripe-less trousers, and eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with corresponding rank shield and gold band and buttons. All awards, appurtenances, longevity stripes, and specialty pins authorized for wear on the dress uniform will be worn.
2. The primary duty uniform will be worn as the uniform of the day. When required, the eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with the corresponding color and rank shield will be worn with this uniform.

D. Sergeants and Chief Pilots:

1. The dress uniform is the midnight blue, long-sleeve, shirt, tie, stripe-less trousers, and eight-point, service cap with corresponding rank shield and gold band and buttons. All awards, appurtenances, longevity stripes, and specialty pins authorized for wear on the dress uniform will be worn.
2. The primary duty uniform will be worn as the uniform of the day. When required, the eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with the corresponding color and rank shield will be worn with this uniform.

E. Corporals:

1. The dress uniform is the midnight blue, long-sleeve, shirt, tie, stripe-less trousers, and eight-point, service cap with corresponding rank shield and silver band and buttons. All awards, appurtenances, longevity stripes, and specialty pins authorized for wear on the dress uniform will be worn.
2. The primary duty uniform will be worn as the uniform of the day. When required, the eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with the corresponding color and rank shield will be worn with this uniform.

F. Detectives, Flight Officers, and Officers (When detectives are directed to report in uniform):

1. The dress uniform is the midnight blue, long-sleeve shirt, tie, stripe-less trousers, and eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with corresponding rank shield and black band and buttons. All awards, appurtenances, longevity stripes, and specialty pins authorized for wear on the dress uniform will be worn.
2. The primary duty uniform will be worn as the uniform of the day. When required, the eight-point, midnight blue, service cap with the corresponding color and rank shield will be worn with this uniform.

G. Uniform Wear Specifications:

1. The service cap:
 - a. Will be worn in a straight fashion, ensuring that the cap is not tilted to any one side.
 - b. Should be worn so that the cap visor is approximately two fingers above the bridge of the nose.
 - c. Hairstyles will not extend below or be visible from underneath the front of the visor.
 - d. A clear plastic cover is permissible during inclement weather.
 - e. Service cap wear: the service cap will generally be worn at the discretion of the officer; however, it shall be worn under the following conditions:
 - 1) Escorts: funerals, parades, etc.; and
 - 2) Ceremonial functions and other occasions at the discretion of the Chief of Police or a supervisor
2. Shirt:
 - a. Officers may at their discretion wear the long-sleeve shirt.
 - b. Longevity stripes are a required part of the uniform and will be worn on the left sleeve, with one stripe per five years of service, in a color corresponding to rank.
 - c. The midnight blue clip-on tie may be worn with the long-sleeve shirt. Tie pins, bars, or clasps are not authorized. If wear of the tie

is warranted all awards, appurtenances, and specialty pins authorized for wear on the dress uniform will be worn.

Note: Officers with the rank of lieutenant or above may wear a traditional style (midnight blue) tie.

3. Trousers:

- a. Trousers shall be tailored so that the bottom of the pant hem touches the top of the footwear, creating a single crease one inch above the footwear.

H. Detectives and Plainclothes Officers:

1. On-Duty Detectives:

- a. Plainclothes attire is authorized as outlined in MOR 1303.
- b. The detective field uniform will consist of the authorized Police Polo Shirt and business trousers or BDU-style pants. Duty boots of black leather or tan suede in color are authorized for wear with the BDU-style pants. Boots must coincide with Patrol standards.

The Police polo shirt is authorized for wear in the field. The Department Detective badge corresponding with rank will be embroidered on the wearer's left chest and the Detective's name on the wearer's right chest. The only shirt colors authorized for wear are black, white, dark blue, and grey. The brand(s) available and issued through the current department uniform vendor will be the only brand(s) authorized for wear.

The BDU-style pants will only be khaki in color and only of brand(s) available and issued through the current department uniform vendor.

The detective field uniform is not authorized for courtroom appearances.

- c. Boots may be worn only with the field uniform and BDU pants; however, the height of the boot shall be such as to preclude the trouser from catching onto the boot, thereby remaining in an unsightly position.
- d. The following equipment will be carried on the person: badge, handcuffs, issued firearm, a minimum of one additional magazine

with authorized ammunition, and police credentials. This equipment will not be carried in any purse, briefcase, or similar container.

2. On-Call Detectives: Detectives who are on call and respond to crime scenes during non-duty hours may exercise the following attire options:
 - a. The standard issue utility uniform may be worn; however, issued leather gear and equipment will be worn in accordance with department policy.
 - b. The standard dress code may be relaxed to include dress slacks, a knit shirt with collar, and businesslike shoes.
 - c. The detective field uniform.
3. Narcotics and Undercover Detectives:
 - a. Plainclothes attire is authorized as outlined in MOR 1303.
 - b. Attire may be of a casual nature and should be consistent with undercover and/or investigative objectives at the discretion of the division or bureau commander.
 - c. Proper raid attire shall consist of the ballistic vest, authorized utility/raid vest, and face hood when possible, as long as not part of the entry team.
 - d. The following equipment shall be in the possession of and/or available for quick access: badge, police credentials, firearm, handcuffs, and police radio unless otherwise excepted by the supervisor as dictated by the assignment.
4. Other Plainclothes Officers:
 - a. Plainclothes attire is authorized as outlined in MOR 1303.
 - b. Plainclothes attire should be consistent with the objectives of the assignment as directed by the division or bureau commander.
 - c. The utility/raid vest will be worn with plainclothes unless otherwise authorized by the supervisor.
 - d. Proper raid attire shall consist of a ballistic vest and authorized utility/raid vest.

- e. The following equipment shall be in the possession of and/or available for quick access: badge, police credentials, firearm, handcuffs, and police radio.

I. Specialty Uniform Pieces:

- 1. Uniform Sweater: The uniform sweater is not issued but is acceptable for wear at the officer's own expense.

- 2. Uniform Jacket:

- a. Any officer may wear the all-weather jacket as an outer garment.
- b. The uniform jacket may have metal rank insignia attached to the jacket depending on the type of jacket worn. Placement of metal rank insignia will be determined by the type of jacket worn.
- c. Longevity stripes will not be worn on the uniform jacket.

- 3. Utility/ Raid Vest:

- a. Plainclothes officers will wear the standard utility/raid vest when conducting street-level operations to readily identify themselves as officers of the Tampa Police Department.
- b. The utility/raid vest will not be worn under any other circumstances without prior approval from the division or bureau commander.
- c. Officers will have the option to purchase a utility/raid vest and body armor combination at their own expense. For uniformity, privately purchased vests must be the same model currently issued by the department and must be approved by the Training Unit. Carriers designed solely for rifle ballistic armor will not be authorized.
- d. If the utility/raid vest is "load-bearing" and features the ability to attach pieces of duty equipment, only attachments and pouches issued or authorized by the Training Unit may be used. Under no circumstances shall firearms be carried on utility/raid vests.
- e. No unauthorized patches, decals, insignia, markings, or objects may be affixed to the outer vest (or outer garment) without the authorization of the Chief of Police.

J. Mandatory Non-Issued Uniform Accessories:

1. Socks: Socks will be midnight blue or black in color.
2. Shoes:
 - a. While wearing the primary duty uniform: Shoes shall be black, conservative, round or square toe, smooth-grain leather (or leather-like), and capable of being shined. A conservative degree of non-decorative stitching is acceptable.
 - b. While wearing the formal or dress uniform: Shoes shall be black, conservative, round or square toe, smooth-grain leather (or leather-like), and capable of being shined. Stitching is not permissible while wearing the formal or dress uniform.
 - c. Shoes may be high or low cut. The height of the boot shall be such as to preclude the trouser from catching onto the boot, thereby remaining in an unsightly position.
 - d. Shoes or boots with ornamental buckles or straps are prohibited.
 - e. Platform shoes or boots may not have heels measuring above 1 ³/₄ inches.
 - f. Soft, pliable shoes are permissible if they conform to the above standards.
 - g. Rubber boots may be worn over regular shoes during inclement weather.
3. Belts: Belts will be black in color.
4. Gloves:
 - a. Will be worn only during inclement weather.
 - b. Fingerless gloves are authorized for wear only during bicycle patrol.
 - c. Gloves shall be black. Mittens or gloves with fancy detail and weighted gloves are prohibited
 - d. White gloves are prohibited unless authorized (i.e. funerals, special events, etc.).

- e. Orange gloves or fluorescent green are approved for traffic control.
- f. May be worn during searches.

K. Department Badge, Collar, and Rank Insignia and Chevrons:

1. Police Badge:

- a. The badge will be worn on the left side of the uniform shirt, above the left pocket, pinned to the shirt using the reinforced strap sewn to the shirt
- b. Officers with the rank of sergeant and above and chief pilots will wear gold badges while those below the rank of sergeant will wear silver badges. Detectives will wear the detective badge.
- c. Officers will ensure that the badge is worn on the outermost garment unless the garment has an embroidered badge.

2. Collar Insignia:

- a. Officers with the rank of sergeant or below will wear the “TPD” collar insignia on both collars. The collar insignia for sergeants and chief pilots will be gold in color while officers below the rank of sergeant will wear silver collar insignia.
- b. Collar insignia on long-sleeved shirts shall be centered between the top and bottom edge of the collar, parallel to the top edge with the front edge of the insignia ½-inch behind the edge of the collar closest to the tie. Allowances will be made for plastic collar stays.
- c. Collar insignia on short-sleeved shirts shall be centered between the outside and inside edge of the collar, ¼” above and parallel to the bottom edge. Allowances will be made for the plastic collar stays.

3. Collar Rank Insignia:

- a. Officers with the rank of lieutenant or above will wear the officially designated rank insignia on both collars of their uniform shirt:

Chief	Three Gold Stars
Assistant Chief	Two Gold Stars
Deputy Chief	One Gold Star
Major	Gold Oak Leaf Cluster

Captain	Double Gold Bar
Lieutenant	Single Gold Bar

- b. Collar rank insignia shall be worn on short-sleeve shirts in the same manner as prescribed for the TPD insignia.
- c. Collar rank insignia shall be worn on each shoulder epaulet of the jacket, centered between the edges and parallel to the edges.

4. Chevrons: Officers with the rank of sergeant, chief pilot, senior corporal, corporal, senior detective, detective, flight officer, and master police officer will wear the officially designated chevrons on both sleeves of the uniform shirt and jacket, with the chevrons centered on the sleeve ½-inch below the shoulder patch:

Senior Sergeant	Three gold chevrons with a gold star and gold rocker
Sergeant	Three gold chevrons
Chief Pilot	Two gold chevrons with rocker and wings
Senior Corporal	Two light blue chevrons with a light blue star
Corporal	Two light blue chevrons
Senior Detective	One light blue chevron with rocker and light blue star
Detective	One light blue chevron with rocker
Flight Officer	One light blue chevron with rocker and wings
Master Police Officer	One light blue chevron

L. Uniform Shirts Accessories:

1. Nametags:

- a. Officers with the rank of sergeant or above and chief pilots will wear the gold metal nameplate with an affixed American flag (if issued with such) to include initials and last name inscribed in black. The nametag will be centered directly over the right front shirt pocket with the bottom edge of the nameplate resting on the top seam of the pocket.
- b. Officers below the rank of sergeant will wear the silver metal nameplate with affixed American flag (if issued with such) to include initials and last name inscribed in black. The nametag will be worn in the same manner as described in item L(1)(a).
- c. Nametags will not reflect rank, specialty skills, or information other than the American flag, initials, and last name.

2. Serving Since Pin: The “serving since” pin is an optional accessory that is authorized for wear. The pin is not an issued item. The top of the “serving since” pin will rest against the top seam of the pocket. The pin color will correspond to rank.
3. Merit Awards, Appurtenances, Graduation, and Qualification Bars
 - a. Merit Awards bestowed upon officers should be displayed with pride on the uniform. Award bars will be worn vertical and centered immediately above the Officer’s nameplate with no spacing between bars. The order of precedence for award bars will be as follows:
 - 1) Medal of Honor
 - 2) Award of Valor
 - 3) Police Purple Shield
 - 4) MPO Jesse Madsen Lifesaving Award
 - 5) Lifesaving Award
 - 6) Officer of the Year
 - 7) Reserve Officer of the Year
 - 8) Officer of the Month
 - 9) Tactical Excellence Award
 - 10) Award of Merit
 - 11) Excellence Duty Award
 - 12) Community Policing Award
 - 13) Unit Citation Award
 - 14) Chief’s Leadership Award
 - 15) Chief’s COP Award
 - 16) Police Commendation
 - 17) FTO Service Award
 - 18) Military Service Award
 - b. Appurtenances
 - 1) The Bronze Star device will be issued for subsequent awards not warranting the issuance of a Silver Star device.
 - 2) The Silver Star device will be issued for every fifth Award.
 - 3) Arabic Numerals will be issued for wear upon the Medal of Honor and Military Service Award for subsequent awards.
 - c. Graduation Bars- Graduation bars will be worn subordinate to department award bars and superior to Safe Driver and

qualification bars. The following award bars are authorized to wear by department graduates:

- 1) FBI National Academy
 - 2) Southern Police Institute
 - 3) Senior Management Institute for Police
 - 4) FBI LEEDA Trilogy
- d. Safe Driver Award- The safe driver award will be issued in accordance with TPD SOP 662.1 and worn subordinate to merit awards and graduation bars but superior to qualification bars.
 - e. Qualification Bars- Qualification bars will be awarded to those who demonstrate proficiency in the pistol and/or carbine rifle. Qualification bars will be worn subordinate to all other authorized awards and bars. The pistol qualification bar will be displayed superior to the carbine qualification bars.
 - f. Thin Blue Line Bars- The Thin Blue Line bar will be worn immediately above the nametag.
 - g. Military Service Pins- A Military Service Pin is an optional accessory authorized for wear. This pin will designate one branch of service in which the wearer honorably served. The pin must be rectangular in shape, not exceeding one- and one-half inches in length. This pin may be worn centered directly over and ½” above the uppermost authorized pin on the right-front side of the shirt. If the “9/11” is also worn, they will be centered and worn side by side.
4. Specialty Team/Squad Pins:
- a. Only officers currently assigned to a specialty unit or who have honorably retired from a specialty team may wear a specialty pin. Only one pin may be worn unless the Officer is currently a member of a Field Training Squad. Should the officer choose to wear both their authorized specialty pin and Field Training Officer pin (FTO), the FTO pin will be worn to the wearer’s left and will be centered between the top and bottom seams and between the button and outer seam of the wearer’s right pocket. The officer’s specialty team pin will remain on the wearer’s right pocket. The following

are currently recognized specialty units that are authorized to wear a pin:

Aviation Unit
Field Training Squad
Hazardous Device and Materials Unit
Honor Guard
Hostage Negotiation Team
K-9 Unit
Motor Unit
SWAT Team
Underwater Search and Recovery Unit
Recruiter
Marine Unit
Mounted Unit
Crowd Management Group
DUI Unit

- b. The officially designated specialty unit or team pin will be worn on the right front shirt pocket centered between the button and the top of the seam pocket.
- c. 9/11: The “9/11” pin is an optional accessory, which is not an issued item, but authorized for wear. The pin will be centered directly over and ½” above the uppermost-authorized pin on the right-front side of the shirt.
- d. Whistle and Chain: The whistle and chain are authorized for optional wear with the uniform at the discretion of the officer. Should the officer choose to wear the whistle and chain, the chain will be attached to the epaulette to the wearer’s right and the whistle stowed within the same side shirt pocket. The color of the whistle and chain will correspond to rank.

M. Police Uniform and Equipment Authorized for Wear:

1. Basic Uniform Issue:

Mock Turtleneck w/TPD Embroidery	(1)
Midnight Eight-Point Service Cap	(1)
Midnight Blue Long-Sleeve-Shirt	(1)
Midnight Blue Short-Sleeve-Shirt	(4)

Midnight Blue Clip-on Tie	(1)
Midnight Blue Trousers	(4)
Tac Dry Rain Jacket w/ Hood	(1)
Black Winter Jacket	(1)
Grey Utility T-shirt Short-Sleeve	(1)
Grey Utility T-shirt Long-Sleeve	(1)
Navy Utility BDU Pants	(1)
Navy Utility Tactical Pants	(1)
Navy Utility Tactical Long-Sleeve	(1)

2. Basic Equipment Issue:

Service Cap Shield	(1)
Police Badge	(1)
Collar Insignia	(1 pair)
Name Plate	(1)
Whistle	(1)
Gun Belt	(1)
Holster	(1)
Magazine Pouch	(1)
Handcuff Case	(1)
Handcuffs	(1)
Gun Belt Keepers	(3)
Radio Holder	(1)

Chemical Spray Holder	(1)
Body Armor	(1)
Taser w/ Holster	(1)
Baton (Expandable) with Holder	(1)
Flashlight	(1)
Hi-Vis Yellow Traffic Vest	(1)
CPR Mask	(1)
Traffic Wand	(1)
Trauma Kit	(1)
Tourniquet	(1)

3. Authorized Wear of Uniform:

- a. All officers, regardless of rank, will wear all authorized equipment when in the primary duty uniform unless otherwise directed by Standard Operating Procedure or by their division or bureau commander.
- b. Additional equipment for the gun belt may include a cellular telephone.
- c. The police uniform will be worn only for authorized police functions including travel to and from such functions. For example, the uniform will NOT be worn for court unless the matter arose from the officer's police duties.
- d. The nameplate, award bars, graduation bars, safe driver, and qualification bars may be affixed to a backing device making wear on the uniform easier. This backing device should be constructed of minimal material, not visible from the wearer's front. However, should the officer lose pistol or carbine master qualification or Safe Driver status, the corresponding bar(s) will not be worn until the officer again achieves the proper rating. This mounting option will be at the officer's discretion and expense.

Supersedes SOP 502, dated 2/19.