

Trooper Togs:

*A History of the
New Jersey State Police Uniform*



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May 2010

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July 1, 1921, Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf, a West Point graduate and veteran of the First World War, was appointed as the first colonel and superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. He was commissioned to organize and train the newly created State Police force.

Schwarzkopf's military background greatly influenced all areas of the new organization. During training, recruits wore olive-drab denims, courtesy of the Army Surplus store. As the end of their training approached, the need for a distinctive uniform for the Troopers became a priority¹. Colonel Schwarzkopf personally designed the first uniform that the Troopers wore. He based the design on what he was familiar with – the United States Cavalry uniform.

Because the first State Police class graduated in December 1921, the first uniform was designed as a winter uniform. It consisted of a dark French Blue fitted blouse with a roll collar and light blue trim on the sleeves. Triangular emblems **NJ** and **SP** were in light blue on the right and left lapels. It was to be worn, buttoned, at all times except when in quarters and “on fatigue”².

Grey shirts were to be worn by all save for the officers who were issued white shirts with soft white collars. A necktie that was “Jersey Blue” in color was also to be worn. A brown leather belt with pistol and holster holding a six-inch revolver and ten .38 caliber rounds and ten .30 caliber Springfield Rifle rounds was worn at all times while on duty, however the belt sans holster was worn on occasions calling for a dress uniform³. A brown leather Sam Browne belt was also adopted allegedly because it forced the wearer to ‘brace’ like a West Point cadet.⁴

Brown leather lace-up riding boots were also issued as were leather puttees, a type of gaiter similar to spats, that were to be worn on the calves of the britches to protect the shins from horses kicking them and to simulate boots if the issued boots were being repaired. Repairs were made at the State

1 Coakley, Leo. *Jersey Troopers*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick. 1970. Page 46.

2 New Jersey State Police. *Rules and Regulations*. 1924. Page 47.

3 Apparently, Colonel Schwarzkopf always wore the dress uniform, as there are no extant photographs of him wearing a holster. From 1984 – 1989, the State Police issued a dress uniform similar to that worn by the military. It consisted of a French blue blouse, white dress shirt, black bow tie, formal dress slacks with a gold braid, cap with dark blue band and gold adjustable chin strap and French blue bell and cap badge, black ankle boots with plain black socks, a black leather pistol belt and gold name bar. The triangular shoulder and lapel patches for this uniform had lettering in gold thread on a French blue background. The epaulette patches were also outlined with gold thread and the insignia of rank was embroidered rather than a metal pin. The Colonel, Lieutenant Colonels, Majors and the Academy Commandant wore this uniform during formal occasions.

4 New Jersey State Police. *Rules and Regulations*. 1924. Page 47; Coakley, page 46.

Prison, “except when a Trooper wants [them] repaired by a first class cobbler at his own expense.”⁵ Lieutenants and Captains also had spurs issued to wear with their “pull-on boots without laces.”⁶

Olive whipcord breeches were supplied by an Army Surplus store. The breeches did not have a stripe down the side initially.

Mounted Troopers wore the Stetson campaign hat of the cavalry. All others, including those on motorcycle, wore a “stiff-crowned cap, with the peak raked sharply over the eye...[that] forced the wearer to tuck in his chin and hold his head erect.”⁷ This hat, which is identical to the hat worn by all Troopers today, was also issued to the mounted Troopers for dress occasions. A leather “helmet”, similar to the old fashioned aviator’s cap, was also issued to motorcycle riders for use in extreme cold weather. “The use of these helmets [was] regulated by the Troop Commander and when worn [it] must display the badge the same as on other headdress.”⁸

The Trooper on horseback and on motorcycle also had items issued to them that were unique to their particular mount. For example, the horsemen received buckskin-riding gloves, a saddle blanket, saddlebags, a bridle and a currycomb and brush. The riders of the motorcycles received large cuff gauntlets, rubber coveralls that were to be worn on duty in cold and inclement weather and a cape raincoat and goggles.⁹

In the summer, the winter whipcord breeches were replaced with breeches made from a lighter material and a blue long sleeve shirt replaced the blouse. It was to be buttoned up and in a “neat condition” at all times, and always worn with the Jersey Blue necktie.¹⁰ It is understood that long sleeve shirts were issued during the summer months to cover tattoos; many of the early Troopers were veterans and tattoos were common on the forearm. In a September 4, 1994 Star Ledger article, “*Change of Shirt: State Troopers May Get Cooler Version For Summer Wear*”, Guy Sterling writes that “tattoos could send the wrong message about Troopers and that excessive body hair could be unsightly, and...skinny arms might not project the proper image of physical fitness and authority to the public.” At the urging of the Troopers’ union, a prototype of a short-sleeve summer uniform was developed, but it was never adopted.

A metal whistle with metal chain was also issued as part of the original uniform. The chain was attached on one end to the button on the left shoulder under the epaulet and the other end was attached to the button underneath the left breast pocket. A leather lanyard replaced the metal chain when the uniform changed in 1929.

On both the summer and winter uniform, those who had completed two years of service wore service stripes on both sleeves. Rank insignia for the enlisted were also worn on both sleeves and officers wore their insignia on their shoulders. Specialized ranks, that were eventually abolished when the State Police was restructured in the late 1920s, had their own unique insignia. The First Sergeant consisted of simply three chevrons with a diamond and no “rockers.” The Sergeant major

5 Coakley, pages 49-50.

6 DeFeo, C. Thomas. Lieutenant Colonel. “*New Jersey State Police Chronicles: A History of the State Police Based on Interviews With Its Earliest Troopers.*” Unpublished. 1996.

7 Coakley, page 46.

8 New Jersey State Police. *Rules and Regulations.* 1924. page 56.

9 New Jersey State Police. *Rules and Regulations.* 1924. page 56.

10 New Jersey State Police. *Rules and Regulations.* 1924. page 48.



Winter Uniform 1921 - 1924



Winter Uniform circa 1926-1929



Dress Uniform
Left Photo circa 1926, right photo circa 1930



Two different styles of boots were worn by the enlisted



Puttees worn in lieu of boots



Officer's boots with spurs



Officers Boots



Officers in front, enlisted in rear

used three chevrons and two “rockers”. This is identical to the current Detective Sergeant First Class insignia.

Other insignia included the Stable Sergeant – three chevrons with a horse’s head underneath; the Corporal Mechanic – two chevrons with a hammer and wrench crossed; Medical Sergeant – three chevrons and the Rod of Asclepius¹¹; the Motorcycle Sergeant – three chevrons and a motorcycle wheel and the Signal Sergeant – three chevrons and two lightning bolts. “Even though there were no radio communications, he was in charge of the red flag that was used throughout the state to signal Troopers to stop and call their station.”¹² The Supply Sergeant also had his own insignia – three chevrons and two horizontal stripes in place of “rockers.”

The Supply Sergeant issued the clothing and every piece of equipment issued, returned or exchanged was listed on an individual clothing card. The Supply Office made these in duplicate, with one held by the Trooper and the other by the Supply Office. Clothing was to be kept in good repair by a Trooper at his own expense. If neglect of the clothing was proven, the Trooper was responsible for paying out of pocket for its replacement.¹³

Before continuing, brief mention should be made of the state police colors, *blue* and *gold*¹⁴. The colors were originally *Jersey Blue* and later, in 1929, *Cavalry Yellow* was added. While there is no written documentation left by Colonel Schwarzkopf as to why he chose these colors, an educated guess can be made. First, Schwarzkopf was a veteran of the United States Cavalry – the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, to be specific. Their colors happen to be blue and yellow.

Yellow is the traditional color of the Cavalry. The dark blue color called *Jersey Blue* dates as far back as the French and Indian War. According to William Gillette, a Rutgers University history professor, “‘Jersey Blue’ refers to the name commonly attributed to New Jersey’s troops who fought in blue uniform in the French and Indian War. In the American Revolution, George Washington, designating New Jersey’s troops as Jersey Blues, authorized blue uniforms for the Jersey units. During the Civil War, state regiments as well as New Jerseyans as a group continued to bear the name. The term often carried a patriotic overtone...and expressed pride in the fighting ability of the state’s units.”¹⁵

From 1921 until 1924, there was no shoulder patch on the uniform. The first patch appeared in 1925 and was worn on the right arm. It was rectangular with silver-grey lettering on a dark blue background. The following year, the first triangular patch appeared, with dark blue lettering and an eggshell background. In 1929, the background color was changed to Cavalry Yellow and is the same patch worn by the State Troopers today.

A frequent question regarding the State Police patch is why is it worn only on the right arm? It would be logical to assume that, since the State Police closely models itself after the United States Military and that because the military wears its unit patch on the left arm that the State Police

11 The Rod of Asclepius, a rod with an entwined snake, is the traditional symbol for medicine. This is often confused with the Caduceus, a rod with two entwined snakes. Please see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_of_Asclepius#Confusion_with_the_Caduceus.

12 DeFeo. *Chronicles*.

13 New Jersey State Police. *Rules and Regulations*. 1924. Page 48.

14 The colors were first referred to as “*Blue and Gold*” by Colonel Charles Schoeffel during World War II.

15 Gillette, William. *Jersey Blue: Civil War Politics in New Jersey 1855 – 1865*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick. 1994. Page ix.



Stetson Hat



“Stiff-crowned cap”



Leather motorcycle cap



Summer Uniform (c. 1926)



Metal Whistle and Chain



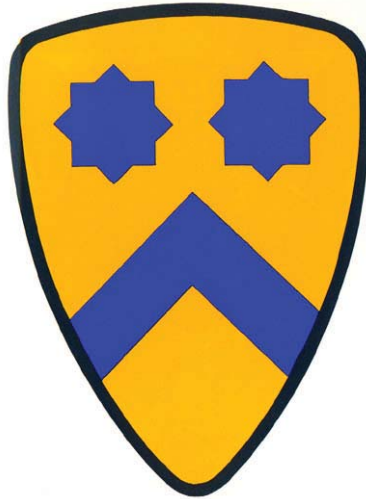
Is this why they switched to bow ties during the 1930s???



Prototype of the short sleeve summer uniform with and without tie



Stable Sergeant and the first shoulder patch - 1926



2nd Cavalry Regiment patch. This was Col. Schwarzkopf's regiment and the probable inspiration for his choosing the *Blue and Gold* colors.

Shoulder Patches



1925



1926-1929



1929 - Present

would do the same. As with his choice of the State Police colors, Colonel Schwarzkopf did not leave any written explanation for the patch's location. There is a theory based on informed speculation that might shed light on this question. In the early days of the State Police, the motorcycles and automobiles lacked lights and sirens. When a Trooper would pull along side a motorist, the Trooper's right arm would face the driver. The driver could see the patch and immediately recognize the wearer as a State Trooper.¹⁶

The triangle is the insignia of the New Jersey State Police. The three sides stand for the motto of the organization: Honor, Duty and Fidelity. The badge worn by the State Police was designed as a triangle to distinguish the Troopers from other police officers in the state. It was designed in 1921 by a jeweler in Newark, New Jersey – Julius George Schwarzkopf, the father of Colonel Schwarzkopf, the founder of the organization, and has not changed since that time.

The New Jersey State Troopers do not wear a breast badge. “The reason for this is not totally clear. One thought is that Colonel Schwarzkopf was a West point graduate and the military considers their hat insignia their sign of authority. Another school of thought is that prior to the first class of the State Police, Colonel Schwarzkopf and his staff visited the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Pennsylvania State Police to observe their training and procedures. Neither of these organizations wears a breast badge. To date, there are a total of five State Police organizations that do not wear a breast badge in the United States: New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Missouri and New Jersey.”¹⁷

During the 1920s, as the State Police became more commonplace, local police departments began to copy the State Police uniform. While imitation may be the highest form of flattery, in reality, it was becoming a problem – it was difficult, for example, “...to determine the validity of letters of complaint against Troopers because the complainant usually based his identification on the police officer's uniform.”¹⁸ In an attempt to remedy the situation – and to maintain “pride and distinctiveness” – Colonel Schwarzkopf and his staff designed a new uniform.¹⁹

In 1929, the statutes and laws of the State of New Jersey concerning the State Police were revised and they included the uniform. Chapter 216, Laws 1929 included “a supplement to an act entitled ‘An act creating a Department of State Police...’” that stated “...the following standard uniform to be worn only by the members of said department: (a) Winter Uniform: French blue blouse, dark blue breeches, with yellow stripe, cap with dark blue band and French blue bell, black boots, black pistol belt, long dark blue trousers with yellow stripe for officers, French blue overcoat... (b) Summer Uniform: French blue shirt, dark blue breeches, with yellow stripe, cap with dark blue band and French blue bell, black boots, black pistol belt, long dark blue trousers with yellow stripe for officers, French blue overcoat.”²⁰ The supplement also stated, “every person, agent, officer or

16 This is the same reasoning behind placing the words “STATE TROOPER” on the front right fender only of modern Troop Cars.

17 Walsh, James. Captain. “NJSP Badge History”. Unpublished. 2001.

18 Coakley, page 97.

19 Leo Coakley writes on page 97 in *Jersey Troopers* that there were stories that the famous Broadway producer Florenz Ziegfeld was asked to design the new uniform. He goes on to write that this was an urban legend with no basis in fact. “The new uniform was designed by the headquarters staff far from the bright lights of the theatre.”

20 The Jersey Blue tie continued to be worn. However, the summer uniform included a brown leather bow tie. This was later replaced with the regular, blue straight tie in 1935. In addition, the Sam Browne belt was included as part of the pistol belt.

official...is hereby prohibited and forbidden directly or indirectly to wear, use, or order to be used or worn, copy or imitate in any respect or manner, the above standard uniform as set out in this act.” Violations were punishable by a fine “not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.”

Technically, Schwarzkopf did not redesign the uniform. If you put the two uniforms next to each other, the only change was in color, which went from the darker Jersey Blue to the lighter French Blue. The design of the blouse, shirt, pants, leather gear, and boots were identical. The leather however was died black.²¹

Because Colonel Schwarzkopf could not find a manufacturer who could design the Stetson hat in French Blue, identical to the Bell Cap used for motorcycle and automobile patrols, he did not include it in the new uniform and the original Stetson continued to be worn. Circa 1937 when the mounted patrol was finally discontinued, there was no longer a need for the Stetson hat.²²

Another change in the uniform was the service insignia on the sleeve. In addition to the bars indicating two-years of service, a star denoting five years of service was now authorized. Initially, two-year bars were added for every two years after the initial five years and at ten years, they were replaced with a second star. This practice was eventually discontinued.²³

During the first half of the 1930s, the Troopers were also issued double breasted, three-quarter length French blue leather coats. “Almost identical in design to the cruiser coat...and shorter in length than the over coat, the leather coat was something to supplement the wool overcoat. It was all leather with a plaid wool lining – heavy flannel material.” It was manufactured exclusively by the Harley Davidson Company. “The reason they were abolished was that the French blue color was very expensive and difficult to keep clean. In Troop “A”, the Troop Commander, Captain Carter, called for all of the coats to be turned in to Headquarters. They were all piled along side the Headquarters building on Egg Harbor Road and set afire. They burned for the longest time and smoldered just as rubber tires would. His reasoning behind this is unknown.”²⁴

The 19th Class, which graduated in 1929, was the last class to be photographed in the original State Police uniform. In an attempt to get rid of existing supplies, recruits from the 20th class onwards wore the old uniform (without patches) while training.²⁵

The uniform was little changed until 1958 when the 53rd Class became the last to be issued boots and breeches. Because the Troopers were no longer riding horseback and, since 1954 no longer riding motorcycles, the boots and breeches were seen to be an expensive obsolescence. They were replaced with the dark blue slacks with cavalry yellow stripe and ankle high boots or Oxford shoes that the officers had worn since 1929.

Sigmund Eisner of Red Bank, New Jersey made the new Class “A” uniform. “They came in and measured each Trooper individually, went back to make the uniforms then came back and made a

21 DeFeo. *Chronicles*. Another part of the uniform, French blue scarves, were also issued from the early 1930s through the late 1940s or early 1950s. A detailed description of the “new” uniform can be found in the 1931 Rules and Regulations, pages 4 – 7.

22 DeFeo. *Chronicles*.

23 DeFeo. *Chronicles*.

24 DeFeo. *Chronicles*.

25 DeFeo. *Chronicles*.

final measuring/alterations accordingly.” Captain Walter Krech, as Logistics Officer, “eliminated the personal tailoring of the uniform [thereby making it] easier and cheaper to stock-up on standard sizes.”²⁶

In 1977, there was a brief attempt to bring back the boots and breeches as a winter uniform for Troopers assigned to patrol activities. “The harsh winter we experienced last year gave rise to a number of complaints to me that our men were not properly attired.” Additionally, the same problem of other law enforcement agencies copying the State Police uniform that resulted in the uniform change of 1929 was becoming a major issue once more. “I have been disturbed by the number of reports which have reached me indicating that the duplication of our uniform was unacceptable internally...I was concerned sufficiently to begin planning toward a return to our traditional uniform.”²⁷

Colonel Pagano distributed 1,739 questionnaires to the Troopers to help determine whether a uniform change was generally desirable. Of those, 931 were returned and 63% voted in favor of the return to the old uniform. One third, or 33%, were against the change and 4% were undecided.²⁸ The State Police Fraternal Association union was against the change, suggesting, “...that the money to be spent on the new boots and breeches might be used instead to give Troopers a pay raise...”²⁹ Although the majority of the Troopers had responded in favor of the boots and breeches, the project was dropped after it was deemed cost prohibitive.

In 1980 there was an attempt to make yet another alteration to the uniform. During the training of the all-female 96th Class, it was proposed that there be a hat designed specifically for female Troopers, similar to the military. The Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation in Philadelphia manufactured a prototype that was presented to the class. The hat design as well as the entire concept of a separate uniform was rejected outright. The members of the 96th Class did not want to stand out among their peers. They wanted to be the same as the men, to wear the same uniform and to “...continue the tradition as it existed and not make change just because we were females.”³⁰

Since 1921, the only way to identify a specific Trooper was by his cap badge. This changed in early 1961 when the State Police adopted name bars. Located above the right breast pocket, the brass name bars consisted of the Trooper’s first initial and full last name, leading the editor of the State Police newsletter, the *Triangle*, to muse that, whatever was “...saved on names such as Hoy, Toy, Dix, Lau and Fox, they surely paid up for it on Kielbasinski, Schaffhauser, and VandenBerghe!”³¹

Also, during the 1960s, an alteration was made to the cap worn by the Troopers. Following the lead of the military, Lieutenants wore an adjustable strap above the visor made of gold thread. All other officers, from Captains up to and including the Colonel, had both an adjustable strap made of gold thread and golden oak leaf embroidery on the visor nicknamed “scrambled eggs”. The new

26 Krech, Walter. Captain. *E-mail to author*. October 23, 2009. An outfit in Philadelphia made the uniforms after the State Police stopped using Sigmund Eisner and eventually the State Police started buying through the State and the contracts therefore went out to bid.

27 Pagano, Clinton L. Colonel. *Superintendent’s Newsletter*. August 30, 1977.

28 Pagano, Clinton L. Colonel. *Superintendent’s Newsletter*. November 1977.

29 Lenehan, Arthur K. *Pagano “Wants Troopers to Ride Into the Breech(es)”*. *Star Ledger*. July 29, 1977.

30 Rowley, Suzann. Captain; Major Annemarie DeAngelo; Captain Kathy Devlin. *Emails to author*. April 26, 2010.

31 *Triangle*, Volume 4 Number 2. 1961. Page 16.

The Dress Uniform

1984 - 1989



The “redesigned” uniform: 1929 – 1958



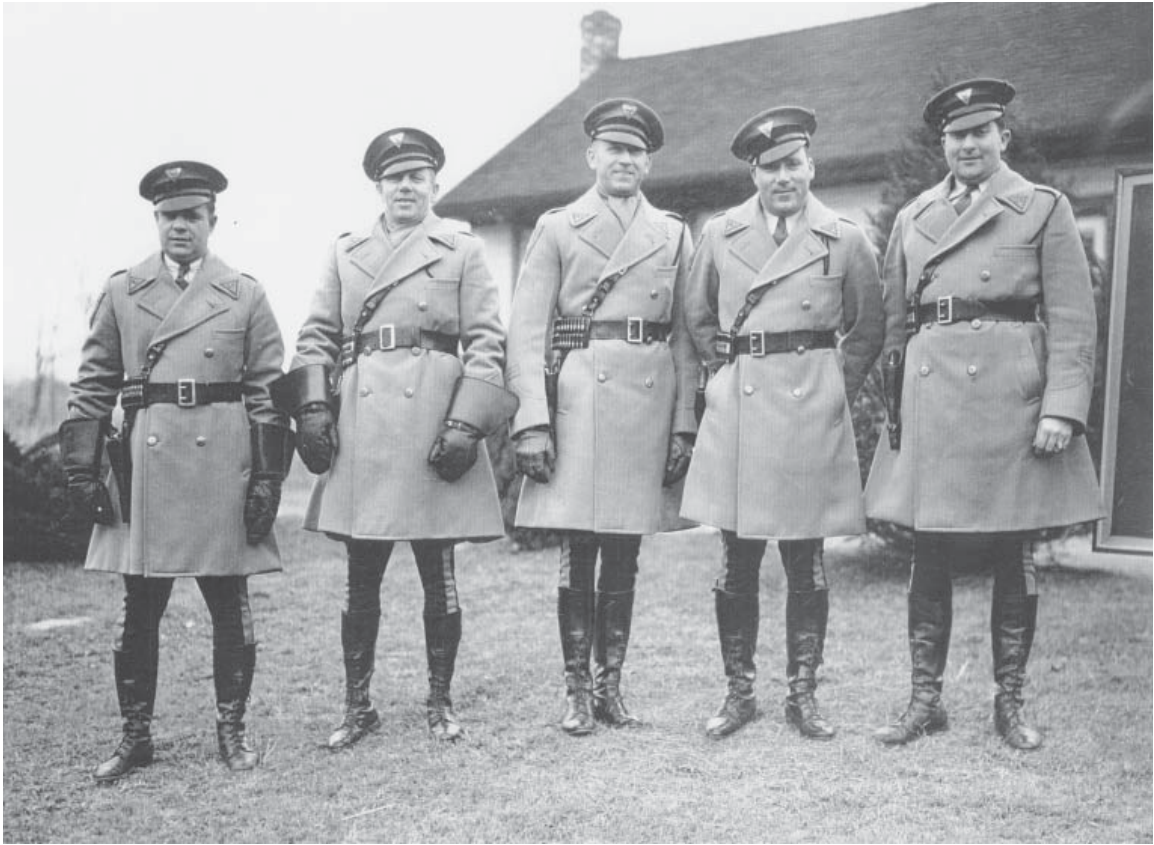
Summer



Winter



The old and new summer uniform



Gauntlets, leather gloves and scarves issued with the winter uniform



Leather Coat



Recruits training in old uniform



1929 – 1958



1958 - 1983

designs were instituted to make it easier to identify officers, especially during inclement weather when rain gear is worn and covers the shoulder rank insignia.³²

A reefer coat was eventually introduced to replace the heavy topcoat. Made by the Blauer Manufacturing Company of Boston, Massachusetts, this coat was unique in that it had right hand side pocket access to the holster so you could pull out your gun. Another pocket held the cover for the Class 'A' cap. This coat only lasted a few years as it was deemed “bulky and cannot be cleaned properly [and] it is not functional when considering quick access to weaponry and ammunition reloading.”³³

By 1975, tie tacks were added to the uniform. The tie tacks were a miniature badge – a triangle with the Trooper’s badge number. This was eventually altered to a standardized “1921”, the year of the State Police’s inception, as a cost saving mechanism.³⁴

In February 1996, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State Police, Colonel Carl A. Williams authorized the issuance of a 75th Anniversary pin. Supplied by the Former Troopers Association, it was issued to all civilians and enlisted personnel. Initially, the pin was to be worn by all enlisted and sworn personnel while in Class “A” uniform above the right breast pocket, except for on the cruiser coat where it went above the left breast pocket. This order was soon changed, and the 75th Anniversary pin replaced the State Police tie tack. This pin was worn throughout the calendar year of 1996.³⁵

In addition to rank insignia, modern Troopers are authorized to wear additional insignia and award ribbons. Gone are the days when Troopers wore marksmanship badges such as the Distinguished Expert, Marksman and Sharpshooter.³⁶ These have been replaced by service-related honors, including the Distinguished Service Medal (an actual medal as well as a blue and gold ribbon with gold frame); the Meritorious Service Award (also known as the “Blue Max” – a blue ribbon with gold frame); Certificate of Commendation (a gold ribbon with gold frame); Unit Commendations (a forest green ribbon with gold frame); and Trooper of the Year (a red ribbon with gold frame). In addition, there are four awards issued from outside the State Police that are authorized to wear with the uniform. They are the Red Cross Medal of Valor; the County 200 Club Award; the Parade International Associations of Chiefs of Police Award and the New Jersey Police Honor Legion Award.

A special World Trade Center memorial pin commemorating the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the assistance rendered to New York City by the New Jersey State Police is worn as an official part of the State Police uniform. This pin is “...only issued to and worn by members up to and including the 128th State Police Class.” Designed as an American Flag with the letters WTC, it is worn above the button on the left breast pocket of the Class “A” uniform.

32 McGann, John. Major. *Interview with author*. Winter, 2009.

33 Pagano, Clinton L. Colonel. Superintendent’s Newsletter. August 30, 1977.

34 Mattos, Juan. Lieutenant Colonel. *Interview with author*. April 28, 2010.

35 Littles, Valcocean. Lieutenant Colonel. “Issuance and Wearing of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Pin”. February 6, 1996. “Issuance and Wearing of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Pin – Change Notice”. February 23, 1996.

36 The Distinguished Expert bar and medal are still authorized to be worn if you had previously been issued it, however it is no longer being issued.



Rejected prototype of hat designed for female Troopers



Enlisted Hat



Lieutenants' Hat



Captains, Majors, Lieutenant Colonels
and the Colonel's Hat.



Tie tack



Military ribbons and marksmanship medals



Present-day Ribbons and WTC Pin



Ribbons, tie tack, and name plate



September 11, 2001 “World Trade Center Memorial” pin



Class “A” Summer and Winter Uniform



Original Class “B” Uniform



21st Century Troopers

Evolution of the Uniform



1921 – 1929



1929 – 1958



1958 – 1983



1983 - Present

Other insignia now worn by the Troopers denote some of the more specialized units to which they may be assigned during their career. Initially known as the Underwater Recovery Unit, the Technical Emergencies and Mission Specialists (TEAMS) Unit was the first authorized to wear its own insignia. It consists of a small yellow triangle with a deep blue sea diving helmet and is worn on the right sleeve. “The right arm was chosen because in the Navy, it used to be that right arm rates were used to signify men of the Seamen Branch. Left arm rates were used for all other personnel and non-action oriented specialists.”³⁷ The Aviation Unit, Bomb Squad, Canine Unit, and the Academy Instructors followed TEAMS. The Trooper Coach insignia is worn only while actively participating in the Trooper Coach program.

The amount of leather gear worn by the State Troopers has increased over the years – so much so it is a wonder the Troopers can move. While the gun belt, Sam Browne and a (modern) holster continue to be worn, a dual magazine pouch, PR-24³⁸ holder, aerosol pepper spray case and mobile video recorder transmitter pouch and microphone have been added.

The first addition to the leather gear, however, was a handcuff case. Based upon photographic evidence, handcuff cases appear not to have been worn until sometime in the 1940s. While the Troopers were always issued handcuffs, they were not issued handcuff cases and they had to buy their own well into the 1950s.³⁹

Also issued to the Troopers were four shirts and six ties – every six months. Captain Walter Krech, the Logistics Officer, discontinued this practice in the 1970s as it had become too expensive and not all of the shirts and ties were being used. Instead, clothing was distributed on an “as needed” basis.⁴⁰

Gloves had always been issued with the uniform, dating all the way back to the 1920s. Originally, gauntlets, for those on motorcycle, and black leather gloves were issued. For a time, grey wool gloves with leather palms and fingers were issued before returning to the black gloves. Additionally, a button down dark blue sweater with two pockets was also distributed, but this was eventually discontinued as it was deemed too expensive.⁴¹

The most recent major update to the State Police uniform occurred because of the Newark and Plainfield riots of 1967. It was determined that the Class “A” uniform – the only uniform available at that time – was not ideal for the conditions the Troopers faced during the riots as well as during natural disasters. A switch was made from tied ties to clip-on ties for the Class “A” Uniform. In case the tie was grabbed in scuffle, for example, a clip-on would simply pull off without knocking the Trooper off balance. Also, the impracticality of dry cleaning the uniform during a crisis and the dangers of walking on broken glass and through debris in ankle boots led to the development of a Class “B” uniform⁴².

The Class “B” shirt was designed as wash and wear for easy cleaning. Originally made by the Lee Company in Pennsylvania, it consists of a French blue wash and wear shirt and dark blue wash and wear “battle dress uniform” trousers with a gold stripe. Black jump boots, a

37 Krech, Walter. Captain. *Interview with author*. April 23, 2010.

38 A type of side-handle baton. This is now being phased-out, to be replaced by an expandable baton.

39 Krech, Walter. Captain. *E-mail to author*. April 17, 2010.

40 Krech, Walter. Captain. *Interview with author*. April 22, 2010.

41 Krech, Walter. Captain. *Interview with author*. April 22, 2010.

42 Krech, Walter. Captain. *Interview with author*. April 22, 2010.

ballistic helmet and shield, and black nylon web pistol belt, magazine pouch, holster, PR-24 holder, handcuff case and pepper spray case are also included. The Class “A” cap is replaced with a dark blue military style soft cap, but this may be replaced during inclement weather by a navy blue knit watch cap. A French blue Gortex® jacket may also be worn.⁴³

“After the riots, Troopers [were] issued a Seabag to carry their clothes and gear. [It was] referred to as a *Regulation Duffle Bag*, sold by Sears, Roebuck and Company and made in Japan. It was 21” by 36” [with a] heavy web handle and shoulder carrying strap, [and made of] water repellent cotton canvas.”⁴⁴

As the New Jersey State Police continues to grow and adapt with the changing times, so too does the uniform. While at first blush the modern uniform may appear different from the original, after nearly a century of existence and modification, the basic uniform is little changed from the original. Through their uniform, the Troopers of the 21st Century have a connection with not only those who have gone before them but with Colonel Schwarzkopf himself. When the graduates of the State Police Academy don the uniform for the first time, they are doing more than simply wearing a holster, gun and a badge – they are assuming the raiment of nearly a century of a proud history.



43 New Jersey State Police. *Standing Operating Procedure C5*. December 30, 2008.

44 Krech, Walter. Captain. *E-mail to author*. October 23, 2009.

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