



PRESS RELEASE

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Lincoln Police Department Issues Load Bearing Vests

LINCOLN, CA, April 19, 2010 -- Lincoln Police Officers are sporting a new look on the streets these days. Officers will be wearing load bearing vests that will allow them to equally distribute the weight of the equipment they are required to carry. By replacing the current "duty belt", officer will be able to take more than 20 pounds off their waist and will reduce the daily strain that is placed on the lower back and abdomen. The vest is intended to improve the officer's overall movement and prevent injuries and trips to the chiropractor's office.

The load bearing vest is not a rare tool for police officers. This tool is widely used on the east coast and middle America, and now moving to the west coast. The Lincoln Police Department is taking a proactive approach to this issue by authorizing the use of the load bearing vest as a preventative measure to reduce injury, fatigue and potential workers compensation claims and loss of work time because of back pain or injury.

The vests that officers will be wearing are from Richard Cowell Company, and individual officers will pay for their own vest. The Richard Cowell Company has been supplying vests to law enforcement since 1979. This is an effective option for patrol officers and will add a little extra comfort and mobility as they carry out their daily duties.

Lincoln Police Officers typical duty belt consists of a sidearm, two magazines, two handcuffs, a radio, flashlight, tazer, baton, etc. The vest will allow officers to move those items from their hips to their upper torso and suspend the weight from their shoulders. Additionally, when an officer is at the station, they are able to quickly and easily remove the vest, thus decreasing the weight while writing reports, etc.

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