



ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.

CPRC

CANADIAN POLICE RESEARCH CENTRE



CCRP

CENTRE CANADIEN DE RECHERCHES POLICIERES

TM-01-96

1995 DUTY BELT AND UNIFORM PANT EVALUATION

By: Provincial Constable Val Baun
Director OPPA Mark Dudley
Provincial Constable Cam Woolley

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by
OPP Supply Section,
Transport & Supply Branch

January, 1996

NOTE: Further information
about this report can be
obtained by calling the
CPRC information number
(613) 998-6343

Copyright of this document does not belong to the Crown.
Proper authorization must be obtained from the author for
any intended use.

Les droits d'auteur du présent document n'appartiennent
pas à l'État. Toute utilisation du contenu du présent
document doit être approuvée préalablement par l'auteur.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ontario Provincial Police conducted field tests of the nylon duty belt and components, and poly-cotton uniform pants between August 1994 and March 1995. Comparisons were made to the leather belt and components, and the polyester pants currently being worn. Comfort, weight, security, appearance, fit, durability, maintenance, and material were all considerations taken into account in this evaluation.

An overwhelming majority recommended conversion to the newer materials.

SOMMAIRE

La Police provinciale de l'Ontario a mis à l'essai la ceinture de service en nylon et ses éléments, ainsi que le pantalon d'uniforme en coton/polyester entre août 1994 et mars 1995. On a comparé ces articles à la ceinture de service en cuir et ses éléments, ainsi que le pantalon en polyester actuellement porté. L'évaluation a porté sur le confort, le poids, la sûreté, l'apparence, l'ajustement, la durabilité, la facilité d'entretien et les matières.

Une forte majorité a recommandé l'adoption des nouvelles matières.

1995
DUTY BELT
AND
UNIFORM PANT
EVALUATION

SUBMITTED BY:

VAL BAUN
Provincial Constable
Amherstview OPP

MARK DUDLEY
Director
OPPA

CAM WOOLLEY
Provincial Constable
#5 DHQ Traffic Unit

INTRODUCTION

This test represents a substantial commitment on the part of the Ontario Provincial Police to demonstrate that it is responsive to their members needs.

A sub-committee was formed to examine the current duty belt because of complaints received from smaller stature officers. They found the present system extremely uncomfortable and difficult to wear. Some of the problems identified by field members were overcrowding of equipment, back strain and weight.

The sub-committee examined what was being worn versus what was necessary to be worn on the existing belt. The committee agreed that all of the levels of force should be worn on the duty belt wherever possible.

The individual items on the duty belt were examined to see if the size of each holder could be reduced. The leather manufacturers were limited in their ability to modify their equipment because of the sewing process involved with leather. They were able to save approximately 1" to 1 1/2" collectively around the belt. This was done by trimming the excess leather from around the edges of each holder. The committee felt that this was inadequate and began to consider other alternatives.

Several nylon distributors were contacted and asked to go through the same process. These suppliers had more success than the leather companies simply because the nylon material is more flexible. Overall they were only able to save 2" to 2 1/2" throughout this process. The committee still felt this was inadequate.

The committee then proposed a new style of duty pant with side cargo-style pockets. These pants were designed to carry pieces of equipment which would normally be carried on the belt such as handcuffs, spare magazine and latex gloves.

The committee felt that the combination of a nylon duty belt and a new style pant would relieve the overcrowding that was currently being experienced.

As a result a field test was conducted involving six different nylon belt systems and a new style of poly-cotton pants.

FINAL TEST REPORT

The field test was conducted between August 1994 and March 1995 and involved twenty-four front line officers. The officers selected were of varying years of experience and were chosen solely on waist size (50% small 24"-30", 25% medium 32"-36", large 38"-54"). There was at least one officer selected from each district to participate in this test.

During this evaluation the testers were required to submit two critiques. The first was at the mid way point and the second at the end of the field test. The testers were asked to comment or score each piece of equipment according to several categories which are tabulated on the following pages.

NYLON vs LEATHER

The testers were asked whether the nylon belt system was superior to our current leather system. They were instructed to consider a number of points listed below when answering this question.

Comfort

Of the testers, 83% found the nylon system offered more comfort and 12% felt it was the same as the current leather system. One person complained of back pain as a result of wearing their nylon duty belt. This was due to the particular style of belt which was more rigid than our current issue leather belt.

The belts were easier to adjust to an exact size and did not slip down on the waist. They were all 2" wide except for one which was 2 1/4" wide. The two-belt system held the equipment out from the hips making it less irritating to wear. Less perspiration was experienced around the waist.

In addition to the field evaluation all six nylon duty belts were evaluated by Dr. Mathew Barrigar, B.Sc., D.C. Dr. Barrigar is currently conducting a study on cruiser seats and low back pain for the OPP.

Comfort Cont'd

After comparing the belt systems he concluded that the nylon belts were more flexible than the leather. The leather is more restrictive to the wearer and does not allow for normal pelvic postural positioning, which would have a tendency to increase the risk of back related problems. The nylon on the other hand, has more flexibility and allows for the back to retain a normal curvature which would have the potential to reduce back strain.

Weight

The nylon duty belt weighs approximately 30% less than our current leather system. The characteristics of the nylon allows the belt to conform to the body and provides an even distribution of weight.

When comparing weight, 87% found the nylon belt felt lighter than the leather belt. The remaining 13% felt it weighed the same.

Maintenance

In terms of maintenance, 100% of the testers found the nylon far superior to the leather. The nylon was washable and maintained it's colour and finish without the need for polishing. It required virtually no care and officers were able to brush off most dirt spots.

Security

Of the twenty-four testers, 79% found the nylon system more secure when keepers were properly used. Some belt systems had velcro on one side of the pant belt and on one side of the duty belt, so that when worn, the two velcro pieces joined together. This added to the security of the belt systems. The individual equipment holders were kept secure in place on the belt and did not slide around.

Another 8% felt the nylon offered the same level of security as the leather.

The remaining 13% of testers felt the nylon was less secure than the leather because they did not have confidence in the front buckle. Two officers did not use the keepers and a third only used two keepers. Use of the keepers is an integral part of the duty belt system and they must be worn properly to ensure adequate security.

Appearance

87% of the testers preferred the appearance of the nylon system sighting the professional look. The other 13% felt the appearance was the same. The material being non-reflective and inaudible was seen as an added safety feature. It was also well received by the public with no negative comments noted.

Overall Rating

Of all the testers, 91% agreed **that they** preferred the nylon system over that of the leather. Some comments received were, "It was ^{so} comfortable, I had to check to see if I had it on" and "In my 20 years of policing, I have never worn a belt I liked more".

The remaining 9% of the testers preferred the leather belt system because one had encountered back pain and did not like the keepers and the other did not use the keepers and was concerned about security.

POLYESTER vs POLY-COTTON

The test candidates were asked whether the new style pant with cargo pockets were superior to our current issue polyester pants. They were instructed to consider a number of points listed below when answering these questions.

Comfort

The new pants excelled in the comfort department with 95% of the testers finding them superior to the polyester. The testers, especially the women, sighted a better fit with room to manoeuvre.

The one tester who felt that they were not comfortable had some difficulty with fit.

Practicality

The new pant with the cargo pocket also found favour with 91% of the testers indicating they were more practical. Of the two remaining people, one member felt they were the same as the current issue pants. Another felt they were not as practical because there were too many smaller pockets. That member preferred one large cargo pocket but was not aware that smaller waisted people needed to remove certain items from the belt for comfort.

Some members noted that there was finally a spot for notebook, day planner, latex gloves, spare pens and handcuffs. Due to a lack of space on the duty belt some officers wore the hand cuff. pouch in the middle of their back, which was very uncomfortable. The cargo pocket were able to give the officers some relief 'from this problem.

It was noted by several testers that the new style of pant received many positive comments by the public and other professionals.

Maintenance

This was an area of concern with our test candidates as 50% of them found the test pants needed more maintenance. There were numerous complaints from members about the amount of lint the pants collected.

Of the remaining testers, 25% felt the maintenance was the same and 25% found there was less maintenance involved with the new pants.

A change to any cotton content requires adherence to the washing instructions. The use of the dryer is not recommended as the heat causes colour loss and deteriorates material. Although there will be a slightly different standard of care, the pants are still wash and wear and there will be no additional costs to the members for dry cleaning.

Durability

Similar concerns surfaced here with only 42% of the testers finding the new pant more durable. Another 29% felt they were the same as the current issue and 29% felt that they were less durable.

Wear marks appeared on some pants where velcro or equipment items were rubbing on the material. This problem occurred with only some of the duty-belt companies that used hook velcro on the inside of the outer belt or had unfinished edges on the holders. Another problem noted was uneven colour loss after several washings.

The new material does not snag like polyester and does not melt when it comes in contact with flame.

Note: Due to supply problems the officers did not receive their second pair of test pants until the final two months of the test evaluation. They were given specific instructions to wash the pants as often as possible. With only the one pair, some premature wear was anticipated.

Material

A change in material was welcomed and 66% of the testers claimed it was superior to the polyester. One tester felt it was the same as our current issue. The remaining 29 % felt that the polyester was superior to the poly-cotton. This was mainly because of the problems with lint.

The most beneficial aspect to the poly-cotton blend is that it has the ability to breathe which, in some cases, reduced health problems. Testers noted that they found the pant warmer in cold weather and cooler in hot situations.

Material Cont'd

As a result of the colour loss in the fabric and the problem with lint, the committee contacted two textile manufacturers and an independent appraiser. They were asked to evaluate the material from our pants to see if they could resolve the problem. One report indicates that the problem **with** lint is a result of using "immature cotton yarn" that is too short and "the finished yarn having a low twist per inch". "Poor colour fastness" is a result of a "lack of penetration of dye into the centre of the yarn material". In essence, the material used in the pants was of very poor quality.

It should be mentioned **that the** manufacturer for our duty pants was not given any specifications for cloth for our test pants. The company used fabric that was readily available and should not be faulted for the problems associated with the cloth.

Overall Rating

The results showed that 87% of the testers preferred the new style of pant. Of the remaining 13% two testers liked the material but not the design. One stated that the style was too military looking and the other felt only one large pocket was needed. The third dissenting tester liked the new style but had so many problems with lint that it detracted from the overall appearance of the pants.

The new pant freed up more room on the belt for equipment by eliminating the duty belt loops and adding side pockets. These pockets were sighted as being very handy for **all the** items officers are required to carry with them on a daily basis. This is important during the summer when pockets from the patrol jacket and parka are not available.

Some slight modifications will be made to the design of the cargo pocket as a result of input received from the field evaluation.

- .the velcro strip on pocket flaps will be reduced to **two 1"** strips with a space in the middle
- .the zipper will be eliminated from the side pockets
- . the pockets will be placed 2" higher on the pant leg
- .the cuff pocket will be a consistent 3 1/2" square
- .the top of the cuff pocket will be situated 1/2" below the flap

Overall, the concept of the new design was well received by both members and the public and still projected a professional image. The problems with premature wear and collection of lint have been dealt with by establishing a minimum performance standard for the fabric.

NYLON DUTY BELT COMPONENTS

There were six different duty belts tested in various parts of the province. Due to logistics, only one test belt was given to each candidate. The deployed nature of our Force prevented the testers from comparing their belts with others **being tested**. Therefore, the only correlation made was between the current issue duty belt and the nylon systems.

Understanding that each different belt system had strengths and weaknesses, **the** testers were asked to rate each piece of equipment on a scale of one (not appropriate) to five (perfect).

Outer Belt

The majority of testers, **86%**, felt that the outer belts were good or perfect. They were comfortable, lightweight, and easily adjustable. The 2" width was seen as an improvement over the wider leather issue. The non-reflective, low-maintenance material kept up a new appearance.

The remaining **14%** of the testers felt that the belt needed minor or major modifications. One of these three testers did not like the outer belt as they experienced low back pain after wearing the equipment. It is interesting to note that this person had equipment from the only company that supplied belts in a 2 1/4" width. They were also the only female to test a belt system from that company.

The other two testers were concerned that the belt was not secure. They chose not to wear the keepers supplied which is important in securing the belt system.

The hook velcro on both the inner and outer belt had a tendency to wear on the pants around the waist band..

Inner Belt

In this area the majority of the testers, **75%** felt that the inner belt was good or perfect. The use of the inner and outer belt, with the keepers, made for a very secure and comfortable duty belt system. The ability to adjust the inner belt to each individual waist size was an added benefit.

The remaining **25%** felt the belt needed major or minor modifications. All of these testers has inner belts that were equipped with hook velcro. This was a problem as it wore on the pants and other equipment, collected lint, and stuck to chairs when the outer belt was not attached. The velcro on the inner belt detracted from the overall appearance when worn without the outer belt.

Inner Belt Cont'd

Some belts were too long and the excess material had to be tucked under or cut off. This demonstrates the need for exact sizes rather than just small, medium or large.

Keepers

The majority of the testers, 79%, felt the keepers were good or perfect. They found the nylon system more secure than the leather when the keepers were used.

Of the remaining 213, two testers failed to wear the keepers and three testers felt the keepers needed some changes. They noted that keepers with velcro closures or made of elastic were not as secure as ones with snaps.

With a two belt system, keepers are used to provide added security as well as firmly anchor the outer belt to the inner belt. This assists in distributing the weight of the components evenly around the belt. The importance of this safety feature will need to be stressed to all members.

Holster

Initially there were twenty nylon holsters received from three different companies. Some of these holsters were constructed from a Cordura nylon laminate with 1/4" foam padding and did not comply with the current policy in the Policing Standards Manual. Section 1004.02 (a) states that "the main body of the holster is to be a unitary moulded pocket."

In addition Section 1004.02 (d) states that "the holster is to provide a resilient squeezing affect to inhibit relative movement while in the holster and to prevent accidental removal of the handgun while in the holster." The holsters that were tested had a new security feature that uses an internal locking device and an adjustable tension device that applies varying amounts of pressure against the gun while inside the holster.

Two of these three types of holsters were removed from service because one literally fell apart and another was deemed to be insecure. Part way through the test one model was sent back into the field after a new style was presented but there was insufficient time to do a proper field evaluation so these comments and scores were not tabulated in this report. In the end, a total of eight holsters from only one company were field tested for any significant amount of time.

Since some of our field testers did not have sufficient background experience to do a technical evaluation of the holsters, we relied on them to provide comments relating to the appearance, security, accessibility, comfort, durability, and function of the holster.

Holster Cont'd

Of the eight holsters tested, the majority of the members (6 of 8) felt the holsters were good or perfect. One officer felt their holster was not appropriate. This officer could not draw their gun very well due to an incompatible belt system. Some holsters were tested on other belt systems which for the most part, proved to be unsuccessful. This further emphasises the need for a single source for equipment.

The remaining officer stated that the holster was good but minor modifications were needed. They were concerned about the amount of practice time required to master the different draw technique. It should be noted that the manufacturers were constantly modifying the holsters and other equipment as requested throughout this test.

Several positive comments were made with regard to the added security features found on the new models tested. Some testers stated that the current issue holster for the new pistol does not provide enough security. Throughout this evaluation the committee members have received comments from field members who have expressed similar concerns even up to the time of this writing.

A technical evaluation was coordinated by the In-Service Training Department in Aurora.

The report from In-Service Training indicates that none of the new style holsters were suitable due, in part, to the light construction. Another concern was that these new style holsters would require both initial training and constant practice in order to remain proficient enough to use the holster in critical situations.

There was no set criteria laid out for the evaluation of the holsters which caused inconsistencies in the test and evaluation by In-Service Training. With no supporting data, conclusive results could not be tabulated.

A scientific evaluation was sought by consulting an independent expert, Mr. Ted Ryczko, P. Eng.

Mr Ryczko evaluated four different holsters one of which was our current issue. His results revealed that our current issue holster is the best holster for Police use. However, he felt that the new type of holster with the internal locking device could also be an acceptable provided officers were given sufficient training.

There is a great deal of controversy over accessibility and security. Some members feel that we need a holster that provides an additional level of security while others prefer the speed of the current top draw holster. These new style holsters could satisfy the concerns of both these groups.

Holster Cont'd

Mr Ryczko requested modifications to the test holsters that were provided to him. As a result, his comments were based on those modified holsters. The In-Service Trainers and the test candidates based their comments on the original models which further added to the inconsistencies of the holster portion of this evaluation.

Handcuff Pouch

The majority of testers (**75%**) found the nylon cuff pouches to be good or excellent. They held the cuffs securely, maintained their shape and appearance, and were comfortable to wear. They also felt the pouch should be as small as possible and form-fit the cuffs.

The remaining **25%** felt that their cuff pouch would be good with minor changes. **One** pouch had the seam split at the side, another had snaps that came undone, and the remaining two pouches were too bulky. All of these things re-enforce the need for good quality snaps, proper stitching and form fitting pouches.

Two officers who listed the pouch as non-applicable removed them from the duty belt to avoid back pain.

The cuffs were carried in a specially designed cargo pocket. Some companies supplied a cuff pouch that had a small compartment to carry latex gloves. The need for this is somewhat redundant with the introduction of the cargo pockets. Most felt that had a plastic-coated, non reflective snap was the quietest and most secure form of closure for the pouch.

Capsicum Spray Pouch

Of all the testers, **92%**, found the spray was easily removed from the holder which was an improvement over the leather pouch. The snap closure with non-reflective coating was preferred.

The remaining 8% rated the holder good with minor modifications. One person felt that the canister needed reinforcing to protect it from damage and the other complained that the material was too stiff and the snap was difficult to undo.

Expandable Baton Holder

All officers felt it was a great improvement to be able to wear all three levels of force on the belt comfortably. The expandable baton was unobtrusive, took up very little space, and was easy to access.

The majority of testers, **66%**, preferred the open holder. They recommended that it be modified to allow the baton to be re-holstered once extended as there are times when the hard surface required to collapse a baton is not available.

Expandable Baton Holder Cont'd

The other 34% felt that the holder was acceptable with major or minor modifications. Some of the comments received were that the holders needed to provide a tight fit for the batons to prevent movement while inside the pouch. This pouch must firmly hold the baton in the carrier yet still allow for easy access.

Some companies supplied pouches with flap closures and the testers felt that this feature was cumbersome and not required. One holder was not worn as the tester did not receive baton training.

Flashlight Holder

The majority of the officers, 67%, felt **that the** flashlight holders were good or perfect. It is interesting to note that all of these testers had the same type of holder which was a simple nylon loop with a ring attached to one end for the flashlight. Of these, the ones with the snap closures were preferred.

Of the remaining 33%, one officer did not use the holder and the others had holders that were all nylon construction. These were not comfortable, flexible, or user friendly. It was suggested that the holder be narrow enough to place anywhere on the belt and accommodate both the current issue flashlight and Mag-light.

'Magazine Pouches

The majority of the testers, 75%, felt that their magazine pouches were good or perfect. The nylon magazine pouches with the hard plastic inserts and snap closures were preferred. These plastic inserts allowed for easy access, protected the magazines, and maintained the shape of the holder.

An additional 20% felt that the magazine pouches needed either major or minor modifications. They noted that some pouches were too large and took up too much room on the belt. It was suggested that pouches could be designed so that magazines could be stacked one in front of the other to take up a minimal amount of space. Most officers prefer to wear both magazines on the belt.

Other officers stated that some pouches were too loose or stiff which again emphasises the need for pouches that are specifically designed to fit our equipment. One company had pouches that sat too high and the snaps had a tendency to snag on things such as the seat belt. It is important that the carriers are seated low enough on the belt to allow for proper access and comfort. To protect the magazines from dirt and moisture, there should be no opening in the bottom of the holders.

The remaining tester felt that the magazine pouches provided were too flimsy, the pouch was so large that the magazines fell out, and that it was generally a poor design. This person removed the pouches from their belt.

Radio Holder

The vast majority of people, 79%, felt that the radio holders were good or perfect. The preferred holders were those with soft-sides, had elastic straps with snap closures, and were equipped with the "D" ring mount.

The remaining 21% felt that either minor or major modifications were needed to the holders. Some comments on one style were that the "D" ring was awkward to manipulate and the holder was difficult to remove from the belt. Another style of holder did not have the ability to swivel which was seen as a negative feature. It also hung too low and bounced when running.

It was noted that holders with open sides left the reflective metal on the radio exposed causing concerns about officer safety. The holders with inserts caused much more wear to the pant material than those without.

The committee recognized the fact that, if a sufficient supply was on hand, it may be prudent to keep the current issue holders and "D" ring mounts until new radios are purchased.

Expandable Batons

The testers were issued only one of two types of expandable batons, ASP and Casco, in either a 21" or 26" length. No comparison was made between the different types or lengths of batons. In addition no one style or length of baton was preferred by the testers because they compared the expandable batons to a wooden baton.

The large majority of testers, 83%, indicated that they thought the batons were good or perfect. The officers commented on how confident they felt having all of the levels of force with them at all times. This type of baton was unobtrusive, easy to carry, and delivered a powerful blow when used.

Of the remaining two testers, one did not receive training on the expandable baton so it **was** not worn or used. The second officer had been issued with a 21" Casco during the evaluation. During the first three months of the test this officer used a 26" ASP baton which had been purchased privately. During the latter months of the test the officer used the Casco baton and found that it began to rust, was difficult to extend and had a tendency to collapse freely.

All batons were carefully examined following the test period and it was noted that eight of the twelve Casco batons (**66%**) **had problems** with the foam covering on the handles sliding forward. One moved forward as far as 1 1/4 ".

Expandable Batons Cont'd

In addition, four of the Casco Batons (33%) had rust on the metal shaft and at either end. Some members tried to control the rust by using oil but were unsuccessful. One Casco baton was losing the finish and another would not stay extended and collapsed with a slight shaking motion.

Only one ASP had a slight amount of rust at the tip inside the bare threads.

On March 20th, 1995, the Sub-Committee was tasked by the Clothing and Equipment Committee to determine which of the two lengths would best meet our needs. The Committee reviewed submissions from individual testers, In-Service Training Unit # 2 District, and a report from the University of Alberta's Biomechanics Lab, Department of Physical Education and Sports Studies were reviewed.

As a result the longer baton was deemed to be more effective because of the increased striking power and a significantly longer reach which enhances officer safety. Some officers may have difficulty accommodating the 26" ASP:as it is 2" longer and 3.2 ounces heavier than the 21" ASP baton. It was recommended that the shorter baton be available to officers experiencing discomfort with the 26" baton.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION

The last question on the critique asked whether or not the officers would recommend that the OPP consider replacing our current issue with this new style of pant and nylon duty belt system.

An overwhelming majority, 96% of the testers, recommended the new belt and pant be considered for issue to operational members.

The only dissenter was concerned about the security of the buckle. They felt that if it could be made more secure, the nylon system would be superior to the leather. This tester was one who did not like using the keepers provided.

The comments made by this tester concerning the pant centered around the poor quality of material and the problem with lint. They suggested that the velcro on the pocket flaps was too noisy and that the stitching in the front creases did not stay in.

All of these concerns have been addressed by establishing a minimal performance standard for the material and construction of the pants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After evaluating the test results the Duty Belt Sub-Committee recommends that the Ontario Provincial Police adopt the following:

1.0 NYLON DUTY BELT SYSTEM

The Ontario Provincial Police should adopt a nylon duty belt system having components that meet the following criteria:

- Purchased from a single source for quality control reasons
- be made of a black, light weight, non-reflective, water resistant and colour fast material
- all edges and ends must be finished to prevent fraying and damage to clothing and other equipment
- any metal components used must be rust proof, scratch resistant and non-reflective
- all components should have a means of being secured in place so they don't slide around on the belt

Each component should have the following characteristics:

1.1 OUTER BELT

- not greater than 2" in width
- available in sizes from 24" to 54"
- no material to be used on inside of belt which would cause wear on clothing or other equipment
- must be compatible with the current issue holster

1.2 BELT CLOSURE

- black, non-reflective, durable, rustproof and shatter-resistant
- not effected by extreme temperature changes

1.3 INNER BELT

- . no greater than 1 1/2" in width
- . no hook velcro to be used on inner belt except for closure
- material used should not cause wear to clothing or other equipment
- available in sizes from 24" to 54"

1.4 KEEPERS

- . minimum of 4 keepers per belt system
- . made of material that will maintain its shape and appearance
- . secured with snaps
- firmly secure the inner and outer belt together
- no wider than 3/4"

1.5 HANDCUFF POUCH`

- . form-fit the OPP issue handcuffs
- as compact as possible
- have a snap closure

1.6 CAPSICUM SPRAY HOLDER

- . form-fit the OPP issued capsicum spray
- allow for easy access and replacement of canister
- flap closure secured with a snap
- reinforced (eg. plastic insert) to protect canister from wear, dents and puncture

1.7 BATON HOLDER

- form-fit OPP issue baton to provide security and yet still allow easy access
- open top with no flap and allow for re-holstering of an open baton
- 2/3 of baton should sit below the top of the duty belt for proper balance

1.8 FLASHLIGHT HOLDER

- loop and ring style which will accommodate both the Force issue flashlight and "Mag" lights
- loop to be no wider than 1"
- independently removable from belt with snap closure
- ring portion to be durable and shatter-resistant

1.9 MAGAZINE POUCH

A. Magazine pouches should:

- form-fit the OPP magazines
- be reinforced to protect the magazines from exposure and damage (eg. plastic inserts)
- have a flap cover with a snap closure
- have no opening in the bottom of the pouch
- allow for easy access to both magazines
- be no wider than 2"
- be properly balanced on the duty belt

B. The magazine pouch should be offered in two configurations:

1. Two single magazine pouches in a vertical mount
2. A double pouch with one magazine stacked in front of the other with the front magazine seated 3/4" higher than the rear

1.10 RADIO POUCH

- form-fit the OPP issue radio
- cover the majority of the reflective portions of the radio
- be a two piece holder consisting of a belt mount and radio pouch
- must have the ability to swivel
- retention straps secured with snap closure

2.0 POLYESTER/COTTON PANT

The Ontario Provincial Police should adopt a new style of uniform pant which meets the following criteria:

- made of a 65/35 polyester/cotton blend material
- meet the standards of a detailed specification for the blend of material and construction of the pant
- front crease sewn down each pant leg
- belt loops to be no less than 1" wide
- pocket linings to be made with blue or black material
- light blue stripe to be made of same material as the pant
- equipped with a large cargo-style pocket on each side of the pant constructed as follows:
 - i. overall dimension of 9 3/4" X 7 1/2"
 - ii. one large pocket with two 6" X 3 1/2" slot pockets incorporated on top of this pocket
 - iii. one pocket 3 1/2" X 3 1/2" sewn inside the large pocket on the leg of the pant, specifically for handcuffs
 - iv. sewn down on three sides with a 2" flare in on the rear seam of the pocket. These seams should be tacked down, top and bottom
 - v. flap closures on pockets allowing for easy access while still securing the pocket contents

3.0 EXPANDABLE BATON

The Ontario Provincial Police purchase expandable batons for all officers. These batons should **meet the** following criteria:

- 26" all metal ASP baton
- officers experiencing discomfort when wearing the longer baton be given the option of using the 21" ASP
- all batons be serialized for inventory purposes

4.0 HOLSTERS

Due to inconsistencies experienced during the holster portion of this test and evaluation, and because no clear consensus was reached, the Committee recommends:

- the Ontario Provincial Police conduct further tests on duty holsters as soon as possible to resolve the this issue
- the majority of the people involved in this test should be front line officers. Additional input should be sought from the manufacturers and In-Service Training personnel
- there should be strict controls on the evaluation criteria and tabulation of results to ensure continuity is maintained

TEST PRODUCT SUPPLIERS

POLY-COTTON UNIFORM PANTS

LaFleche Bros.

Custom Tailors
9835-63 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 0G7

R. LeRoi LaFleche Jr.
403-435-3456

NYLON DUTY BELT SYSTEMS

Tactical Products
30 Bevshire Circle
Thornhill, Ontario
L4J 5B3

Steven Minuskin
905-738-4711

Pro-Carry Systems
2378 Dunwinn Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L5L 1J9

Joyce McLorne
905-828-9803

Michael's Of Oregon
7305 N.E. Glisan
P.O. Box 1301
Portland, Oregon
97213

Tom Marx
503-255-6090

Gould and Goodrich
709 E. McNeil Street
P.O. Box 1479
Billington, North
Carolina 27546

Bob Gould
910-893-2071

M. D. Charlton
Box 153
Brentwood Bay
British Columbia
V05 1A0

Rob Cook
705-739-0386

Bianchi
5035 Timberka Blvd. # 4
Mississauga, Ontario
L4W 2W9

Lori Allard
905-625-5786