

POLICE NOTEBOOK

EARLY BODY ARMOURS used by Roman legionnaires, by medieval knights and by Samurai warriors all gave protection from slashing attacks by large swords but few of them offered real protection from stabbing. This, along with the increased use of muskets and other firearms led to their demise on the battlefield.

Originally body armour was the preserve of specialist units within the police services but because of very real concerns about violent attacks on police officers involving firearms or knives, there is an increasing demand for routine patrol officers to be equipped with body armour.

Whilst health and safety is the primary reason for having standards, they also perform other roles. They ensure that the users are issued with equipment which is suitable for the tasks they have to carry out, and by having a set of known performance levels they simplify the selection process for both user and manufacturer.

Different levels of protection may be required depending on the local problem which can require different solutions, and armour which is suitable for one type of activity may be quite inappropriate for another. Factors such as weight, bulk and wearability must be tailored for each type of duty in which the armour will be worn. Public image is also important especially for officers on routine patrol who are in constant contact with members of the public. Other factors such as sizing and ergonomic details are dependent on



Thames
Valley
Police

the specific details of uniform and equipment, which differ widely between forces.

Officers in Thames Valley are now being issued with body armour and CS spray, but more importantly all will be comprehensively trained to use them. Having been in the police force for twenty-four years I will find it difficult to adjust to these new additions to our equipment.

CRIME BUSTERS REVIEW

Please be aware that criminals are making telephone calls to households claiming to be from major companies (ie British Telecoms, British Gas, etc) and then calling at the householder's address. Please check all callers' identities, and if you are in doubt call the police or/and contact the company's head office.

Have you been offered any car radio/cassette players recently? If so, we have serial numbers of stolen property.

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