



For Immediate Release

Contact: Steve Zalkin
402-639-0498

NAUMD Names Toledo, OH, Police Department Best Dressed in Nation
Local Uniform Store, Superior Uniform Sales, Supplied Award-winning Look

Omaha, NE, April 12 - The next time you see a Toledo police officer, take notice of the uniform: it's one of the sharpest in the nation according to the North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers & Distributors (NAUMD). The Toledo Police Department was one of four departments to top the list of the NAUMD's annual Best Dressed Public Safety Award® Competition, a program that calls attention to the important role uniforms play in law enforcement and public safety. The award celebrates the law enforcement departments, first responders and uniform suppliers that go the extra mile to create versatile, functional and stylish uniforms that represent public safety professionals. It is the second time Toledo took home the top prize; the department also won a best dressed nod in 2006.

The Toledo Police Department (TPD) utilizes four different types of uniforms. The first is their dress uniform, comprised of a navy, long-sleeve polyester Elbeco shirt paired with a black Samuel Broome tie and navy Flying Cross trousers. A navy blue Flying Cross blouse coat with gold or silver buttons (depending on rank) and a Pershing-style cap complete the ensemble. Next is the department's everyday work uniform, which consists of navy blue short and long-sleeve Elbeco shirts and external cargo pants by Flying Cross. TPD's specialty units include SWAT, K-9, Training, Gang, and Bike Patrol. SWAT, K-9, and Gang teams wear Blauer tops with mini ripstop pants by Flying Cross. The Training Academy members are distinguished by embroidered, tactical polos by 5.11. Bike Patrol officers wear Blauer tops with versatile zip-off pants and shorts. Lastly, TPD's Honor Guard uniform consists of a Flying Cross dress coat with special royal blue and black double braids sewn onto each sleeve.

"The department strongly believes that looking sharp in their uniforms gives officers confidence, promotes pride, and is positively received by the public," said Alyssa Darah of Superior Uniform Sales, a Toledo-based distributor that supplied the award-winning look.

"Uniforms have a powerful impact on how employees are perceived, and this is particularly true in law enforcement and public safety," added Steve Zalkin, NAUMD president. "In law enforcement, a visible, uniformed public safety presence on the street, at a mall or other institution can add a sense of security and help comfort the public or allay fears."

Judges review each department's professional appearance and uniform diversity, paying close attention to detail and written standards. Since many officers have specific assignments and patrol details, there are many factors to consider, including the following: Does the uniform fit the job function? Is the appearance neat and do the garments fit properly? Most importantly, can the public immediately identify the wearer as a professional law enforcement officer?

Now in its 41th year, the Best Dressed Public Safety Award® Competition is open to departments across North America. Entries are solicited throughout fall and winter, and winners are announced at the NAUMD's annual convention each spring. All winning departments and their suppliers receive plaques.

For more information about the NAUMD or the Best Dressed Public Safety Award®, visit www.naumd.com, or email Steve Zalkin, steve@naumd.com.

About NAUMD

The North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers & Distributors (NAUMD) has served as the voice of the uniform and image apparel industries since 1933. Its 500+ members include manufacturers, designers, producers, and retailers of uniforms, as well as those who produce products and services for the industry at large.

The NAUMD works to protect the interests of its members through a series of advocacy, education, and public relations campaigns intended to arm them with the tools needed to retain and capture business in a global economy. The association has authored a number of position papers and has an extensive library of information from which members can further their understanding of the uniform marketplace. NAUMD also hosts an annual convention and trade show where attendees can source products, learn about trends, and gain practical, take-home knowledge to better run their business.

###