

MOCEAN Uniforms

by Mark Stanish, *PCI #697*

Long Beach Township Police (NJ)

Last fall, when my Chief asked me to train officers from another area department, my initial response was, “Chief, it is almost Thanksgiving...not exactly riding weather here at the Jersey Shore!” I quickly realized I was not being “asked” to do this; instead, I was being told to “get it done.” Thoughts of the cold winter wind whipping off the ocean and cold, clear nights consumed my mind. However, before depression could take hold, one name came to mind: Bill Levitt.

For those of you who are not familiar with that name, Bill is the President of Mocean, an IPMBA Corporate member and supplier of bicycle uniforms to the Long Beach Township Police Department, among many others. I thought of Bill because his uniforms would be keeping me warm and comfortable over these four training days. It was also a great opportunity to put to a few new uniform items to the test. I knew that my jacket, a waterproof Code-B jacket with a zip-in liner, would be a great first line of defense against the elements. These jackets are designed specifically for bike patrol. The cut is form-fitting but allows room for body armor. The front zipper is hidden by two flaps that block wind and rain and help maintain a neat appearance. Mocean pays extra attention to all the seams on the jacket to further reduce your chances of getting cold and wet. Perhaps the most practical feature of this jacket is that it is cut to waist length and has built-in belt keepers in the back to keep it in place for your entire tour.

Under the jacket I would be wearing a long-sleeved Metro-Polo shirt, done in my department’s yellow-over-black color scheme. These shirts utilize Mocean’s Vapor-Pique technology with Q-Wick treatment. What Vapor-Pique means for you is a comfortable, double-sided fabric with great comfort and durability. Our uniform shirts are as bright as the day we got them about four years ago. The Q-wick treatment that is applied to the inner fabric of the shirt pulls moisture away from your body to the outside of the shirt where it can aid in keeping you cool during a long ride. The shirts also have a radio microphone holder attached under the buttons at the upper chest. Very similar in comfort to the short-sleeved version that our bike unit members usually wear, the long-sleeved version gives the extra warmth you need in these conditions. The innermost layer on my upper body was the P3 Vapor mock turtleneck, worn under my vest. These shirts are made of a Nobel Peace Prize-winning material (seriously), and in my opinion, they deserve it. The P3 Vapor shirts follow the same form-fitting design as the jacket and shirt, but the material is soft and slippery, making it perfect for under your vest. It also has an advanced moisture transport system that you can read about on the Mocean website. These shirts are easy to take for granted until you get stuck wearing a cotton shirt under your vest and begin cursing yourself for leaving the Vapor shirt at home.

Next in line was keeping my lower half warm. There are a lot of choices out there if staying warm was my only concern, but being able to ride a bike comfortably and stay both warm *and* dry are tops on my priority list. Our unit members have been wearing Mocean pants since our inception four years ago, and save for minimal adjustments to our sizes, we are all using the same pants we got back then. For bad elements, we have been switching to our BDU pants so we would have room to wear something underneath, but now Mocean has that covered, too – the Approach and the Summit pants, with an extra pair of optional fleece liners. These pants are loose-fitting in the thigh area and tapered down to an elastic cuff, evidence of the attention to detail Mocean uses in designing these clothes. The loose-fitting thigh area accommodates the cycling motion perfectly while the tapered elastic cuffs keep your pants around your ankles and out of your chain. The vented knees help cool you off, which is great, as long as you are

not riding in November! All of the pants offered by Mocean have numerous pockets for pens, notepads and other necessary items. Take your pick on these pants – there is no wrong decision. It basically comes down to preference.

Bill Levitt and the crew from Mocean have it all when it comes to uniforms for bike patrol and beyond. The clothing mentioned barely scratches the surface of what they have to offer to police, EMS and security personnel – visit www.mocean.net to see their extensive selection.

Perhaps the most valuable thing Mocean has to offer is not for sale on their website, or anywhere else. I'm talking about the outstanding personal customer service provided by this company. My first experience with Bill was at the conference in West Virginia. I explained to him that we had some issues with our uniforms and were looking to go in another direction. He took all my information and after the conference was over he went to great lengths to make sure our department stayed with his company. This is even more impressive when you consider the fact that at the time we only had a six person bike unit. Whether you have one guy on your unit or fifty, Mocean and Bill Levitt are going to see that you have what you need – when you need it – so you can remain effective in your community.

In 2004, the Mocean Grant for Public Safety Cycling was established. This grant provides an opportunity for IPMBA members to apply for funds to attend the Annual IPMBA Conference. The first year, they offered one \$1000 grant. The second year, they offered three \$500 awards, and ended up giving three \$650 awards and three \$350 awards. They continued the program in 2006 – see page 16 for a list of the lucky winners! Mocean also participates in IPMBA's Product Purchase Program.

Mark has been a police cyclist since 2001 and an IPMBA Instructor since 2003. In addition to teaching IPMBA classes, he organizes 2-3 bicycle rodeos each year. His department is actively involved with Best Buy in a "Bicycling Safety Award" program, in which police officers carry five-dollar gift certificates to give to helmet-wearing kids. He can be reached at danandmark@comcast.net.

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