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anyone outside HM Service  
without authority

DCI RN 162 - 171  
1990



# Defence Council Instructions

# Royal Navy

By Command of the Defence Council

DCIs are automatically  
cancelled after one year

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
13 July 1990



1. This DCI announces the introduction of improved Warrant Officer cap/hat, beret and shoulder badges to replace current patterns and extension of the multi-coloured Royal Arms on shoulder and cuff badges to QARNNS and WRNS Warrant Officers in place of their existing badges. A smaller version of the blue mess jacket cuff badge is also to be introduced.

2. Provision has been made for a first QARNNS Warrant Officer to be appointed in due course.

### Background

3. The Fleet Chief Petty Officer (FCPO) rate was introduced in 1970 and distinctive badges first appeared in 1971. As a result of comment regarding the degree of difference between FCPO and CPO uniform appearance, changes in arrangements for wear of badges and buttons were announced in 1973, the most significant of which was discontinuance of the three cuff buttons on FCPOs' jackets. In 1985 the title FCPO was replaced by Warrant Officer (WO). In the light of this and subsequent concerns expressed about the differentiation of WOs it was decided that their uniform should be enhanced by improving the appearance of their badges.

### Design features and wear

4. Apart from standardization on the multi-coloured Royal Arms for all WOs and reduction in the size of the blue mess jacket cuff badge the design of cuff and shoulder badges is identical to current patterns. Some fundamental changes have however been made to cap/hat and beret badges. These and other enhancements are described below;



- a. *Cap/hat and beret badges.* A new distinctly different design has been adopted — in traditional colours except that the metal fowl anchor and multi-coloured crown have been taken into the WRNS hat badge. Two narrow rings encircling the central motif have been removed and the surrounding laurel wreath has been re-designed and widened.
- b. *Shoulder badge.* A single improved badge to the existing design for wear by all WOs has been adopted. Its appearance has been enhanced by incorporating the full colouring of the Royal Arms and by changing from a woven to an embroidered motif.
- c. *Cuff badge.* As with the shoulder badge, the cuff badge for wear on uniform jackets has been standardized on the existing multi-coloured Royal Arms for all WOs.
- d. *Blue mess jacket cuff badge.* A smaller version of the multi-coloured cuff badge is being introduced for wear on mess dress by all WOs.
- e. *Other anodized and gilt Royal Arms badges.* No changes to the existing design.

### Introductory arrangements

5. a. *Cap/hat badge.* All serving WOs are to be given a gratuitous issue of one new cap/hat badge which is to be worn as from 1 Aug 90.
- b. *Beret badge.* The new badge will not be available until August 1990 when a gratuitous issue of one each is to be made to all serving WOs. It will become compulsory wear on 1 Sep 90; until then the existing badge is to be worn.
- c. *Shoulder badge.* Wear of the new standard shoulder badge by all serving WOs will become compulsory after 1 Jun 92. They are to be obtained in the normal course of uniform upkeep. In the meantime mixed wear of existing and new badges between individuals is permitted.
- d. *Uniform jacket cuff badge.* All serving WRNS WOs are to be given a gratuitous issue of four each of the current RN Warrant Officers' cuff badge to replace the existing blue and gold badges worn on uniform jackets. The changeover is to take place by 1 Aug 90.
- e. *Mess jacket cuff badge.* Possession and wear of mess dress is entirely optional and since serving WOs may wish to defer replacement of existing cuff badges with new ones until their jackets require replacement, an indefinite period of mixed wear of old and new badges is permitted.

### Storekeeping instructions

6. Accounting details including those of superseded badges are shown in the ANNEX. Demands should be placed on PSTO(N) Devonport and are to be limited to known requirements for initial gratuitous issues and cash sales plus two months maintenance needs.
7. Stocks of superseded badges are to be returned to PSTO(N) Devonport.
8. BR 81 (RN and RM Uniform Regulations) will be amended. In the meantime a copy of this DCI is to be retained within the covers of the BR until its contents have been incorporated by routine amendment.



## ANNEX

RNSTS Stock No.	Description	D of O	AC	Fleet issuing price			Superseded patterns
				VAT EX	VAT	VAT INC	RSN
V095-99-130-9814	Badge beret, metal, WO, NP	EA	L	£1.12	£0.17	£1.29	V095-99-136-4884
V091-99-130-9391	Badge cap, RN, WO, NP	EA	L	£4.28	£0.64	£4.92	V091-99-135-4279
V093-99-130-9393	Badge hat/cap, QARNNS, WO, NP	EA	L	£4.99	£0.75	£5.74	V093-99-132-0706
V093-99-130-9392	Badge hat, WRNS WO, NP	EA	L	£3.48	£0.52	£4.00	V085-99-136-1762
V091-99-130-9318	Badge, shoulder, WO, NP	PR	L	£1.98	£0.30	£2.28	(V091-99-132-6489 RN (V085-99-130-3126 QARNNS (V085-99-132-6495 WRNS
V091-99-130-9315	Badge, cuff, miniature, WO, NP	EA	L	£2.44	£0.37	£2.81	