

(U)*273—Royal Marines—Band Service—Introduction of the Rank of Band Colour Sergeant

(N/NP2/RM 19/7/68—28 Feb 69)

1. The Royal Marines Band Service is being reorganized to meet the future requirements of the Fleet and the Corps. This has necessitated revising the structure of the Band Non-Commissioned Officers and consequently a new rank of Band Colour Sergeant is being substituted for the rank of Bandmaster. Rates of pay are not affected. New promotions will be to the following rank structure:—

Staff Bandmaster
Band Colour Sergeant
Band Sergeant
Band Corporal
Musician

2. Those currently holding the rank of Bandmaster are permitted to retain the rank title and to wear the uniform appropriate to the rank, but they will be employed mainly in Band Colour Sergeants posts. Those serving Bandmasters who subsequently commence a fifth-five or sixth-five engagement will be required to adopt the new rank of Band Colour Sergeant.

3. Those small ships' bands currently complemented to be commanded by a Bandmaster will, if possible, be commanded by a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, wearing Bandmaster's rank under the terms of paragraph 2 above. If for drafting reasons this proves impossible, a Band Colour Sergeant may be appointed but he will be granted local rank of Staff Bandmaster in order to maintain the status of the post.

4. After 1973, Royal Marines Bands will either be commanded by a Royal Marines Band Officer or a Staff Bandmaster.