

II. SERVICE PERSONNEL

409/84. UNIFORM AND CLOTHING—REVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAMME OR IMPROVEMENTS (U)

[D/ST83A/71/1/10—DGST(N)83]

1. The purpose of this DCI is to give the Fleet a summary of uniform improvements which have been approved but not yet implemented. The dates by which it is hoped to introduce the changes are indicated in brackets. In some instances these revise forecast dates given last year in DCI RN 408/83 (*time-expired*).

a. *Ratings' GS coveralls*

Introduction has been affected by major production delays but is about to commence in selected ships (late 1984).

b. *Officers' white overall combination suits*

Introduction has been affected by major production delays but is now about to commence in selected ships (late 1984).

c. *Action coveralls*

Fleet trials were successful subject to some design changes. Valuable work associated with quality of fit and sizing has been undertaken and has resulted in introduction being put back by one year (mid 1986).

d. *Hosiery*

All polyester thick blue socks are to be replaced by a black wool-rich/nylon pattern (mid 1985). In addition to its normal peacetime wear with boots, this sock is to be worn with Action Dress. The nylon content of the sock is diffused and does not produce a melt hazard. Officers' scales will be adjusted to include two pairs of these socks in place of two pairs of the all-wool thin black pattern currently provided.

Approval has been given concurrently to replace the thin sock with a wool-rich/nylon pattern in order to provide greater comfort and durability. Additionally, ratings' kit scales will be augmented to include two pairs of thin socks (late 1984). It is intended to use up present supplies of all-wool thin socks before the new pattern is introduced.

e. *Underwear*

It has been decided that underwear for everyday use in peacetime should continue to be provided by the individual. It is recognized, however, that underwear containing thermoplastic material, eg polyester and nylon etc, constitutes a melt hazard. The *Uniform Regulations* will therefore be amended to advise all personnel that underwear worn in ships should be of non-thermoplastic material, such as cotton (late 1984). Separate consideration is being given to undergarments appropriate for wear in action.

f. *Bed linen*

Sheets and pillow-cases are to be issued on loan to RN, RM and QARNNS (male) officers resident in wardrooms and messes in shore establishments and serving in ships. These items will be removed from outfit scales (early 1985). Laundry charges will continue to be raised against individual officers.

g. *Gym shoes*

Orders have been placed for a replacement design of gym shoe for all Naval users (late 84).

h. *WRNS officers' separate skirt*

A separate worsted/polyester skirt to the officers' pattern, obtainable under special port contract, will be added to officers' scales. New entrants will be provided with a skirt in initial outfits. Serving officers will be able to provide themselves with skirts through the contract as required (early 1985).

i. *Charge Chief Petty Officer artificers' badge*

A new skill badge, comprising a lion rampant enclosed within a laurel wreath surmounted by a crown, is to be introduced (early 1985).

j. *TS(SM) sub-branch badge*

Approval has been given to the introduction of new badges for this sub-branch whose members currently wear the radar branch badge (late 1984).

k. *Material for RN white uniform*

Initial supplies of polyester/viscose material to replace satin drill have been obtained but it is now evident that the mixed wear of trousers or shorts in one material with tunics, jackets or jumpers in the other, is unacceptable. Alternative proposals for introduction of garments in polyester/viscose are being prepared and it should be possible to make an early start with white mess jackets (1985).

l. *RM raincoat*

A re-designed RM raincoat in lovat gaberdine, with set-in sleeves and shoulder flaps for detachable rank badges will be introduced on a wastage basis (commencing late 1985).

m. *RM specialist qualification (SQ) badges*

The present range of gold-on-green SQ badges currently worn on lovat uniform is to be discontinued. Gold-on-blue SQ badges will be introduced for wear on blue uniform (early 1985).

n. *Cold weather underwear Mk II for mountain and arctic warfare and NACs*

The current white extreme cold weather (ECW) underwear is to be replaced by all-cotton olive-drab vests and drawers. The new garments, which will provide greater thermal insulation as well as being more comfortable will be introduced on a wastage basis (commencing mid 1985).

o. *RM greatcoats*

New style blue greatcoats are to be introduced to replace the khaki greatcoats

worn on ceremonial occasions by lieutenant colonels and below and WOs, NCOs and men (early 1986)

2. BR81 (*RN and RM Uniform Regulations*) will be distributed in its revised format in Nov 84. Omission of some sections from the first print has been unavoidable but their revision is virtually complete and they will be published shortly.

3. BR96 (*Stores Accounting and Storekeeping Manual*) contains a wealth of information about uniform and clothing in Appendices 16, 17, 21 and 22. It has been decided that these should be transferred to BRs 81 and 1246—*The Catalogue of Victualling Stores*—at the earliest convenient opportunity.