

DEFENCE COUNCIL INSTRUCTIONS ROYAL NAVY

Instructions in this series are automatically cancelled after one year



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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By Command of the
Defence Council

Frank Cooper

PERSONNEL

630/80. **UNIFORM—REVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS (U)**

[N/STE1022/78—DGST(N)83]

1. This DCI updates the information contained in **DCI RN 331/79** (*time-expired*) on uniform improvements approved but not yet implemented.

Changes already approved

2. The dates by which it is hoped introduction of these changes can be achieved are indicated in brackets:

- a. *RN and RNR officers' and CI I and III RN ratings' peaked caps.* The current pattern officers' detachable-top cap is to be the only version used by all RN and RNR officers and Class I and III ratings after present stocks of fixed-top caps have wasted out (late 1981, onwards).
- b. *Rate badges for RN and WRNS ratings.* Slip-on shoulder badges for wear on the heavy wool jersey are being obtained. These retain existing 'colour-schemes' (viz red on black for RN Leading Rates and POs, gold on black for RN CPOs, and blue on black for WRNS ratings) except that a new multi-coloured version is being obtained for RN FCPOs (late 1981). It is planned to authorize the use of these badges with other rigs as soon as suitable garments with shoulder flaps are generally available. Details will be promulgated later.
- c. *Addition of a pair of blue worsted/polyester trousers to RN ratings' kits.* Funds for this project were deleted from the 1980/81 programme and introduction of these trousers into ratings' kits cannot therefore be before the middle of 1982, at best. This forecast date is also subject to financial approval being given.
- d. *Black leather shoes for women.* Shoes with leather soles are to be reintroduced in all three Services. The PVC soling compound on the current pattern has not worn too well and the new shoes will take a 'stick-on' sole and be readily repairable. Introduction on a wastage basis (late 1981 onwards).
- e. *Shoes, seamen's.* After complaints that the current pattern shoe (with micro-cellular sole) is not sufficiently robust for RN use, a more sturdy item with direct-moulded soles but retaining the 'Gibson' style will be introduced on a wastage basis (mid 1981 onwards).

- f. *Swords.* Loan pools of RN officers' and Masters-at-Arms swords are being established in selected ships and establishments for issues on temporary loan for wear on full ceremonial and other appropriate occasions (late 1980).
- g. *Operations branch badges.* Two new designs for sub-branch badges have received Admiralty Board approval:

- (1) *Missile sub-branch:* A basic device of 'crossed missiles', to be issued gratuitously to qualified ratings (late 1981).
- (2) *Mine warfare sub-branch:* a re-designed basic device, still of a 'horned contact mine' but excluding the letters 'MW', will be introduced as stocks of the current pattern badge are used up (commencing early-1981).

3. *Standardization.* In considering all changes to uniform, the MOD policy to adopt standard garment designs and materials for the three Services is followed wherever possible although this does not extend to standard colours or to altering the traditional uniform appearances of the individual Services.

4. It is also MOD(N) policy, wherever it can be done sensibly, to use the same pattern ready made garments for officers and for ratings, since this helps to keep replacement costs at reasonable levels. The same principles regarding uniform are also applied to male and female personnel as far as possible.

5. The Commanders-in-Chief Naval Home Command and Fleet, Flag Officers Naval Air Command and Gibraltar and Captain-in-Charge Hong Kong are being informed separately of the following:

- a. Improvements implemented since May 1979.
- b. Items on which trials have recently been completed or are continuing.
- c. Items under consideration for approval.