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Defence Council Instructions Royal Navy

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91/02 Introduction of the Operator Mechanic (Warfare) OM(W) (U)

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Reference: RNTM 113/02

- Operator Mechanic (Warfare).* From 1 Oct 02, a new rate of OM(W) will be introduced to replace the current OM(AW), OM(EW) and OM(UW) specialisations. New entrants will be recruited to meet the new OM(W) requirement from June 2002 and will remain within the W specialisation until promotion to Leading Operator Mechanic (LOM). Current OM(AW), (EW) and (UW)s, who have not achieved the Operational Performance Statement (OPS), will transfer to the new specialisation over an 18 month period in accordance with the transitional arrangements laid down in the Reference and summarised at para 3 below. OM(AW), (EW) and (UW)1s who have achieved OPS will be re-badged OM(W)1 on 1 Oct 02. OM(C)s and OM(MW)s will remain within their separate specialisations.
- OM(W) training.* On joining the Royal Navy, the OM(W) recruit will be trained in generic aspects of operator and mechanic tasks of the current OM(AW), (EW) and (UW) in order to provide core skills. This will be followed by specific training via Targeted Employment Modules (TEMs) to meet the skills required by the Scheme of Complement line of the OM(W)'s first sea draft. After 12 months' seniority as an OM(W)2, and having achieved OPS, ratings will be advanced to OM(W)1. In the first sea draft, which will be approximately four years under the new TopMast arrangements, the OM(W) will gain experience by moving to more complex posts within the ship. Further specific training will be undertaken prior to each new post taken up within the first sea draft.
- Transitional arrangements summary.* OM2s of the AW, EW or UW specialisations will be categorised OM(W)1 on achieving OPS and completing a Mechanics Training module at the Maritime Warfare School (MWS) HMS COLLINGWOOD. OM2s of the Communications and Mine Warfare specialisations will be categorised OM(C) 1 and OM(MW) 1 respectively on achieving OPS and completing a Mechanics Training module at MWS COLLINGWOOD. OM1s who have not achieved OPS at 1 Oct 02 must complete their Task Books to achieve the full adqual. Some ratings will require additional AIO or WAP compiler courses. Full details are contained in the Reference.
- LOM extraction.* Promotion to LOM is by selection. An OM(W) 1 requires 18 months' seniority, completion of NBCD and Seamanship Task Books and a recommendation from the Commanding Officer to be eligible for selection. On selection for LOM training and promotion, the OM will be streamed (AWT), (AWW), (EW) or (UW) depending on experience gained to date, the needs of the Service and the candidate's preferences.