

*105. INTEGRATION OF THE BUGLER SECTION INTO THE ROYAL MARINES BAND SERVICE

1. The Walden Study into the organisation, deployment and conditions of service of the Royal Marines Band Service in the 1980s, drew attention to the changing pattern of employment of the bugler section of the technical branch. Whereas in the past a high proportion of buglers were employed away from bands for ceremonial and bugling duties in HM Ships, Royal Navy and Royal Marines establishments and Commando units, in recent years buglers have invariably been employed as an integral part of Royal Marines bands where they are commanded and administered by officers of the Royal Marines Band Service.

2. It has therefore been decided that the title 'Royal Marines Band Service' should in future be used to encompass both the bugler and musician sections. Notwithstanding this titular change, both sections will remain as separate sections of the technical branch with their own promotion rosters.

3. Transfer to the general duties branch in accordance with RMI 1747 will continue to be allowed for all men at present serving in the bugler section, but for men enlisting after 1 July 1979 transfer to the general duties branch will only be allowed to any bugler within 3 months of attaining the age of 17½ or before his completion of initial training, whichever is the later. Buglers who prove to be musically unsuitable may transfer at any stage.

4. WOs and SNCOs in the Bugler Section will continue to be entitled to become candidates for selection for promotion to officer on the Royal Marines SD list.

SHOULDER TITLE FOR JERSEY WOOL HEAVY