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DCI RN 123-136
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Defence Council Instructions

Royal Navy

By Command of the Defence Council

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cancelled after one year**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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131189 Uniform and clothing — review of current programme of improvements (U) [D/ST83A/71/1/10: 8209EA]

1. The purpose of this DCI is to give the Fleet a summary of improvements which have been approved but not yet implemented, together with advance details of the more significant changes under consideration for which approval is yet to be obtained. It does not provide an authority to place demands or effect issues. The dates by which it is hoped to implement changes are indicated. In some instances they revise forecast dates given previously.

2. Approved changes which have not been implemented:

- a. *Improved FR No 8 Trousers.* Following successful trials, trousers made from a more durable flame-resistant (FR) cotton material, were introduced during 1988. Issues are being made progressively as stocks of present pattern FR No 8 trousers are used up. This is an interim measure pending approval to introduce a new FR treated cotton/polyester material for No 8 shirts and trousers.
- b. *NOMEX No 8s for wear in Submarines.* Owing to contractual problems introduction of NOMEX No 8s to replace current polyester-cotton garments will be phased. Introduction of shirts is planned for Apr 89 with the trousers following later in the year. Personnel serving in submarines will receive a gratuitous issue of two sets of NOMEX No 8s. New entrants to the Submarine Service will receive two sets on appointment.
- c. *Replacement Lace for Officers Shoulder Badge.* Introduction of badges manufactured from Cotton/Viscose lace in place of EP wire is planned for Nov/Dec 89. There are no plans at present to extend the use of this lace.
- d. *RN, QARNNS and WRNS Warrant Officers' Rank Badges.* Approval has been given to the introduction of new cap and beret badges of more distinctive design and a single improved shoulder badge incorporating the full colouring of the Royal Arms for wear by all RN, QARNNS and WRNS Warrant Officers. The wear of the existing fully coloured RN cuff badges is to be extended to QARNNS and WRNS and a miniature version has been approved for wear on the cuff in optional mess dress. It is expected that the badges will be introduced progressively from Aug 89.
- e. *RN Officers' Tropical Shirts.* A modified shirt will be introduced to allow the wear of shoulder straps with No 10W Dress (Red Sea Rig). Although supplies of the new shirt will not be available until mid 1989, officers in possession of old pattern shirts may wear shoulder straps. Outfit scales will be amended to provide for 3 No modified shirts in initial outfits and 3 No of the current pattern in tropical outfits. Meanwhile supplies of old pattern shirts continue to be available on demand from PSTO(N) Devonport.
- f. *Shoulder Badges for Royal Yacht Personnel.* Approval has been given to the introduction of blue on white embroidered shoulder rate badges for wear by Warrant Officers and Senior Ratings for wear with Nos 2A, 4, 7N and 10 Dresses. Introduction is planned for mid 1989.
- g. *WRNS Cooks Working Dress.* Approval has been given for WRNS Cooks to wear the white long sleeved Jacket and check Trousers for working duties. Introduction will be effected during 1989 as stocks become available.
- h. *WRNS Senior Ratings – Mess Dress.* Approval has been given for WRNS Senior Ratings to wear a Mess Dress although the option to wear civilian clothes on appropriate occasions is retained. The Mess Dress, which is of similar design to the Officers Dress, will be introduced as an optional item with personnel able to purchase material and blouses from clothing stores.
- i. *Tropical Uniform.* Approval has been given to introduce a polyester/viscose material, as used by the RAN and RNZN, as a replacement for Cotton Satin Drill in the Manufacture of Tropical Uniform garments. It is planned

that garments manufactured from polyester/viscose will be available from late 1990.

j. *Female QARNNS Senior Ratings' Mess Dress.* Palace approval has been given to introduce a mess dress for female QARNNS Senior Rates as an optional item. The style will be the same as the female QARNNS Officers' mess dress but without the tippet and will be introduced as soon as resources permit.

k. *QARNNS - Wear of Good Conduct Badges.* Palace approval has been given to the introduction of good conduct badges for wear by male and female QARNNS Ratings. Regulations governing the wear of these badges will be the same as those for the RN and WRNS and they will be introduced as soon as resources permit.

l. *Regulating Branch Badges.* Admiralty Board approval has been given for Masters at Arms to wear an anodised crown on a white wrist strap in 2N and 7A Dress and for Regulating POs to wear an anodised crown tie badge in 2N and 7A Dress. BR 81 will be amended to allow the wear of the embroidered version of the Regulating Branch Badge by Junior Rates on Vests, Cotton, Uniform. Introduction of the new anodised badges is planned for mid-1990.

m. *QARNNS Shoulder Badges and Heavy Wool Jersey.* Admiralty Board approval has been given for the introduction of detachable slip on rank/rate badges and the Heavy Wool Jersey for wear by female QARNNS Officers and Ratings. Introduction is planned for Spring 1989.

n. *Court shoes.* Following successful trials a standard, tri-Service court shoe is due to be introduced in Apr 89. The new shoe will be supplied complete with spare heels. The cash grant for court shoes will be discontinued concurrent with the introduction of the Service issue shoe and provision will be made in KUA/OUR for maintenance. The shoe will come in sizes 2 to 9 including half sizes.

o. *PT skirt.* Following successful trials at HMS *Raleigh* and RNH *Haslar*, a new tri-Service navy blue PT skirt will be introduced in 1989. It will be available in four waist sizes and two lengths with provision for special measure.

p. *Berets for QARNNS and WRNS.* Admiralty Board approval has been given to provide the Beret, RN for QARNNS Women Officers and Ratings and the WRNS; introduction is being pursued in conjunction with proposals for a new working rig for QARNNS and the WRNS.

q. *QARNNS Cloak.* DNNs has approved the introduction of a ready made cloak for female Officers and Ratings to replace the current made-to-measure item. It will be introduced as soon as resources permit.

r. *WRNR Degaussing Branch Badge.* Admiralty Board approval has been given for WRNR Degaussing Ratings to wear an embroidered blue on blue version of the RN Weapon Engineering Mechanic Sub-Branch badge. The new badge will be introduced as soon as resources permit.

s. *RNR Diver Badges.* Admiralty Board approval has been given for RNR Port Divers to wear the letter 'PD' below the RN Diving Branch badge and for RNR Ships Divers and RNR Clearance Divers to wear the badges of their RN counterparts. The new badge will be introduced as soon as resources permit.

- t. *Female QARNNS Senior Ratings – Red on White Rate Badge.* Admiralty Board approval has been given for female QARNNS Senior Ratings to wear printed red-on-white rate badges in No 8 Dress. The change will be effected as soon as resources permit.
- u. *RN/WRNS Meteorologist and Oceanographic Branch.* Admiralty Board approval has been given to change the lettering on meteorological branch badges from 'MET' to 'METOC'. This is line with the recent changes in Branch title announced in **DCI (RN) 330/88**. The new badge will be introduced as soon as resources permit.
- v. *WRNR Radio Operator (Tactical) Branch.* Admiralty board approval has been given for the introduction of an embroidered blue version of the RN RO (Tactical) badge for wear by Ratings in the newly created WRNR Radio Operator (Tactical) category. The new badge will be introduced as soon as resources permit.

3. Proposed improvements for which approval to implement has yet to be obtained:

- a. *FR No 8s.* Fleet Trials of FR No 8 Shirts and trousers manufactured from cotton rich/polyester material have been successfully completed. Although this FR treated blended material has no easy care advantages over FR cotton, under trial it has proved to be smarter in appearance and more durable than the current FR Cotton. Subject to formal approval it is hoped to replace current pattern No 8s on a wastage basis commencing in 1990.
- b. *WRNS/QARNNS Working Dress.* Consideration is being given to the provision of working dress for QARNNS/WRNS, consisting of appropriate shirts, trousers, boots, socks, berets and badges.