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Defence Council Instructions

Royal Navy

Kewin Tethi

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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75/00 Re-Introduction of Red Beret Badges for Artificers

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Background

1. Changes to the Uniform Regulations resulting from the Hobbs Report phased out Class III uniform for Artificer Junior Ratings and since September 1997 Artificer Apprentices joining HMS *Raleigh* have been issued with Class II uniform. Whilst this has clear advantages in terms of simplifying kit issue to new entries and increasing the numbers of uniformly dressed junior ratings available for ceremonial duties, the loss of identity for the Artificer has attracted comment. Artificers have a higher entry standard and undergo longer and more intensive initial training than nontechnician ratings and it is appropriate that this should be recognised. Therefore, the re-introduction of the woven red beret badge (originally the Class III cap badge) to readily distinguish the artificer in working dress, while retaining the benefits of the common ceremonial uniform, has been approved.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this DCI is to promulgate the re-introduction of the red beret badge for Artificer Junior Ratings.

Implementation

3. With immediate effect, all Artificer Junior Ratings will wear the red cloth beret badge (NSN No 8455 99 416 4258) from completion of Part I training. The badges will be awarded to Artificer Apprentices at HMS *Raleigh*.

4. All Artificer Junior Ratings who have completed Part I training since September 1997 are authorised to one-for-one exchange their metal beret badge for a red cloth badge.

5. BR81 will be updated in due course, in the meantime a copy of this DCI is to be kept in the front of the publication.