

ARMY CLOTHING REVIEW

A comprehensive review of garrison dress has changed what officers and soldiers will wear to work from 2010 in a barracks environment.

The changes were made to more than 10 orders of dress after Chief of Army endorsed a review into the clothing items, of which some were in service for 30 years.

The review was commissioned to examine options for the rationalisation of Army Standing Orders for Dress and ancillary clothing items, with the aim of reducing the range and complexity of Army's clothing inventory.

Brig David Mulhall, Chief of Staff AHQ, said the review team had little trouble identifying opportunities to reduce the number of uniform variants issued across Army.

"We estimate that the savings we have found are in the order of \$4 million per year. These funds will then become available for reinvestment into other areas of capability in line with Chief of Army's priorities," Brig Mulhall said.

As part of the changes there will be the wider wearing of DPCU, a reduction in the Initial Free Issue entitlements of polyesters, and the complete removal of some other dress items.

"The review team took a pragmatic, common-sense approach. In many cases, we simply ratified what has become normal practice across the Army, such as wearing DPCU as dress of the day," Brig Mulhall said.

Dress Order 4A will be retitled General Duty Dress DPCU and will be mandated as dress of the day across Army, including AHQ. Personnel in non-Army Groups will be authorised to wear DPCU as normal dress of the day, subject to approval by their Army administration CO.

There will also be tighter procedures introduced for issuing and handing back of DPCU.

One decision that is likely to be popular is that elastic sided black leather boots, such as those made by RM Williams and Baxter, are now authorised to be worn with polyester and service dress uniforms at all times, except for ceremonial parade order of dress. They can be purchased at member's expense and are to be brush polished.

"The review team has more work to do. The decisions that we've made so far are the easy ones. Further savings in garrison clothing can be made, but we believe it essential that we listen to and get feedback from across the Army," Brig Mulhall said.

"We'll be establishing a number of ways for our officers and soldiers to directly give us their opinion on what other changes we can make to garrison clothing. This will include a direct email address and social media forums on the DRN and internet."

“It’s about time that we really started using the Army Facebook site and our other forums to hear what people have to say,” Brig Mulhall said.

A CA’s directive will be issued within the next few weeks, with the changes to take effect from January 1, 2010.

The following changes are to be made to orders of dress in ASODs immediately

Items of dress to be removed from ASODs

2B Ceremonial Parade Dress with Sweater – to be worn only by recruits graduating from ARTC.

2D Ceremonial Dress Long Sleeve Shirt/Sweater

3A Ceremonial Safari Suit

3B General Duty Safari Suit

6C Mess Dress White Shirt

SO3 Special Appointment White Jacket

SPA2 Special Appointment White Jacket

SPA3 Special Appointment Whites

Shorts Polyester

Socks Khaki Long

Army beret to be removed from service, and the wearing of Corps berets dealt with under a separate CA Directive

Other changes to be made

2E General Duty Dress (polyesters):

- Initial Free Issue (IFI) entitlement reduced to one set per person for both ARA and ARES entrants
- The following variations to this BOI are permitted:
 - Full-Time Officer Cadets at RMC and ADFA to receive three sets
 - Reserve Officer Cadets to receive two sets
 - On posting to specified appointments, such as the Federation Guard and the Royal Military College, a total of three sets IFI for Other Ranks. This will mean no change in the short-term, but will result in the issue of an additional two sets to those members who only received one set at ARTC under the new arrangements.

4A Barracks Dress DPCU is authorised as dress of the day, and is retitled “General Duty Dress (DPCU)”. This order of dress is mandated across Army as dress of the day, and is authorised as the dress of the day for Army personnel serving in Non-Army Groups, at the discretion of respective Army Admin CO.

Combat Jacket is replaced by ‘Jacket Fleece or Jacket Interim Cold Weather’.

Replace the T-Shirt DPCU wherever mentioned with the T-Shirt Brown

SD1 Scottish Ceremonial Dress, SD2 Scottish General Duties Dress, SD3 Mess Dress Scottish and SD4 Mess Dress White Jacket Scottish are approved for purchase at

member's expense only. Commonwealth funds are not to be spent to buy Scottish dress uniforms, accessories or embellishments.

Gloves Leather Black/Brown are removed as a general entitlement and retained only for those posted on representational duties to selected countries

Female underwear: stockings, pantihose and underpants removed from IFI Block Scales. Bras are no longer to be issued as an IFI item. Female recruits and officer cadets will be assisted through the professional fitting of sports bras.

Sweater khaki lightweight may continue to be worn by those who have already received an issue. However, no further permanent issue are to be made at ADFA, RMC or Kapooka.

One Army button is to be adopted across all forms of dress as appropriate to that dress and no other Corps or Regimental buttons are to be worn.

All Rising Sun badges in future will be oval shaped, as currently worn on outer jackets such as service dress. The square Rising Sun badge, as currently worn on polyester shirts, may continue to be worn until existing stock is phased out.

Elastic sided black leather boots (similar to RM Williams' "Comfort Turnout" boot), are authorised for wear with polys and Service Dress at all times, except on ceremonial parades. Toe shape to be "Original", with a "Flat" heel and non-slip composite sole. Boots are to be well brush polished. Chisel and pointed toes, and large block or Cuban heels are not permitted. Provision of elastic sided black leather boots is to be at member's expense.

Elastic sided black leather ankle boots are authorised for wear with polys and Service Dress. Provision of elastic sided black leather boots is to be at member's expense. Patent leather boots will continue to be worn during representational parades. The following styles are approved to be worn and will be reviewed periodically: R.M. Williams styles Comfort Craftsman, Comfort Turnout, Turnout Jodhpur and Baxter styles Henry Baxter, Sadler and Horseman.

ADF Members can visit

http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/sites/_home/comweb.asp?page=67988 for more information. ADF Members are invited to send constructive comments concerning this review of garrison clothing to army.clothing@defence.gov.au. Just remember that this is not the Army Clothing Hot Line. WO2 Tony Romkes at the Army Clothing Hot Line can be contacted on (03) 9282 6602.