



## *Our Navy 1970*

### **New Working Uniform announced for mid-1970s**

The Navy announced a new working uniform to replace the dungaree working uniform. The new working uniform was expected to be in the supply system by January 1971. The new uniform would be phased in by the mid-1970s. The new uniform consisted of a light blue pullover shirt with a roll-type convertible collar, flap pockets, and black anchor-embossed plastic buttons along with dark blue straight leg trousers with fore-and-aft creases. The white hat would be worn with the new working uniform. [AH 0170](#)



### **Civilian Clothing for Chiefs**

BuPers Notice 1020 (12 Dec 1969) announced a change to uniform regulations that authorized Chief Petty Officers to possess civilian clothing at shore stations and aboard ships in U.S. ports. Civilian clothing was authorized to be worn while leaving or returning to the ship or station, while awaiting transportation after permission to leave the ship has been given, and generally in any off-duty status ashore. [AH 0270](#)

### **SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia authorized**

BuPers Notice 1020 (12 Dec 1969) also authorized the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia. The new device was a silver-color metal pin which showed the broadside view of a Lafayette class submarine and a Polaris missile circled by three electron paths. Stars positioned on a scroll at the bottom of the insignia indicate the number of patrols in which the submariner participated. Men who were entitled to both the Submarine Combat Patrol Insignia and the SSBN Deterrent Insignia were only authorized to wear one or the other. [AH 0270](#)



### **Petty Officer Performance Review Board to Weed-out Inadequate POs**

The Navy established a Petty Officer Performance Review Board to review the records of career petty officers that didn't measure up to naval standards of conduct and performance. The board was set up to periodically review the performance records of petty officers beginning in January 1970. The records of Master Chiefs and Senior Chiefs were designated as the first to be reviewed. The board would be looking for undesirable traits such as financial irresponsibility, chronic drinking problems, professional performance that warrants repeated unfavorable remarks on evaluations and other personal behavior

that would be detrimental on sea duty along with repeated disciplinary offences which discredit the Navy.

The board would make recommendations to the Chief of Naval Personnel recommending involuntary retirement or transfer to the Fleet Reserve, a warning that would require CNP approval for reenlistment or extension of enlistment, or other appropriate action including administrative separation.

The board was not given any quotas of personnel to eliminate and its actions would only affect those who did not meet standards. [AH 0270](#)

### **SEAL Team Awards**

Fifty-eight medals including four Silver stars and 21 Bronze Stars were awarded to 35 members of SEAL Team Two in a ceremony at Norfolk. This brought to 392 the number of medals and awards earned by the team since it began operations in Vietnam in three years earlier.



Vice Admiral Luther C. Heinz, Commander Amphibious Force, Atlantic, presented the medals and described the team as “one of the finest and most successful military units in any service.” The SEALs conducted many successful counter-guerrilla operations in the Mekong Delta. [AH 0270](#)

### **USS Hornet CV/CVA/CVS-12 Decommissioned**

The USS Hornet CV-12, the eighth ship to bear the name, was commissioned in 1943 and served during the Second World War, Korean War, and Vietnam War. Hornet also served as a space recovery ship retrieving the Apollo 11 and 12 astronauts. Hornet was deactivated in Long Beach and moved to Bremerton and placed on the inactive roster. [AH 0270](#)



### **Navy Supply Corps 175 Years Old**

The Navy Supply corps celebrated 175 years of service to the Fleet on 23 February 1970. 5800 naval officers were in the Supply Corps in 1970. They were responsible for the supply of a fleet of 800 ships and hundreds of naval shore installations. [AH 0270](#)



### **Uniform Changes: Pockets for Enlisted White Trousers, UDT and SEAL Insignia Authorized**

BuPers Notice 1020 of 22 November 1969, approved by the Chief of Naval Operations, authorized side pockets, back pockets and zipper-fly front for the conventional white trousers worn by enlisted personnel below Chief Petty Officer.

Breast insignia for SEAL and UDT personnel was also approved. Initially gold devices were authorized for officers and silver devices for enlisted personnel.



Other uniform changes authorized officers to wear full dress uniforms without the sword on occasions when the proper authority considers the sword “inappropriate or undesirable.” For example, officers on platforms or stands at ship launchings might be directed to omit the sword, or those participating in ceremonies in churches, where swords have been properly left in the vestibule in the past. [AH 0370](#)

### **Selection Process for MCPON #2**

In the spring of 1970, MCPON Delbert Black announced his intention to retire, after thirty years of service, in the spring of 1971. As a result, the Navy began the process of selecting his successor. The process began with sea and shore command nominating candidates. Next, the candidates received a preliminary screening by the June 1970 Senior and Master Chief Petty Officer Selection Board followed with a final screening by special selection board convened by the Chief of Naval Personnel. [AH 0570](#)

### **Regular Paydays Will Begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> for All Beginning 1 July 1970**

SECNAV Notice 7220 of 9 February 1970 announced that Naval personnel would be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of every month starting 1 July 1970 (the new fiscal year at the time). Prior to 1 July 1970, commanding officers had the option of holding paydays either biweekly or semi-monthly. The change required payday to be held twice a month, based on two pay periods per month. The only exception was when payday was scheduled on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. In those cases payday would be held on the last workday preceding that day. [AH 0570](#)

### **Uniform Changes Permit Coveralls for Wear on the Job**

BuPers Notice 1020 of 28 February 1970 announced a change to Navy Uniform Regulations that allowed Sailors to be issued “organizational” clothing – such as coveralls- when engaged in work which might unduly soil the uniform. The process was actually already authorized by NAVSUP Manual but many commands were not aware of the provision. [AH 0570](#)

### **Ribbons with no medals authorized to be worn with Full Dress Uniforms**

BuPers Notice 1020 of 28 February 1970 also announced a change to Navy Uniform Regulations that authorized ribbons for which no medals were struck to be worn on the right breast in Full Dress Uniforms. At the time, ribbons without medals included the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation and foreign unit awards. [AH 0570](#)

### **Khaki Leggings No Longer an Authorized Uniform Item**

BuPers Notice 1020 of 28 February 1970 announced that khaki leggings were no longer carried on the list of authorized uniform items and were no longer required for training at Officer Candidate School or at Naval Training Centers. [AH 0570](#)

### **Seabag Inspections only for Nonrated Personnel**

BuPers Notice 1020 of 28 February 1970 announced that scheduled seabag inspections were only required for nonrated personnel. [AH 0570](#)

### **Navy Chief Serving on 29th Year of Sea Duty**

Chief Electrician's Mate Pershing Herrell completed 29 years of sea duty—28 of it on destroyers. Chief Herrell enlisted in the Navy in 1941 and was assigned to USS Leary DD-158. Leary was sunk on Christmas Eve, 1943, while searching for U-boats in the mid-Atlantic. Chief Herrell was one of 56 survivors who spent over five hours in 46-degree water before being picked up. For the rest of World War II Chief Herrell was assigned to USS Waldron DD-699 in the Pacific. He later went on to serve in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Chief Herrell planned to retire in 1971 following one more deployment aboard the destroyer Buck. [AH 0670](#)



EMC Pershing Herrell, USN

### **Liberty Cards Not Required Except Under Special Situations**

The era of the Liberty Card ended in 1970. Effective 25 May 1970, the Armed Forces Liberty Pass carried by petty officers 3<sup>rd</sup> class and below was canceled by OpNav Notice 1050. However, under certain circumstances, liberty passes (DD Form 345) could still be required when the commanding officer considered it necessary for security or other special reasons. [AH 0770](#)

### **New Rating: Hull Maintenance Technician; SF and DC Ratings to be Disestablished**

The new general rating – Hull Maintenance Technician (HT) was to be established effective 1 January 1972. Shipfitter (SF) and Damage Controlman (DC) were to cross-rated as HTs. The DC and SF rating were to be disestablished. The merging of the SF and DC ratings was the result of an evaluation of the Navy's damage control programs and the high degree of similarity noted between the two ratings. [AH0870](#)

### **ACTOV (Vietnamization) underway**

The U.S. Navy still had a presence in Vietnam in 1970, but every day it became more Vietnamese and less American. Ships and boats continued to be transferred to the Republic of Vietnam under the Accelerated Turnover program (ACTOV). Turnovers included LST's, coastal surveillance patrol craft, Coast Guard cutters, various logistic and support craft, and over 400 river patrol and assault craft.

An important part of ACTOV was the training of Vietnamese to take over assignments being performed by U.S. Navy Sailors. [AH0970](#)

### **Extra Pay For Career Counselors**

The Navy began paying career counselors \$30 extra a month in Superior Performance Pay effective 1 July 1970. The increase in pay was the result of the CNO's all-Navy Career Motivation Conference of March 1969. The special pay was intended to give recognition to the critical importance of those key



petty officers and to help attract highly motivated volunteers to the job. [AH0970](#)

### **Surface Warfare Designator: For Qualified Seagoing Officers Only**

Officers had a new special category created in 1970: Surface Warfare Officer, which identified officers who were specialists in the field of warfare aboard surface ships. [AH0970](#)

### **Social Security Numbers to Replace Service Numbers**

The Navy planned to continue using the military service number as a means of identification until 1 January 1972. At that time, the Social Security Account Number (SSAN) would become the “military personnel identifier” according to BuPers Instruction 1070.20 [AH0970](#)

### **Navy Nurse Corps 62 Years Old**

The U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, which was authorized by Congress on 13 May 1908, celebrated its 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in 1970. Navy Nurses began serving in Vietnam in February 1963 at Saigon. Four were awarded the Purple Heart of injuries received in an attack that year. They were the first women to receive that decoration in Vietnam. [AH1070](#)

### **Ombudsman Program Established**

The Navy took a major step in establishing an ombudsman program in 1970. Chief of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral D.H. Guinn, announced the assignment of a two-star admiral whose job was to make a Navy career more interesting, more fun, and more satisfying.

Rear Admiral David H. Bagley, USN, appointed as Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Personal Affairs (Pers-P) became the first Navy Ombudsman. [AH1070](#)



### **Statement of Earnings**

To assist Navy personnel in acquiring a better understanding of the Navy pay system, all Naval personnel were to be provided with a statement of earnings (no later than 30 October 1970.) The statement itemized all continuing pay, allowances and deductions in effect. After 30 October, additional statements would be available upon request by the service member. [AH1070](#)

### **Civilian Clothing Authorized On Base For All Personnel**

The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Zumwalt, authorized civilian clothing to be worn at all Naval Bases except during normal working hours and when a member was on duty. NavOP Z-12 (Z-Gram) authorized commanding officers of shore establishments to permit all Naval personnel to wear civilian clothing at all base facilities outside of working hours or when off duty. One of the benefits of Z-Gram 12 eliminated the requirement for Sailors to be in the uniform of the day for the evening meal in the mess hall as well as in the barracks when not on duty. [AH1070](#)

## **OTs Selected**

More than 900 Sonar Technicians and Electronics Technicians were selected for conversion to the new Ocean Systems Technician (OT) rating. The new OTs initially retained the specialty mark of their former ratings until OT rating badges became available. [AH1070](#)

## **Ombudsman for Navy Wives at Shore Commands**

In the fall of 1970, all shore-based commands were directed by the CNO to establish procedures which provided Navy wives a channel of communications with Shore Base Commanders. The purpose was to give them an opportunity to express their views, suggestions, and/or complaints. The program provided for selection of a Navy wife as a representative by each local wives organization with direct access to the commanding officer. [AH1070](#)

## **Keel Laid for USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVAN-69)**

On 15 August 1970, the keel for the third nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower CVAN-65, was laid at Newport News. The new carrier was expected to join the fleet in 1975. In the next shipway, Eisenhower's sister ship USS Nimitz CVAN-68 lay half completed. Nimitz was expected to be commissioned in 1973. Ironically, at the same time, USS Enterprise CVAN-65 was also present at Newport News Shipyard for maintenance. [AH1070](#)

## **Uniform Regulations**

Changes to Uniform Regulations authorized commands to supply messmen with white trousers and tee shirts. The change was a result of the 1969 Career Motivation Conference's recommendation that organizational clothing be provided to personnel engaged in work that might unduly soil their uniforms.

Other uniform changes in 1970 included:

- Metal base synthetic substitutes (for rating badges) may be worn on uniform where gold lace and silver are specified for insignia.
- Metal breast insignia was authorized for wear on the new Navy working uniform.
- Chiefs were authorized to wear reefers-modified peacoats with rating badges removed and gold buttons added-on or off base, with working and service dress blue uniforms.
- The optional bellows pleat in the service dress khaki coat was eliminated, with a one-year phase-out period.
- A new rating badge (Neptune's trident rising thru waves) was approved as the specialty mark for the Ocean Systems Technician (OT) rating.
- The Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation awarded by the Republic of Vietnam was authorized for wear on the U.S. uniform. [AH1070](#)

### **Three-Day Holidays for 1971**

A new federal law created eight 3-day federal holidays starting in 1971. Time off was granted on a one-for-one basis-one working day off for each day of holiday duty. If a holiday fell on a weekend, then the Friday before, or Monday after, would be observed as a holiday. Under the new law, certain public holidays would not be observed on their traditional dates. [AH1170](#)

### **Small Craft Insignia Authorized**

Officers and petty officers in charge of riverine and coastal craft under combat conditions in the Republic of Vietnam were authorized a breast insignia. The new insignia was authorized by the CNO, Admiral Zumwalt, in Z-Gram 51. [AH1270](#)

### **New Director of WAVES**

Captain Robin L. Quiqley was named as the new Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Women. Captain Quiqley would succeed Captain Rita Lenihan. Captain Quiqley entered the Navy in 1954. She would become the eighth Director of WAVES on 4 January 1971. [AH1270](#)

### **MCPON #2 Selected**

Master Chief Aircraft Maintenceman John D. Whittet was selected as the second Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. Master Chief Whittet enlisted in the Navy in 1943. He was selected to relieve MCPON Delbert Black who was scheduled to retire in March 1971. [AH1270](#)