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MSGID/GENADMIN,USMTF,2008/COMUSFLTFORCOM NORFOLK VA// SUBJ/INTRODUCTION OF THE FLAME RESISTANT VARIANT COVERALL AND /ROLL-OUT PLAN TO THE FLEET//

REF/A/MSGID:LTR/CNO/05DEC2012/3541-/-/FN:100080//

AMPN/REF A IS CNO LTR DESIGNATING USFF AS EA FOR DAMAGE CONTROL MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT.//

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GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. THIS IS A COORDINATED COMMANDER, U.S. FLEET FORCES (USFF) AND COMMANDER, PACIFIC FLEET (CPF) MESSAGE INTRODUCING THE FLAME RESISTANT VARIANT (FRV) COVERALL. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES A SYNOPSIS OF THE FRV ROLL-OUT PLAN AND GUIDANCE ON THE OCCASION AND MANNER OF WEAR.

2. BACKGROUND. SAILORS ARE OUR NAVY'S MOST CRITICAL ASSET.

ALTHOUGH THE LIKELIHOOD OF A MAJOR SHIPBOARD CONFLAGRATION IS LOW, IF IT DOES HAPPEN, THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE SEVERE TO FATAL. A COMPREHENSIVE RISK ASSESSMENT OF CLOTHING AVAILABLE TO SAILORS AFLOAT CLEARLY JUSTIFIED AN IMPROVED LEVEL OF SAFETY. THE EXISTING UTILITY COVERALLS AND NAVY WORKING UNIFORM (NWU) TYPE I PROVIDED ARE NOT FLAME RESISTANT (FR) OR SELF-EXTINGUISHING. IN ADDITION, FR ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING IS NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDED TO ALL AFLOAT PERSONNEL. AS THE EXECUTIVE AGENT (EA) FOR DAMAGE CONTROL (REF A), FFC HAS DIRECTED THE FRV COVERALL BE ISSUED TO ALL SAILORS AFLOAT AS A CRITICAL FIRST STEP IN IMPROVING THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION FOR SHIPBOARD FLAME AND FLASH HAZARDS. THE FRV WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT FUNCTIONALITY IN A VARIETY OF DAILY SHIPBOARD ENVIRONMENTS WHILE IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF OUR SAILORS.

3. FRV COVERALL OVERVIEW. THE FRV COVERALL IS MADE FROM A FLAME RETARDANT TREATED 100% COTTON FABRIC USING THE SAME DESIGN PATTERN AS THE EXISTING UTILITY COVERALL. THE NAVY'S CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RESEARCH FACILITY HAS DEMONSTRATED THE FRV'S ABILITY TO PROTECT SAILORS. THE FRV PASSED ALL FLAME AND FLASH FIRE TESTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE FLAME

RESISTANCE PROPERTIES DID NOT DEGRADE WITH WEAR OR LAUNDERING FOR THE SERVICEABLE LIFE OF THE COVERALL.

WHEN WORN WITH CORRECT BATTLE DRESS (FLASH HOOD, GLOVES, PANT LEGS TUCKED IN, TOP BUTTON BUTTONED, SLEEVES ROLLED DOWN AND BUTTONED, AND STEEL TOED LEATHER BOOTS), THE FRV PROVIDES SAILORS WITH SIGNIFICANT LEVELS OF PROTECTION AGAINST A VARIETY OF FLAME AND FLASH FIRE HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH SHIPBOARD OPERATING CONDITIONS.

IT WAS NOT DESIGNED TO REPLACE OR SERVE AS A FIRE FIGHTING ENSEMBLE BUT IS AN EFFECTIVE UNDERWAY FLAME RESISTANT UNIFORM INTENDED FOR GENERAL SHIPBOARD USE.

4. FLEET ROLL-OUT PLAN. THE FRV WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO INITIAL FLEET UNITS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. EARLY SHIPMENTS WILL FOCUS ON NEXT DEPLOYERS AND FORWARD DEPLOYED NAVAL FORCES. THE TYCOMS WILL HOLD A SERIES OF SHOW AND TELL ROADSHOWS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN FLEET CONCENTRATION AREAS TO ENSURE THE FLEET HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND FEEL THE FRV AND UNDERSTAND THE BASICS ON WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW TO WEAR THE NEW COVERALL. BASED ON PRODUCTION SCHEDULES, INITIAL FLEET OUTFITTING SHOULD COMPLETE BY OCTOBER 2014.

5. OCCASION FOR WEAR. ONCE OUTFITTED, UNITS ARE DIRECTED TO WEAR THE FRV WHILE UNDERWAY (I.E., FROM STATIONING AND SECURING SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL/MANEUVERING WATCH WHEN LEAVING AND ENTERING PORT, RESPECTIVELY), EXCEPT AS NOTED IN PARA 6. THE FRV WAS NOT DESIGNED FOR USE ASHORE; HOWEVER, COMMANDING OFFICERS HAVE DISCRETION TO AUTHORIZE WEAR OF THE FRV INPORT FOR APPROPRIATE SHIPBOARD ACTIVITIES (E.G., INPORT STEAMING, FAST CRUISE, DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS) OR ASHORE IN ENVIRONMENTS THAT PLACE AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF WEAR ON WORKING UNIFORMS SUCH AS THE NWU TYPE I. PAINT, OILS, ETC., MAY COMPROMISE FR PERFORMANCE. SHOULD THE FRV BECOME SOILED, TORN OR PREMATURELY WORN, SAILORS SHOULD TURN-IN THE UNSERVICEABLE FRV TO BE ISSUED A NEW SET.

6. EXCEPTIONS:

A. ONCE A UNIT IS OUTFITTED WITH FRV COVERALLS, THE NWU TYPE I AND OTHER POLYESTER AND POLY BLEND UNIFORMS ARE ONLY AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR UNDERWAY DURING SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS MANNING THE RAILS, CHANGE OF COMMAND, OR RECEPTIONS HELD AT ANCHOR.

B. SUBMARINE PERSONNEL WILL CONTINUE TO WEAR THE POLY/COTTON UTILITY COVERALL UNTIL A LONG-TERM ALL-PURPOSE COVERALL SOLUTION THAT IS FLAME RESISTANT AND LOW LINT IS MADE AVAILABLE.

C. THE FRV WILL NOT BE USED IN PLACE OF ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING MANDATED FOR SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS SUCH AS FLIGHT DECKS OR WHILE PERFORMING WORK ON ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS THAT REQUIRE ARC FLASH PROTECTION.

D. EXISTING STOCKS OF SUITABLE FLAME RESISTANT CLOTHING SUCH AS ENGINEERING COVERALLS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED.

7. MANNER OF WEAR. THE NAME/RANK CONFIGURATION OF THE FRV COVERALL WILL CONSIST OF A VELCRO BACKED NAME TAG AND METAL COLLAR DEVICES.

TO BUILD UNIT ESPIRIT DE CORPS, EACH UNIT CO HAS THE DISCRETION TO AUTHORIZE THE WEAR OF THE EMBOSSED LEATHER NAME TAG (SAME AS WORN ON THE V-NECK SWEATER) OR DEVELOP A FABRIC EMBROIDERED UNIT SPECIFIC NAME TAG SIMILAR TO THOSE WORN ON GREEN NOMEX FLIGHT JACKETS. NAME TAGS WILL BE VELCRO BACKED, BE WORN 1/4" CENTERED ABOVE THE LEFT BREAST POCKET, SIMILAR IN SIZE, AND SHAPE TO THE V-NECK SWEATER NAME TAG. ADDITIONALLY, THE FRV COVERALL WILL BE WORN WITH A BLACK COTTON WEB BELT FOR E1-E6 PERSONNEL AND A KHAKI COTTON WEB BELT FOR CPOS AND OFFICERS. COVERS, FOOTWEAR, OUTERWEAR AND UNDERSHIRTS FOR THE FRV WILL BE THE SAME AS CURRENTLY PRESCRIBED FOR THE UTILITY COVERALL. COMMAND BALL CAPS ARE AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH THE FRV.

UNIT PATCHES OR THE U.S. FLAG WILL NOT BE ATTACHED TO THE FRV AS THESE POTENTIALLY DEGRADE THE COVERALLS FIRE RETARDANT PROPERTIES.

IN ADDITION, SHIPS SHOULD NOT STENCIL OR SERIALIZE ANY PART OF THE COVERALLS OUTER FABRIC BUT CAN STENCIL SAILORS NAMES IN THE INNER PART OF THE COVERALL FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES. SLEEVES MAY BE ROLLED UP AS WITH THE UTILITY COVERALL. COMMANDS SHOULD BE VIGILANT OF WHAT IS WORN EITHER UNDER OR OVER THE TOP OF THE FRV. THE FRV WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT SAILORS FROM FIRE HAZARDS. USE OF POLYESTER AND OTHER NON-COTTON FAST DRYING FABRICS POTENTIALLY INCREASE A SAILOR'S RISK OF INJURY TO FLAME AND FLASH HAZARDS. THE EXISTING FOUL WEATHER JACKET (NSN: 8415-01-495-0892) AND GREEN FLYER'S JACKET (NSN: 8415-01-010-1910) USED AFLOAT ARE AUTHORIZED COLD WEATHER GARMENTS DESIGNED TO BE FLAME RESISTANT.

8. ISSUE AND SUSTAINMENT. THE FRV COVERALL WILL BE ISSUED AND MANAGED AS ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING IAW TYCOM INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL AFLOAT PERSONNEL ON SURFACE SHIPS TO MITIGATE THE RISK OF FIRE RELATED INJURIES. EACH SAILOR SERVING ON BOARD SURFACE SHIPS WILL BE ISSUED TWO FRVS. FUNDING HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO UNITS FOR INITIAL OUTFITTING AND ORDERS HAVE BEEN PLACED. INITIAL LAUNDRY TESTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE FRV CAN BE EXPECTED TO SHRINK UPWARDS OF 3%-6% AFTER THE FIRST FIVE TO TWENTY LAUNDERINGS. SAILORS MAY REQUIRE ONE SIZE LARGER AT INITIAL ISSUE. THE FRV WILL INITIALLY BE BAGGY BUT WILL SHRINK AFTER MULTIPLE WASHINGS. SHOULD THE FRV SHRINK BEYOND NORMAL FITTED WEAR, SAILORS CAN TURN IN THE FRV AND BE ISSUED A REPLACEMENT. AS ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING, FRV COVERALLS WILL BE REPLACED BY THE COMMAND WHEN NO LONGER SERVICEABLE. UNITS SHOULD MAINTAIN STOCKS ONBOARD TO SUPPORT REPLACEMENT AS REQUIRED. PHASED REPLACEMENT OF THE FRV ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE TYCOM. ALL FRV COVERALL REQUISITIONS WILL CITE PROJECT CODE "ZFR" (NOTE: THIS PROJECT CODE DOES NOT APPLY TO NAME TAGS OR OTHER ACCESSORIES). SHIPS ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROCURE NAME TAGS FOR USE ON THE FRV USING UNIT OPTAR FUNDS.

9. SAFETY AT SEA. WE OPERATE IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT CONTAINS INHERENT RISKS. THE FRV COVERALL ROLL-OUT REPRESENTS PROGRESS TOWARD MAKING SHIPBOARD ENVIRONMENTS SAFER. WHEN WORN PROPERLY, THE FRV OFFERS SIGNIFICANT PROTECTION FROM FLAME AND FLASH FIRE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SAFETY.

10. ADMIRAL GORTNEY AND ADMIRAL HARRIS SEND.// BT  
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