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CANADIAN POLICE RESEARCH CENTRE



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CENTRE CANADIEN DE RECHERCHES POLICIÈRES

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IMPROVEMENTS TO POLICE FORAGE CAP DESIGN

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by
Canadian Police Research Centre

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about this report can be
obtained by calling the
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(613) 998-6343

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The traditional peaked police 'forage cap' has been criticized for its lack of protection against ultraviolet exposure, lack of insulation, and wearer discomfort. For these reasons, many agencies have changed to a wide-brimmed hat. Enhancements to the forage cap were sought and are contained in this document.

SOMMAIRE

La casquette de police traditionnelle est critiquée pour son manque de protection contre les rayons ultraviolets ainsi que de son manque d'isolation et de confort. C'est pour ces raisons que de nombreux services ont adopté le chapeau à larges bords. On a donc examiné comment on pourrait améliorer la casquette. Les changements proposés sont présentés dans le présent document.

Following a previous field trial (reported in CPRC technical memorandum '*TM-19-95 Alternate Patrol Headgear*') and at the request of the Operational Research Committee of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the CPRC undertook this project to investigate the possibility of improvements to the traditional 'forage cap', the peaked cap adopted by many Canadian police agencies for over a hundred years.

RCMP Forage Cap

Criticism of this headgear had been mounting due to its being uncomfortable, and not providing ultraviolet protection to the head, neck, and ears.

Several agencies in Canada had conducted their own searches for alternatives and had in fact conducted their own field trials.

In 1997, The Ontario Provincial Police and several municipal police services in Ontario changed to the wide-brimmed hat in favour of the forage cap. Coincidentally, the New Zealand Police had adopted a similar style just prior.

It was felt that for those agencies who, for various reasons, were not prepared to jettison the forage cap, improvements could be made to address some of these shortcomings. The CPRC decided to hold a competition for students of fashion design in over 15 colleges and universities in Canada to design a 'new and improved' version. A cash prize to the winner was offered as an incentive for participation.

The winning design came from a student at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto. Mr. Don Lee, a final year student in the School of Fashion submitted the following entry.

Mr. Lee's design incorporates a number of high tech solutions addressing wearer comfort, better insulation and breathability, improved comfort. These are offered to law enforcement agencies to incorporate into their own designs.

The CPRC gratefully acknowledges the support and assistance given by Lucia Dell'Agense, Ryerson faculty member, School of Fashion.

RCMP FORAGERS CAP

In examining the sample sent by RCMP, the following observations were made:

- 1) Peak seemed to contribute greatly to heaviness.
- 2) Plastic form support for the top was also bulky and heavy.
- 3) Peak not flexible.
- 4) Band (yellow) nylon also very heavy and ridged.
- 5) Not enough ventilation.
- 6) No adjustable device for comfortable fit.

Observations made: 27/02/96 during personal interview with Susan Aitken, RCMP officer.

- 1) Metal inside, which protruded through badge stay inside located on the inner lower band of cap.
- 2) Badge must be removable.
- 3) Cap did not fit comfortably.

Redesigning the officer's cap also involved a look at some noteworthy points suggested by the RCMP on their poster.

- 1) Shape and image retention needed for cap to remain identifiable to public.
- 2) Protection from the elements: wind, rain, excessive heat in summer or cold in winter.
- 3) Peak is inflexible and offers no ultra-violet ray (UV) protection.
- 4) Sweat band was uncomfortable.
- 5) Doesn't fit well.

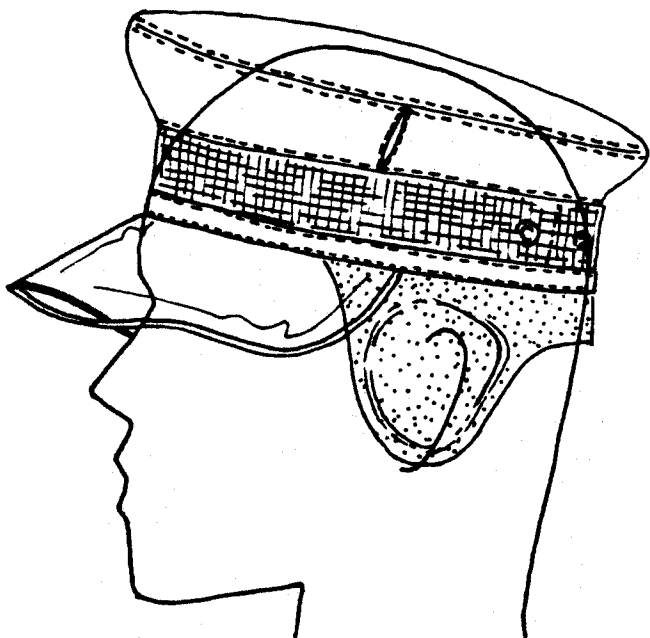
Improvements made:

- 1) Vents created at the four seams for the bottom of the cap top.
- 2) Shaped and flexible UV transparent visor.
- 3) Adjustable back: the mesh (yellow band) contains two snap buttons and the bottom band has a baseball cap type closure for adjustable fit.
- 4) Band (mesh) is made with a flexible, greater ventilated open spaced nylon mesh of lighter weight
- 5) Cap top used is wool/ laminated with Gore-Tex or nylon laminated with Gore-Tex.
- 6) Detachable ear coverings for winter use made of microfleece
- 7) Plastic support for top uses a less bulky structure maybe even a hollow plastic tubing.
- 8) Badge stay center piece (boning) is made thicker so screw of badge does not penetrate.
- 9) Use neoprene for sweatband.

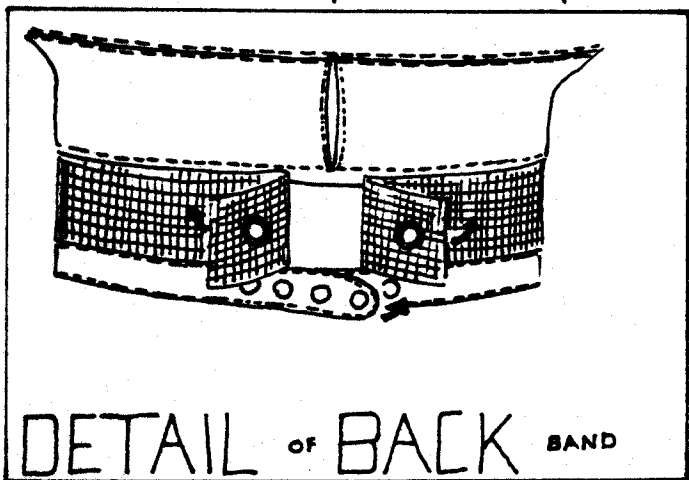
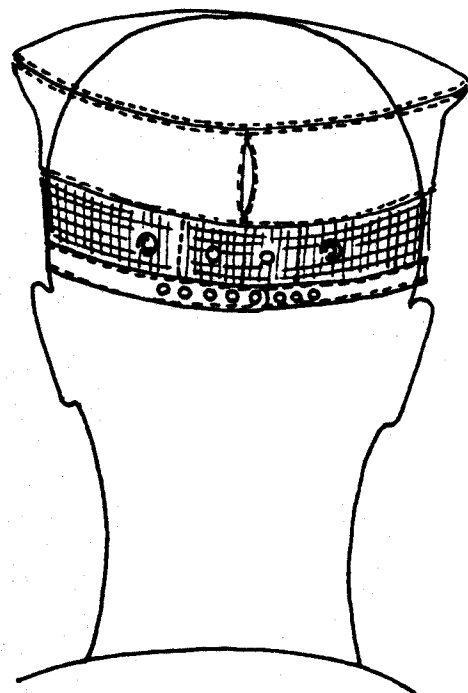
Additional notes:

The attachment for winter use may incorporate zip-lock for attachment to mesh, or may fold up and into the cap for summer use. In the latter case, a fixture of some sort has to be used to attach earpiece to inside of cap.

SIDE



BACK



DETAIL OF BACK BAND

FRONT

