



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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From: Surgeon General of the Navy
To: Distribution

Subj: MODIFICATION TO STANDARD ISSUE SPECTACLE FRAME INVENTORY

Ref: (a) AR 40-63, NAVMEDCOMINST 6810.1, AFJI 44-117
(b) BUMEDNOTE 6810 of 22 Jul 2002

1. Purpose. As the Program Executor, Military Health System Optical Fabrication Enterprise, I want to inform that effective 1 January 2012, the current "standard issue" cellulose acetate spectacle frame provided at all Armed Forces initial entry training sites will transition from the male and female, brown S9 spectacles to a new, unisex, black 5A frame. 5A frame details are available at the Military Health System (MHS) Optical Fabrication Enterprise (OFE) Web site <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/ofe/Pages/default.aspx>.

2. Background. Per references (a) and (b), standard issue cellulose acetate frames are provided for active duty and Reserve entry level trainees. The S9 has been the primary spectacle frame issued since 1990.

a. Due to interest in updating frames issued to recruits, the OFE conducted a study to find a suitable frame to add to the standard issue inventory. Selected samples were submitted to U.S. Army Public Health Command for review, and three frames were identified for user tests. Tests were conducted at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes, IL; Advanced Infantry Training, Camp Geiger, NC; Fort Sam Houston, TX; Fort Knox, KY; and Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Air Force Basic Training Training Center Lackland Air Force Base, TX; and U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center, Cape May, NJ. Surveys assessed functionality, durability, and cosmetic appearance, and the 5A frame was selected as the best option.

b. As directed, my Program Representative briefed the Deputy Surgeons General of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and they concurred with the proposal to add the 5A frame to the standard issue inventory. The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and Army Medical Command provided funding in Fiscal Year 11 to ensure an adequate supply of frames for implementation. Initial deployment of the 5A frame will occur at all Armed Forces initial entry training sites. Within 6 months, the 5A frame will be made available to all active duty Service members with full implementation expected to be completed over 2 years. Retirees are currently eligible to receive standard issue S9, S91A, and Half-Eye frames, and there will be no change to this authorization. However, over the next 2 years, the OFE will study the feasibility of providing 5A frames to retirees.

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3. My point of contact is MHS OFE Program Executor Representative, CAPT Matthew Newton, Commanding Officer, Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity, Yorktown, VA at 757-887-7329 or Matthew.Newton@med.navy.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. M. Robinson, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

A. M. ROBINSON, JR.
Surgeon General of the Navy

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