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The new "civilian" look for transportation operations supervisors, worn, at left, in this photo by Cora Hooks and Carlos Baez, is contrasted with the military-style uniforms worn by, at right, Lillian Omera-Ford and Harvey Brown.



PHOTO BY BILL HEARD

Military Look is Out, Professional Attire is In for Supervisors

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(May 19, 2004) Metro is retiring the military-style uniform worn for years by transportation operations supervisors. By Aug. 1, all TOSs will be turned out in smart blazers with gray slacks, white shirts and conservative patterned ties.

The change, which has been in the works for some nine months, is aimed at underscoring the supervisors' professionalism as a reflection of Metro's public image, says Mark Anderson, director of Operations Central Instruction and the person responsible for implementing the change.

"We want them to look less like operators and more like professional supervisors," says Anderson. "That means a less military look, while still maintaining a consistent appearance."

Supervisors have some options in choosing their new wardrobe. Wool blend or polyester blazers, both men's and women's, can be either black or navy. Slacks and skirts can be light gray or charcoal. There's a choice of plain collar broadcloth or button-down oxford cloth white shirts.

A touch of color

Adding a touch of color to the outfit is a selection of burgundy, silver, gold, blue or red patterned polyester clip-on ties for men. Women have a choice of large and small bow ties or tab ties in the five colors.

Supervisors who are assigned to Bus Operations Control or who work the desk at an operating division can wear a black or navy zipper or button sweater or a sweater vest.

To top off the new look, supervisors can choose a charcoal gray felt snap-brim hat for winter or a charcoal gray straw hat for summer wear.

The old uniform included a blue Eisenhower jacket and matching pants, a white military shirt with epaulets and patch pockets, and a black tie. Badges and service stripes were sewn on the sleeves.

Supervisors Cora Hooks and Brenda Esquivel both like the fit of the new women's uniform blazer and slacks, but neither has bought a skirt. Both items are lined and have pockets, which the women appreciate.

"The slacks are cooler than the old uniform and they're more dressy," says Hooks.

'More professional appearance'

Supervisor Carlos Baez finds the new look to be "more presentable. It gives us a more professional appearance."

Supervisor Mike Turk also likes the professional look, particularly the wool trousers, but would like to see more prominent identification for supervisors who work with operators and the public. The uniform policy calls for a bronze name badge for use on the blazer or shirt.

Metro and AFSCME, which represents supervisors, worked together to develop the new TOS uniform and update the uniform policy. Each supervisor receives an annual \$350 uniform allowance and another \$150 for safety shoes, if they are required on the job.

In addition to updating the supervisors' uniform policy, the bus operators' uniform policy is under review, says Anderson. A committee made up of Metro and United Transportation Union members is hoping to clear up any misconceptions or issues concerning the proper uniform for operators.