



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

HQBOR 10/13-C

Office of the Chief
U.S. Border Patrol
425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

MAR - 5 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL BORDER PATROL AGENTS AND AIRCRAFT PILOTS

FROM: Gustavo De La Viña
Chief
U.S. Border Patrol

SUBJECT: Transition to the New Outerwear System

The Border Patrol's new outerwear system is being phased in this fiscal year. The storm coat, the polyester-cotton vest, and the polyester-cotton rough duty jacket are being phased out. Rough duty jackets are no longer being made. The existing inventory of those items will be sold to field agents until the stock, which is minimal at this point, is liquidated.

The new waist-length jacket replaces the rough duty jacket. The new jacket is authorized for both rough duty and official uniform wear.

All the system's components except the vest are made with nylon shells laminated with Gore-Tex to make them waterproof and breathable. They are certified "waterproof" by the W.L. Gore Company, the makers of Gore-Tex. Gore was involved in the design development and made several modifications to ensure the waterproof character of the garments.

The new outerwear system represents a quantum leap forward in textile technology. The best quality fabrics and components were selected for these garments. For the first time, the Border Patrol will be able to offer its agents a system of garments that will keep them warm, comfortable, and dry in wide range of temperatures. The system includes:

- a Gore-Tex waist-length jacket with a Thinsulate liner and an uninsulated Gore-Tex hood,
- a Gore-Tex parka with a Thinsulate liner and an insulated Gore-Tex hood,
- an optional fleece liner for the waist-length jacket,

- an optional goose down liner for the parka,
- a redesigned vest,
- Gore-Tex rain and wind pants for extremely wet conditions, and
- Gore-Tex Thinsulate-lined extremely cold weather pants.

Each of the waterproof garments comes with a registration card that should be completed and sent to Gore. If you experience problems with any garment, return it to R&R Uniforms, Inc., with an explanation of the problem. Defective garments will be replaced at no charge to your uniform allowance. R&R Uniforms' customer service representatives will work with you to the extent possible within the framework of the Immigration and Naturalization Service uniform contract to ensure your satisfaction. Please take the time to complete the customer comment cards that are enclosed with your uniform shipments. The information on these cards helps R&R Uniforms to be more responsive to your needs.

Attachment