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TM-06-93 Blauer Two Piece Jacket and Pants

By Staff Sergeant C. B. Whetham

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by
Ontario Provincial Police
Transport and Supply Branch

July 1993

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SUMMARY

A two piece jacket and pants from Blauer were field tested by the Ontario Provincial Police under varying weather conditions.

The bomber style jacket shell is both wind and water proof. It has a high collar and detachable hood to protect against the wind and cold. It was tested with a vest and Thinsulate inner liner including sleeves. The jacket can be worn in a variety of ways (layered) according to the weather. There are hidden flaps with reflective tape on the back and front pockets that can be made visible for safety at night when desired.

The pants are a Thinsulate lined bib style for colder weather conditions. Zippers on the lower legs permit these pants to be put on over regular pants and boots. The pants, too, are wind and water proof.

As a result of these field tests, recommendations were made for some minor modifications. Overall, the results were favourable.

RÉSUMÉ

La Police provinciale de l'Ontario a fait l'essai d'une veste et du pantalon Blaeur dans diverses conditions météorologiques.

Le tissu du blouson aviateur est à l'épreuve de l'eau et du vent. Le blouson a un col qui monte haut et un capuchon détachable afin de protéger contre le vent et le froid. On a fait l'essai du blouson avec un gilet et une doublure intérieure de Thinsulate allant également dans les manches. On peut mettre d'autres vêtements avec le blouson selon la température. Les poches de derrière et de devant du blouson sont munies de rabats recouverts de rubans réflecteurs qu'on peut replier pour être plus visible le soir.

Le pantalon de Thinsulate est muni d'une bavette pour les temps froids. Il y a des fermetures à glissière dans le bas des jambes afin qu'on puisse enfiler le pantalon par-dessus un pantalon ordinaire et des bottes. Le pantalon est à l'épreuve de l'eau et du vent.

On a recommandé quelques modifications mineures par suite de ces essais. Dans l'ensemble cependant, les résultats sont bons.

BLAUER TWO PIECE JACKET AND PANTS

Two piece jacket and pants were issued to O.P.P. personnel for wear testing. The following are their comments pertaining to the garments.

First member's comments on test jacket and pants:

- Weight:** The ensemble of vest, jacket and inner liner is considerably heavier than the conventional park - almost twice the weight.
- Zipper:** The toggle part of the main zipper is mounted on the right side making it awkward for a right handed person.
- Pockets:** The side "slit" pockets are too shallow and small; I had trouble keeping my gloves in them. Items placed in the breast pockets interfered with the placement of items in the side pockets because they intrude into the space used by the side pockets.
- Sizing:** The waistband was too small and the zipper could not be done up while wearing the radio and gunbelt. There are side zippers to accommodate these items, but they are in the wrong location.
- Comfort:** Except for the weight, the jacket was comfortable to wear.
- Appearance:** The jacket does not look very neat due to the sizing problem and the location of the side zippers.
- Cleaning:** No problems were encountered in this area; salt spray and dirt wipe off easily with a damp cloth.
- Summary:** I found the jacket overly complicated; the inner liner is difficult to re-attach if taken out. Also, the "bib" pants were never used and would be bothersome to carry around with you, however, they would be useful for snow vehicle duty.

Second member's comments on test jacket and pants:

- The jacket has a comfortable fit and does not restrict movement in any way, fashionable cut to the material.

The velcro fasteners on the pockets are an excellent idea as they facilitate easy opening/closing the pockets.

Pockets are deep and ample.

The reflective tape on the upper back/pocket region are an excellent safety feature.

Elastic encircling bottom keeps the wind out and makes for a snug fit creating a very neat appearance.

Removable Thinsulate lining is a good feature during warmer weather and indoor use.

Buttons designed to hold the reflective strips to the pockets are a good idea.

- Zippers on each side for radio and gun are a good touch.

Hood and pants are excellent during cold weather conditions.

- The high collar is nice for protection against the elements.

All buttons, snaps, fasteners are well secured to exterior. Zipper is large and easy to open/close.

Exterior repels water well during inclement weather.

Garments are lightweight and excellent for spring/fall wear.

Jacket is not warm enough during very cold temperatures. I required my regular parka to supplement the test jacket.

The snap on the exterior of the zipper is difficult to fasten.

The bright gold buttons on the sleeves reflect the light and would make for an easy target at night.

The removable lining pulls out of the sleeves every time an arm is removed. Perhaps the addition of velcro strips to the inside of the sleeves would alleviate this.

The zipper should extend higher on the throat region. Although there is a snap at the top, a higher zipper would be more convenient.

The black material is such that any and all dirt adheres to the rough texture and is readily visible.

The reflective strips in the pockets should be longer.

The inside left breast pocket needs to be larger and perhaps another pocket, same location, on the right side could be added.

It is difficult to fasten lower snap on gun/radio openings.

The jacket is too short. It needs to be at least 3/4 fit instead of bomber-style.

Overall, the test jacket is an adequate spring/fall garment. In more southernly areas of the province, year round usage could perhaps be achieved. By itself, the jacket was not warm enough during the coldest of the winter months. I regularly required the use of my parka to supplement the test jacket during these months. This, coupled with the relatively short design, were the jackets two major drawbacks. If the jacket could be lengthened and the insulation increased to provide for more warmth, the other difficulties could be overlooked.

Third member's comments on the test jacket and pants:

I received the new patrol jacket and exterior pants approximately 3 months ago. I have had a chance to use the jacket in most types of weather. I did not use the pants as much as I would have liked to. Traffic control in -40 degree weather would have been a good test for them.

My overall assessment of the new test jacket is very favourable and I would have a hard time going back to the field jacket and parka. This jacket is very comfortable and I have received numerous compliments about its appearance. The waist is well designed which allowed greater access to my firearm and secure holster items.

I had the opportunity to wear the patrol jacket in a variety of weather conditions. Only on a couple of instances did I have to use the exterior portion of the jacket. In most cases, I was able to comfortably wear the jacket with the inner liner. This included times of -25 to -30 degree weather. Upon receiving the jacket, I have never had to revert back to the old issue parka.

In spring and early summer when it was still cool (often light rain or snow) and yet too warm for the parka, the test jacket was the envy of all the Kenora officers and the comfort was really appreciated by myself.

On the negative side, I find the pockets inadequate for police work. The front pockets are barely large enough to fit your winter gloves in and are poorly positioned for a notebook. The side pockets (hand) are extremely small and thus seldom used. As far as the collar is concerned, I have found a problem with the new portable radio. The mike holder does not extend down far enough and the radio mike is covered by the collar, often bending the collar up and causing distractions. This could be amended by lengthening the mike holder.

Overall, I was very pleased with the test jacket. I did not get the chance to use the pants as much as the jacket due to the time of year but feel they would be a beneficial addition to our uniform issue.

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28 July 1992