

THEN & NOW

NAVY: FROM CROWBARS TO FIBRE OPTICS

Service dress cap and ribbon with ship's name—can serve as useful reminder of immediate destination following all-night port visit.

Heavy wool open-necked jumper with distinctive dress collar; bell-bottom trousers for easy roll-up during flooding or messy deck evolutions. White uniform for summer and hot climates; blue uniform for colder climes—North Atlantic, English Channel, etc.

Boarding party search equipment: Rifle, flashlight, life-jacket, notebook, buck knife, crowbar and maybe a bag of hammers.

Ballistic safety glasses to stop—or slow down—any nasty bits.

Tactical webbing, bullet-proof vest with ceramic plates, two flotation vests, locator beacon, ear defenders, plastic handcuffs, knife, flashlight, communications set and first aid kit for use on or in the sea.

Sig Sauer 9mm pistol, magazines for Sig Sauer 9mm pistol; sawed-off shotgun and 12 rounds of ammunition for shotgun and small truncheon—all for dealing with situations gone terribly wrong, and to help impart a serious and confident image when situation is running smoothly.

Boarding party search equipment: Bore scope with fibre optic cable for drilling into and searching behind bulkheads and walls; swab kits and sprays for detecting chemicals; biometric equipment for possible collection of fingerprints or conducting iris scans.

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