

THE TRANSPORT INSPECTORATE: EVOLUTION OF THE AGENCY'S UNIFORM AND INSIGNIA

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the history and transformations of the Agency's uniform and insignia over the life of the Russian Transport Inspectorate (1990–

2004). The author links the evolution of agency heraldry and stylistic features of uniforms with the conditions of the new Russian statehood and market reforms.

Keywords: Russian Transport Inspectorate, insignia, uniforms, history, evolution.

Background. A student delving into the history of any agency's uniforms and insignia will discover that their development is quite immediately linked to the life of the society at large, to the unfolding social processes, and to the call of the times. Over 25 years ago, the immediate predecessor of the current Federal Service for Transport Oversight (Rostransnadzor), the Russian Transport Inspectorate (the RTI) was instituted.

Objective. The objective of the author is to consider Evolution of the Agency's Uniform and Insignia (1990–2004) of Transport Inspectorate.

Methods. The author uses general scientific methods, historical retrospective method, analytical method, comparative analysis.

Results. The Russian Transport Inspectorate was necessitated by the start of economic reforms in the country. In the early 1990s, with the collapse of the old system of management and delayed emergence of a market for private automotive transportation service providers, the need was strong for new laws, regulations, and standards governing transportation services, and for a new effective system of their monitoring and enforcement. In that period of great challenges facing the transportation sector, V. B. Yefimov, the then Minister of Transportation of the Russian Federation, initiated a proposal with the Government to institute a regulatory and oversight authority with the mission of shaping an effective and well-organized market of transportation services while ensuring the protection of human wellbeing and the environment. Decree No. 378 dated 25 September, 1990 of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR established the Russian Transport Inspectorate [1].

In order to improve the effectiveness of the Transport Inspectorate as well as the prestige of jobs in it, it was immediately decided to start the development of uniforms and agency heraldry for the new agency. The first drafts (sketches) of insignia for the personnel of the Russian Transport Inspectorate were drawn in 1993.

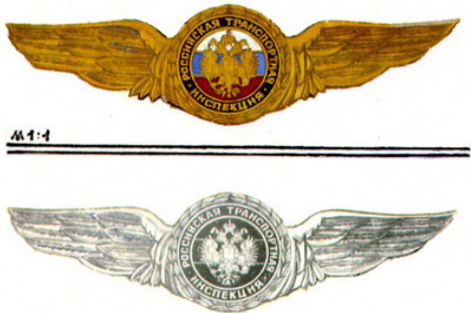
The primary distinctive sign for the Inspectorate's personnel members was a round badge (diameter 21.5 mm) with two horizontal wings on the sides that was to be attached to the breast of a jacket or shirt on the right-hand side. Inside the circle and on the background of the three colors of the Russian flag, the coat of arms of the Russian Federation and the double-headed eagle, was minted, with the words «Russian Transport Inspectorate» on a bronze background along the circumference. The surface of the circle is raised in the shape of a cone (cone base diameter 24.7 mm) and framed with volumetric laurel leaf garland, frame diameter 30.5 mm, height 1 mm. The overall height of the badge is 6.5 mm, the spread of the wings 85 mm, the width 16 mm. The wings are

volumetric, with engravings on the feathers. The badge is anodized to be of gold color.

The badge is required to be made of 2.5 mm duralumin sheet. Its general surface is smoothly curved at a radius of 180 mm. The back side bears a matrix pattern; at the center, pin ends of 0.5 mm thick, 2 mm wide, and 50 mm long duralumin strip are press-set in grips (Pic. 1) [2].

The insignia to be worn on a headwear was designed as a triangular arrangement with a 14 x 18 mm ellipse at the center. Minted on a red background at the center of the ellipse is the double-headed eagle of the Coat of Arms of the Russian Federation. The ellipse has a 1 mm wide border. On the left and right sides of the ellipse, the three-color flying flags of Russia are symmetrically positioned. The surface of the ellipse is raised by 3 mm over the stylized and dynamically curved flag of the RF. The flag's white, blue and red stripes are separated with partitions 0.4 mm thick and 0.3 mm long. The flag is volumetric within a 1.5 mm elevation from the plane. The ellipse and the flag are positioned over symmetrically arranged leaves with engraving.

This insignia was conceived to be made of 2.5 mm thick duralumin sheet anodized to be the color of gold.



Pic. 1. General view of the badge (prototype version) with revision marks by L. N. Tokar, member of the Heraldry Council (1993).



Pic. 2. Prototype of the inspector's headwear insignia with revision marks by L. N. Tokar, member of the Heraldry Council.





Pic. 3. Breast badge, the emblem of the Russian Transport Inspectorate (as approved by Executive Order of the RF Ministry of Transportation No. 59 dated 20 July, 1993).



Pic. 4. Headwear insignia (as approved by Executive Order of the RF Ministry of Transportation No. 59 dated 20 July, 1993).



Pic. 5. Collar patches (left, right, anodized to be the color of gold or silver) (as approved by Executive Order of the RF Ministry of Transportation No. 59 dated 20 July, 1993)



Pic. 6. Officers of the Russian Transport Inspectorate, 1993.

The overall height of the insignia's body was 6.5 mm. The surface was uniformly curved at a radius of 180 mm. The back side had a matrix pattern. At the center, pin ends of 0.5 mm thick, 2 mm wide, and 50 mm long duralumin strip are press-set in grips (Pic. 2).

As the first samples of the Russian Transportation Inspectorate's insignia were under development, the minister of transportation signed an order under which standards were enacted on the 1 July for issuing single sets of uniforms to workers of the Transport Inspectorate according to the season, and the procedures for the issue and wearing of the uniforms were approved.

In the meantime, the design work on the final versions of the personnel insignia was nearing completion. Shortly, the descriptions of the insignia and a list of the Transport Inspectorate officers entitled to wear them according to their offices were approved [2]. To use a figure of speech, on that day the Russian Transport Inspectorate got its face, distinguishing its personnel as members of the newly created government agency with remit over transportation and evidencing their official status.

Collar insignia tabs are an important element of the Transportation Inspectorate's uniform, as they are a means of clear visual distinction between the ranks of civilian officials.

It should be noted that collar patches were used as rank insignia not only in the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, but also in the pre-revolutionary practice of signifying civilian officers' ranks. Military ranks were indicated with shoulder boards whereas the officials from a number of civilian agencies were required to wear their rank insignia as patches on the collars of their uniforms [3].

The next year, 1994, was marked with the development of a new emblem, headwear insignia, and agency breast insignia. With endorsement from the State Heraldry Service, the RF Chief Transport Inspector Alexander M. Lagoutin approved, on 29 March, the following insignia: the uniform headwear insignia to be used by all civilian ministries



Pic. 7. The uniform headwear insignia to be used by all civilian ministries and agencies of the Russian Federation (to be worn on peaked caps, service caps, garrison caps); and the headwear insignia combined with the emblem of the Russian Transport Inspectorate (to be worn on flap hats, berets, flat round fur hats, and brim hats) (Executive Order No. 105 of 8 December, 1995, of the RF Ministry of Transportation).



Pic. 8. Breast insignia of Russian Transport Inspectorate officers (Executive Order No. 105 of 8 December, 1995, of the RF Ministry of Transportation).



Pic. 9. Unofficial sleeve insignia of the Russian Transport Inspectorate used in 1993–1995.

and agencies of the Russian Federation, the emblem of the Russian Transport Inspectorate, the breast insignia of personnel members, and gold-colored buttons with a rim and the emblem of the RTI.

Under Executive Order No. 105 of 8 December 1995 «On Uniforms and Insignia for the Personnel of the Russian Transport Inspectorate» [2], the Ministry of Transportation introduced a uniform on the 1 January, 1996 that can be described as radically different from the old one, which affected the way it was perceived both aesthetically and visually. The new uniforms were required to be of various shades of gray: for the winter items, regular gray; for the summer items, light gray; and dark gray for the primary suits.

To indicate the rank of the wearer, a rather curious set of combinations of sleeve and shoulder insignia was enacted, with the two types of insignia to be used with various types of uniform. Thus, sleeve insignia were to be worn on the field sides of both sleeves of jackets, both male and female, rain coats, overcoats, and short coats; by contrast, shoulder insignia were prescribed to be worn only on everyday jacket and everyday shirt, i.e. on those elements of the uniform for which no shoulder insignia was assigned.

It was in our view an interesting design approach in light of the fact that, for example, shoulder insignia is taken by ordinary people as a mandatory element of the entire range of uniforms. Furthermore, it was for the first time that shoulder insignia indicating affiliation with the Inspectorate had been introduced, the so-called chevrons. On top of this, an arch-shaped patch shaped as a contour frame of gold on the background of black or dark gray, with the name of the region inscribed inside was enacted to indicate the regional affiliation of the wearer. The other insignia, such as the RTI emblem and the breast badge, had preserved their design. A large metal badge was approved for the peaked hat. Oak or laurel branch collar patches were replaced with small metal badges to be attached to the collar of the uniform suite jacket, with the badges on the collars of senior officers augmented with decorative corners made of the same metal.

Shortly after that, a novelty was introduced that, although it seemed rather local at first glance, had a certain positive effect on the daily work of the Inspectorate's personnel. Under Decree of the

Government of Russia of 19 September, 1996, and for the purpose of improving the work environment for the Transport Inspection's personnel on duty at the border crossings operated by the Russian Federation or overseeing international automotive transportation, Executive Order No. 35 of 7 July, 1997 introduced a new special uniform. This set of uniform items included: a gray winter suit, a gray artificial leather short coat with a thin cotton lining, a light-gray summer suit, a sleeveless cloak, a pair of felt boots with rubber soles, semi-high boots with black laces, black mittens trimmed with natural fur, and a harness of a reflective fabric [2].

In that period, the leaders of the Ministry of Transportation did not just create another agency, they cared about its personnel and the moral authority of the new service. The security and law enforcement systems employed by the transportation sector had both to inspire fear and awe in people with unclear conscience, and, at the same time, enjoy immediate recognition and respect on the part of ordinary citizens. The full force of this respect had to be felt first of all by the officers of the Transport Inspectorate themselves, especially against the general background of the 90s with their hazy reforms, the demolition of the old system, and a market economy being built on its ruins.

And finally, the last changes that were made in that period, affecting only the insignia on the officers' uniforms. Executive Order No. 75 of 11 October, 1999 shoulder boards were introduced as additional insignia items. The shoulder boards were rectangles with parallel sides and a rounded upper side. Their dimensions were 14–16 cm in length (12–14 cm for women) and 5 cm in width. To be worn with white coats were shoulder boards shaped as a long rectangle with parallel long sides and the top side askew, with a length of 14–18 cm and a width of 5 cm. The shoulder boards had the following colors:

- dark gray fabric for jackets, winter coats, short coats, cloaks;
- light gray fabric for light gray jackets;
- gray blue or white fabric for shirts or blouses;
- white specially woven strap for the top officers' white jackets.





Pic. 10. Badges and corners worn by senior officers on the collar; the emblem insignia for the peaked hat (approved on 8 December, 1995).



Pic. 11. Breast badge «RosTransInspectorate Inspector» (approved on 8 December, 1995).

In addition, two other types of shoulder board were considered: sewn-on shoulder boards for male and female suit jackets, and detachable for the other uniform items [2].

Conclusion. In the last years of the Russian Transport Inspectorate's existence, i.e. from 1999 to 2004, the uniforms and insignia used by the agency saw practically no change. In this period, the need for a radical reform of the system of government was becoming increasingly obvious. Under Presidential

Pic. 13. The summer set of the special uniform of Transportation Inspectorate's personnel (light gray summer suit, semi-high boots with black laces, harness of a reflective fabric).



Pic. 12. Shoulder rank insignia of the Chief Transport Inspector of the Russian Federation (approved on 8 December, 1995).

Decree No. 314 of 9 March, 2004 «On the System and Structure of Federal Executive Authorities», the functions of developing the government's policy and regulatory requirements were assigned to federal ministries, the functions of monitoring and oversight went to federal services, and the functions of providing governmental services and management of the government's properties were given to federal agencies [6].

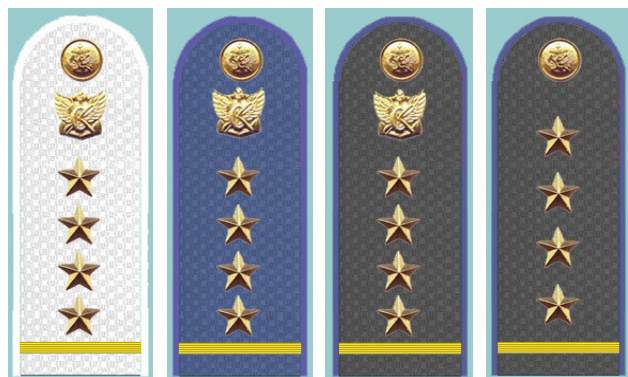
Thus, on 9 March 2004 and as a result of the administrative reform, Rostransinspectorate was transformed into a new agency, the Federal Service for Transport Oversight (Rostransnadzor) that assumed the monitoring and supervisory functions of the dismantled Ministry of Railways, as well as those of Gosavtodor nadzor (State Road Oversight Authority) and Gosavianadzor (State Aviation Oversight Authority). Following this, new emblems were



Pic. 14. 1999 shoulder boards of the RF Chief Transport Inspector (sewn-on, detachable, for gray blue or white shirts, for a white jacket).



Pic. 15. 1999 shoulder boards of the Deputy Head of Grade 1 or 2 Regional Offices (sewn-on, detachable, for gray blue or white shirts).



Pic. 16. 1999 shoulder boards of the Lead Inspector (Specialist) of Grade 1 or 2 Regional Office (sewn-on, detachable, for gray blue or white shirts).

developed, and regulations were passed on new uniforms and insignia for the new agency, the Federal Service for Transport Oversight.

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Article received 09.10.2016, accepted 23.12.2016.