

AIR CADET ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTION NO 204

DRESS REGULATIONS FOR THE AIR TRAINING CORPS

References:

- A. AP 1358
- B. ACP 17
- C. ACP 1812

GENERAL

1. **Scope of Chapter.** This Chapter contains the following:
 - a. Scales of uniform clothing and regulations for wear by VR(T) officers, Adult SNCOs/WOs and cadets.
 - b. The wearing of approved badges.
 - c. Growth of hair including facial hair, by male personnel. Hairdressing and the use of cosmetics by female personnel.

Note:

1. VR(T) officers are subject to AP 1358 - RAF Dress Regulations at Reference A.

WEARING OF UNIFORM

2. The following general rules apply:
 - a. Members of the ATC are entitled to wear uniform only when attending authorised ATC meetings or parades or when specially authorised.
 - b. Uniform is not to be worn in foreign countries unless specifically authorised by HQ Air Cadets (HQ AC).
 - c. Some VR(T) officers hold commissions in other branches of the Reserve. When on duty with the ATC, the uniform and rank appropriate to the VR(T) is to be worn.
3. **Standard of Uniform.** Subject to the special provisions set out in paras 14 to 29 below the introduction or sanctioning of any deviation from the scaled and sealed pattern of uniforms, buttons and badges or the wearing of any items not listed in the appropriate scales of uniform is forbidden.
4. **Jewellery, Emblems and Badges.** No ornament, emblem or badge, other than those authorised in these Regulations, is to be worn on uniform. Watch chains and trinkets, if worn, are not to be visible. Tie pins are not to be worn. The wearing of hair ornaments by female personnel is dealt with in para 12 below.

5. **Mourning.** Personnel in private mourning may wear a mourning band of black crepe, 8.3cm wide, around the left sleeve of the uniform, above the elbow. No other form of mourning may be worn.

6. **Footwear.** Footwear studded or tipped with ferrous metal is not to be worn in Dangerous Areas. A Dangerous Area may be defined as any location where a flammable liquid vapour can produce a flammable air mixture. The following are the principal examples of Dangerous Areas at RAF stations:

- a. Kerbside pumps and fuelling points.
- b. Aircraft parks where refuelling or defuelling takes place.
- c. Stocks of flammable liquids in cans or drums.
- d. All parts of a fuel installation through which fuel is passed.
- e. Workshops, spraying bays, packing bays etc where solvents or spirits are in use, liquid oxygen bags and GRP (glass reinforced plastic) bags.

7. **Jewish Men.** A male member of the Jewish faith may wear a dark plain patterned yarmulke whenever he removes other headdress.

8. **Muslim Men.** Muslim men are permitted to wear short and neatly trimmed beards.

9. **Muslim Women.** Muslim women may wear uniform trousers. These can be obtained through routine RAF Supply sources, marking the requisition 'for religious reasons'. Headscarves may also be worn whilst on ACO duty. These should be provided from personal sources and are to be of a dark (preferably blue or black) colour. Headscarves may be worn under the beret; they may not be worn when so doing might jeopardise the wearer's health or safety, or where it would interfere with other specialist safety equipment.

10. **Sikh Personnel.** If they so wish personnel of the Sikh religion may wear turbans of the approved pattern, wear their hair long and remain unshaven in accordance with Sikh practices. The turbans comprise a puggree and a headband of RAF ensign blue. The appropriate cap badge is to be affixed centrally on the turban with its base at the apex of the triangle of the headband. When the turban has to be removed in most casts the patka may still be worn beneath specialist headgear. Sikh men may also wear the 5Ks

GROWTH OF HAIR ETC - MALE PERSONNEL

11. The hair of the head is to be kept well cut and trimmed. If a moustache is worn, the upper lip is to be entirely unshaven. Beards and whiskers are not to be worn except on medical or, in the case of Sikh and Muslim personnel, religious grounds, and in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. Serving personnel and applicants for uniformed adult appointments who wish to remain unshaven are to obtain a medical certificate to the effect that shaving will be injurious to health. The Certificate is to be forwarded to HQAC through the Wing Commanding Officer and Regional Commandant, both of whom are to add their recommendations. Subject to such recommendations, authority will then be granted for the applicants to remain unshaven for a maximum period of 2 years. This recommendation is to be reviewed every 2 years.
- b. If, at the end of a two year period the condition still appertains, HQ AC will consider a recommendation from his Squadron Commander supported by a medical certificate and the recommendations of the Wing Commanding Officer and Regional Commandant for the applicant to remain unshaven.

HAIRDRESSING ETC - FEMALE PERSONNEL

12. Female personnel are to arrange their hair in a manner which permits the uniform headdress to be worn correctly. Hair is not to show under the front of the peak of the headdress and the style is to be neat and is to reach no longer than the bottom edge of the collar of the uniform shirt. A hair ribbon in the form of a bandeau may be worn but is to be inconspicuous and may be of a similar colour to the hair or black. Combs, when worn, are to be plain and of a similar colour to the wearer's hair.
13. When in uniform female personnel are forbidden to use brightly coloured nail varnish or cosmetics of a conspicuous nature.

SCALES OF UNIFORM AND REGULATIONS FOR WEAR

14. The scales of uniform and dress regulations for RAFVR(T) officers, Adult SNCOs/WOs and cadets including females, are set out in Annexes A, B and C respectively.

DISTINGUISHING BADGES

15. **Flying Badges.** The flying badges listed are authorised for wear by appropriately qualified personnel. No other flying badges are to be worn:
 - a. **VR(T) Officers and Adult SNCOs/WOs:**
 - (1) Authorised RAF flying or parachute badges.
 - (2) The Glider Pilot or the Gliding Instructor Badge.
 - b. **ATC Cadets:**
 - (1) The Glider Pilot Badge.
 - (2) Air Cadet Pilot and Navigator Scheme Badges.
 - (3) Air Cadet Gliding Proficiency Badge.

16. **Cadet Qualification and Band Badges.** A full list of authorised badges for wear by ATC cadets is given in Annex G.

17. **Distinguishing Gilt Metal VR(T) and ATC Badges.** VR(T) officers are to wear the gilt metal VR(T) badge and Adult SNCOs/WOs the gilt metal ATC badge on all items of uniform dress. The manner of wearing these badges is described in Annexes A and B respectively and illustrated at Annex D.

ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

18. A list of orders, decorations or medals which may be worn with uniform is set out in RAF Dress Regulations (AP 1358, Chapter 7) and if necessary, COs should consult their Wing HQs for instruction and advice. Military medals/ribbons are to be worn on the left breast pocket immediately and centrally above the flap of the pocket of the No 1 Service Dress (SD) jacket. A row is not to consist of more than 4 ribbons but when more than 4 ribbons are worn they are to be made up to display as many complete rows of 4 as possible, with any incomplete row at the top. See illustration at Annex E.

19. The only non-military medals (and their ribbons) awarded by private societies which may be worn with uniform are medals of the Royal Humane Society, the medal of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Life Saving Medal of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. They are to be worn on the right breast and in a similar position to military medals worn on the left breast.

AUTHORISED EMBLEMS

20. The following emblems may be worn when the wearer is not on parade:

- a. The National Flower or Emblem of St George's, St Andrew's, St David's and St Patrick's Day as appropriate.
- b. Flags and emblems such as the Alexandra Rose worn on authorised flag days.
- c. Remembrance Day poppies may be worn from the onset of sales until the observation of remembrance has concluded each year.
- d. ATC participants in the Nijmegen International Marches are to comply with dress requirements specified in Reference B, Chapter 18, Annex C.

21. Flags and emblems are to be of conventional dimensions and are to be worn centrally above the right pocket of the jacket, or in an equivalent position on the right breast of the jersey, or on the left lapel of the greatcoat.

WEARING OF UNIFORM ON CEASING TO BE MEMBERS OF THE ATC

22. Officers ceasing to be members of the RAF VR(T) except those whose commission is terminated under the provisions of AP 1919, Chapter 3 paras 346 or 347, may wear uniform as authorised by MOD(Air) (see Annex A para 12). SNCOs/WOs and cadets are on no account to wear ATC uniform after leaving the Corps. Cadets and Instructor Cadets are to return all items of uniform, this includes the Instructor Cadet white identification flashes, on leaving the ACO.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

23. For reasons of tradition or special privilege, certain variations of uniform may be approved as follows:

a. Kilts may be worn in Scotland and Northern Ireland subject to the approval of the Commandant.

b. Plumes and certain other embellishments may be worn on ATC Band headdress subject to the authority of the Commandant.

Note: Plumes or hackles in headdress are not to intrude upon tradition, or privilege already accorded to other military units.

c. Bandsmen and cadets on special ceremonial duty may be authorised to wear white belts, cross straps, gaiters, gloves and sashes, subject to uniformity being maintained.

24. **Pace Sticks and Sashes.** Adult Staff SNCOs/WOs qualified as drill instructors at the Adult Training Facility may carry pace sticks whilst employed upon drill instructor duties. Pace sticks are not to be carried on formal parades. Sashes are not to be worn by members of the ATC (except those mentioned in para 23c above).

25. **Lord Lieutenant Badges.** Lord Lieutenant Badges are to be worn with No 1 SD uniform during the tenure of office. The Badge is also to be displayed on an additional brassard when blue uniform, other than No 1 SD, is worn. It is to be worn on the left arm during the tenure of office.

26. **Motor Bicycle Crash Helmets.** (Section 32, Road Traffic Act 1972). All personnel in uniform are to wear civilian pattern crash helmets, preferably white or light colour, when riding privately owned motor bicycles. Appropriate uniform headdress is to be carried and worn when the crash helmet is removed.

27. **Combat Clothing.** At the discretion of Regional Commandants, combat clothing may be worn by officers, Adult Staff SNCOs/WOs and cadets engaged on field duties.

28. **Jacket Foul Weather (Blue Jeltex).** The blue Jeltex jacket is issued for the purpose of protecting cadets from cold and wet weather when moving to and from ATC duties, when on routine parades or on any occasion other than ceremonial parades, when a smart uniform appearance is particularly appropriate. It is not to be worn by cadets engaged in rigorous activities such as, rock climbing, fieldcraft exercises, shooting, canoeing, gliding or assisting with gliding, air experience flying or any other activity in which it will be subjected to undue wear and tear or where nylon garments are forbidden. The waterproofing of the garment will be seriously impaired if the skin is pierced or is damaged by the application of certain dyes, paints or adhesives and great care must be taken to avoid this. Badges are not to be sewn or stuck onto the jacket. However, the appropriate cadet rank badge is to be positioned on the flap provided at the front of the modern version of the jacket.

CIVILIAN BADGES

29. Civilian badges are illustrated at Annex F.

Annexes:

- A. Scale of Uniform and Dress Regulations - VR(T) Officers
- B. Scale of Uniform and Dress Regulations - Adult SNCOs/WOs
- C. Scale of Uniform and Dress Regulations - Cadets
- D. Distinguishing Badges - VR(T) Officers and Adult SNCOs/WOs
- E. Medal Ribbon Positions
- F. Civilian Badges
- G. ATC Cadet Badges
- H. Position of ATC Badges on the Brassard