

CHAPTER 3

SECURITY

Introduction

1. From the moment a cadet enrolls he has a responsibility to the RAF to guard its secrets to the best of his ability.
2. Many cadets know something about the RAF which other countries would like to know. It may be only a very small piece of information, but the manner in which he safeguards his information is a test of his trustworthiness. There are a few people in Great Britain who give away information deliberately. They are traitors. There are, unfortunately, many more who give away information unknowingly or through lack of thought. These are not traitors in the same sense but they do just as much harm. The first thing a cadet must do is learn the meaning of Security, because the security of the RAF is his responsibility, and a trust he must never betray.

The Meaning of Security

3. In war, both sides make use of direct and indirect attack. Direct attack is a shooting war using guns, rockets, aircraft, *etc.* Indirect attack, although rarely as spectacular, can be equally destructive. It includes the collection of information by agents, the destruction of materials by sabotage, the lowering of the morale of the fighting Services and the will of the general public by the use of propaganda.
4. Indirect attack goes on all the time and many examples of it can be seen happening in the world every day. Security is the name given to the defence against this indirect attack and it is as important, in some cases more so, as the defence against direct attack. The report issued in 1962 by a committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Radcliffe, inquiring into the security procedures in the public Services said:

“The biggest single threat to Security at the present time is probably a general lack of conviction that any substantial threat exists”.

5. The threat is enormous. Indirect attack goes on all the time, and every cadet must play his part in helping to maintain the security of the RAF, and indeed his country.

Squadron Security

6. Every cadet is responsible for the security of his squadron, detached flight or section. Security is a matter of common sense. Every cadet must play his part in looking after the unit's equipment and buildings, for example. Each unit has a lot of equipment, either its own or on loan, which may be valuable. Even when it is not very valuable, it must be remembered that items cost money to replace, whether from unit resources or ultimately the taxpayer. Every cadet, therefore, must ensure that anything belonging to or on loan to his unit is protected against loss, theft or damage.
7. Certain items need special care. Many units possess weapons, usually rifles, and for obvious reasons these must be looked after particularly well; and there are special rules for this.

8. Some handbooks or training manuals have a security classification, eg "Restricted". This classification is applied to information and material which it would be *undesirable in the interests of the Nation* to reveal to any unauthorized person.

9. Special action must therefore be taken to prevent those who are not authorized from having access to "Restricted" matter.

Security at RAF Stations

10. At RAF station officers and airmen, because of the work they do, are aware of the need to safeguard their information and equipment. All stations have a Security Officer whose job it is to maintain a high standard of security of information, material and personnel. However, his job is possible only if all members of the station contribute to achieving this high standard. When a cadet visits a station he becomes, in effect, a member of that station and has his part to play in achieving this high standard.

11. The best rule a cadet should remember is based on the "need to know" principle. When a cadet visits an RAF station, sooner or later, he is bound to hear or see something which a foreign power would like to know. Before talking about it he should ask himself "does the other person 'need to know'?" The answer is usually "no" but of course common sense should prevail. Should a cadet see or hear anything which he thinks might be a threat to the security of that station, he should report the matter to his own officer or a regular officer of the station.

12. All Government information is subject to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act of 1911 as amended by the Official Secrets Acts of 1920 and 1939. These acts apply to everybody whether they are in military or civilian life. It is, however, necessary to classify, *ie* grade information and material according to its security importance. We have seen the description of matters classified as RESTRICTED (para 9). The other classifications are:

- a. *CONFIDENTIAL*—applied to information and material which, if revealed to any unauthorized person, *would prejudice the interests of the Nation.*
- b. *SECRET*—applied to information and material which, if revealed to any unauthorized person, *would cause serious injury to the interests of the Nation.*
- c. *TOP SECRET*—applied to information and material which, if revealed to any unauthorized person, *would cause exceptionally grave damage to the interests of the Nation.*

13. It follows, therefore, that if a cadet sees anything lying about that is classified Secret or Top Secret, he should report it at once and take steps to ensure that no authorized person has access to it. On visits to RAF stations, cadets might see in crew rooms various training books classified Restricted or Confidential. They are there for the use of those who "need to know" and they will be locked up when the room is not in use. If a cadet has cause to learn about matters that are classified he should keep them to himself and the Service and should not discuss them with outsiders.

National Security

14. To every country, information about a possible enemy is of the greatest importance. There are several countries in the world who think that Great Britain is an enemy. Some of these countries have a lot of highly trained specialists collecting information about the Royal Air Force. The work of defending Royal Air Force information and material is the responsibility of every officer, airman and cadet.

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