

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

0101. The regulations in this publication supersede the contents of AP 1358 (3rd Edition) and DCI (RAF) S42/73. Unless otherwise stated or apparent they apply to officers, airmen and airwomen serving in the Royal Air Force and its ancillary forces; they are also a guide to the wearing of RAF dress by members of the Royal Observer Corps and other personnel who are authorized to wear RAF pattern uniform.

0102. This chapter should be read in conjunction with Chaps 6 and 32 of the Queen's Regulations for the Royal Air Force.

Authorized patterns

0103. The only patterns of dress and insignia to be worn with Royal Air Force uniform are those authorized by the Ministry of Defence (Air Force Department). Patterns and/or specifications for approved items are held by the Assistant Directorate of Clothing Requirements and Policy (RAF) (ADCRP(RAF)). Personnel who obtain uniform dress items from trade sources are responsible for ensuring these are of the correct patterns.

Initial outfitting and maintenance of service clothing

0104. **Officers.** On initial appointment, officers and officer cadets receive free issues of certain clothing, with allowance for the purchase of other outfit items from commercial sources. Additional outfit allowances are provided for first postings outside the UK to areas where warm-weather clothing is required. Outfitting and allowance arrangements are described in Chap 6. Income tax relief is provided for maintenance and replacement of officers' uniform items but flying clothing and authorized items of specialist and protective clothing are maintained at public expense.

0105. **Airmen and airwomen.** Scales of initial outfit and supplementary trade and protective clothing for airmen and airwomen are contained in the C Scales, AP 830, Vol 3, Part C. Initial and replacement issues of airmen's and airwomen's uniform clothing are free of charge, excepting premature replacements occasioned by individual neglect or culpability.

Wearing of uniform in public

0106. Unless ordered, and excepting the occasions prescribed in QR J199, the wearing of uniform in public is a matter left to the discretion of the individual. Examples of occasions when it would be appropriate include home to duty travel, travelling on duty, or to official functions, etc, when it would be inconvenient to change on arrival.

0107. Serving officers are not to wear uniform when taking part in parades other than those officially prescribed by the Royal Air Force (eg Remembrance Day, Battle of Britain commemorations, etc) when conditions would require them to appear in the ranks of the parade with serving or ex-service personnel below commissioned rank. This does not preclude the wearing of uniform by those officiating at a saluting base or appearing officially with a party of civic officials.

Order of uniform to be worn

0108. Orders of dress are tabled in the annexes to Chap 2. Guidance on the orders of dress for specific occasions is contained in Chap 10.

Uniform for extraneous appointments

0109. a. *Equerries to Royalty and ADCs.* As appropriate to their ranks and the occasion, RAF uniform may be worn by RAF officers appointed as equerries to the Sovereign or other member of the Royal Family or as ADC to a Governor-General, Commissioner-General, etc, (as listed in the table of aiguillette entitlements at Chap 8).

- b. *Personnel on loan or secondment.* RAF uniform is to be worn by RAF personnel on loan or secondment to other forces unless otherwise stipulated in the memoranda governing their appointments. Personnel of other forces on loan or secondment to the Royal Air Force are to wear the uniform of their Services on all appropriate occasions.

Emblems

0110. **Emblems.** No unauthorized ornament or emblem is to be worn with uniform. The following exceptions are permitted provided the wearer is not on parade:

- a. The national flower or emblem on St George's, St Andrew's, St David's and St Patrick's Day, according to nationality.
- b. The poppy on Remembrance Day.
- c. Flags and emblems, such as Alexandra roses, on authorized flag days.

Flags and emblems should be of conventional dimensions and are to be worn immediately above the right pocket of RAF jackets and in corresponding positions on men's and women's jerseys and shirts and the WRAF warm-weather frock; they are to be worn on the left lapel of overcoats or raincoats.

Trinkets and jewellery

0111. a. In the case of male officers and airmen, the wearing of watch chains and trinkets in such a manner as to be seen is not permitted when in uniform. Plain rings may, however, be worn.
- b. The above prohibition also applies to women officers and airwomen. They may, however, wear wedding rings, engagement rings or plain signet rings, except that women officers of the PMRAFNS and airwomen may wear only wedding rings when on nursing duties.
 - c. Following piercing of the ears, women personnel only may wear plain gold stud sleeper earrings. The sleeper studs are to be small and unobtrusive and are not to be worn on parade or on ceremonial occasions.

Scarves

0112. Scarves may be worn with flying clothing; also with uniform and protective clothing in accordance with para 0315.

Walking sticks

0113. Except as provided below, walking sticks are not to be carried by officers or airmen when in uniform:

- a. *Walking sticks of the approved pattern* – by station warrant officers – on duty within station bounds.
- b. *Pace sticks* – by NCO drill instructors – on duty within station bounds.

Instructions on drill movement are published in AP 818 (RAF Manual of Drill and Ceremonial).

Dress for travelling by air, land and sea

0114. **Aircrew on transit flights.** At the discretion of COs, flying coveralls, with appropriate badges of rank and Service head-dress, may be regarded as uniform for the purpose of flying in transit between one station and another when no ground duty is involved at either the point of departure or the place of arrival.

0115. **Passengers – air and sea trooping.** Dress regulations for air and sea travel are detailed in Chap 19, JSP 356 (Joint Service Manual of Travel Instructions). Personnel posted overseas (including Europe) are to include in their accompanied baggage sufficient uniform clothing for the performance of any air force duties pending the arrival of their heavy baggage.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

0116. **Leave from abroad.** Personnel granted home leave are to be in possession of adequate uniform if they are likely to be detailed for duty while in transit or on leave.

0117. The restrictions on wearing uniform in foreign countries, including the Irish Republic, will be found in QR J198.

0118. Personnel serving abroad or taking passage in one of HM ships are to conform with naval regulations concerning the wearing of uniform in foreign ports.

Public clothing

0119. Flying and other public protective and specialist clothing should be worn only by entitled personnel in the pursuit of air force duties.

Wearing of uniform items with plain clothes

0120. Excepting the officers' optional 'British warm', items of uniform should not be worn with plain clothes.

0121. Not allotted.

Head-dress

0122. **Removal of head-dress:** Joint Service rules for the removal of head-dress by male personnel in civil courts and while taking oaths are contained in QR J202. Regulations for removal of head-dress on the following occasions are contained in the publications quoted:

- a. *Trial by court martial and summary disposal* – AP 3265 (Guide to Legal Procedure).
- b. *During ceremonial parades* – AP 818 (RAF Manual of Drill and Ceremonial).

0123. **Sikhs.** Subject to individual written authority, officers and airmen of Sikh religion may wear turbans of the approved Service pattern, in RAF Ensign blue, instead of uniform head-dress and may wear beards and long hair in the Sikh tradition. The appropriate cap badge is to be fitted centrally on the turban with its base at the apex of the triangle of the headband.

0124. **Motor bicycle crash helmets, (Section 32 Road Traffic Act 1972).** With the exception of Sikhs wearing turbans, all personnel in uniform are to wear civilian pattern crash helmets, preferably white or light colour, when riding privately owned motor bicycles. The uniform head-dress appropriate to the uniform worn is to be carried.

Mourning

0125. QR J196 contains Joint Service regulations about the observance of Court, Service and private mourning. During periods of Service mourning when officers and warrant officers are required to wear mourning bands on the left sleeves of uniform, any duty armbands they are required to wear in accordance with Chap 4 are to be worn on the right sleeve.

Dates of change between temperate and warm-weather dress abroad

0126. The following are the normal changeover dates between temperate and warm-weather dress in the specified areas unless a variation is broadcast by the command or formation concerned:

	<i>Warm-weather to temperate</i>	<i>Temperate to warm-weather</i>
Cyprus	3rd Monday in Nov	3rd Monday in April
Gibraltar	4th Monday in Oct	3rd Monday in May
Hong Kong	1st Monday in Dec	1st Monday in April

0127. Changes in the above dates, and the effective dates for other areas, are to be signalled by the headquarters concerned to all commands for action, and repeated to MOD (ADCRP(RAF) and D Mov(RAF)) giving at least 48 hours notice. Intending visitors to the above areas in the months of change should consult their command P1 staffs or MOD (ADCRP(RAF) (for officers serving at MOD)) for advice on dress requirements.

0128. It is not possible to publish change dates for the USA and other areas as they vary from year to year. Enquiries should be referred to the appropriate local RAF staffs, defence attaches or advisers in the countries concerned.

Dress for sports and games teams

0129. When unit sports and games teams visit other RAF stations or RN or Army establishments plain clothes or uniform may be worn, as appropriate to the occasion, or as advised by the host unit.

Dress when off duty and for social and informal events

0130. Officers should normally wear plain clothes when they are on leave and also on other occasions when they are not required for duty, subject to local orders.

0131. Plain clothes should normally be worn by officers on the following occasions:

- a. At film and stage performances on the station.
- b. At church, but COs may exercise their discretion in requiring uniform to be worn on particular occasions.
- c. At informal parties in the officers' mess, when the normal dress is lounge suit or dinner jacket for men and dress appropriate to the occasion for ladies. COs may, however, order uniform if the occasion demands.

0132. Uniform is to be worn by officers on the following occasions:

- a. At formal functions in a sergeants' mess or a junior ranks' club. The appropriate dress is No 1, No 5B or overseas, the warm-weather dress equivalents. When attending an informal function in a sergeants' mess or junior ranks' club officers are to wear appropriate uniform or civilian dress as ordered by the commanding officer.
- b. At inter-Service boxing tournaments, Nos 5B or 8 Dress is to be worn. Dress at RAF boxing tournaments is to be at the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief of the host station.

0133. Plain clothes may be worn by off-duty airmen at all home units except recruit training establishments, where local orders are to be published for trainees. However, COs have discretion to issue orders requiring uniform to be worn on particular off-duty occasions.

0134. It is within the discretionary power of COs to withdraw from airmen the privilege of wearing plain clothes when not on duty should they consider this necessary in individual cases.

Wearing of plain clothes abroad

0135. **On active service.** Where active service conditions prevail, discretion is vested in the Commander-in-Chief to make such local regulations as he considers necessary.

0136. **Not on active service.** Where active service conditions do not prevail, the regulations for home commands, at paras 0130 to 0134, are to apply, subject to such modifications as the Commander-in-Chief may consider necessary

Wearing of uniform by retired, reserve and Royal Auxiliary Air Force officers

0137. **Occasions when No 1 Service Dress may be worn.** Officers on the Retired and Reserve Lists, Royal Auxiliary Air Force officers and ex-officers who are permitted to retain their ranks may wear uniform:

- a. *When attending:*
 - (1) Investitures and Royal garden parties.
 - (2) State ceremonial occasions.
 - (3) Parades in connection with the official celebration of the Sovereign's birthday. (See Note 1.)
 - (4) Their own weddings or attending military weddings when the sponsor requests the wearing of uniform.

- b. *When participating in:*
 - (1) Non-Service parades, eg Remembrance and Battle of Britain. (See Note 1.)
 - (2) War memorial services and associated parades, by invitation. (See Note 1.)
- c. *When inspecting or visiting:*
 - (1) R Aux AF, RAFVR or ROC units in an official capacity.
 - (2) Units of the Combined Cadet Force or the Air Training Corps on behalf of the Ministry of Defence or Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Associations.
- d. When on duty as officials, duly appointed by the Ministry of Defence or by the Executive Committee of the RAF Small Arms Association, at the annual meeting of the RN, the Army and the RAF at the National Rifle Association Imperial Meeting and at rifle meetings held under the auspices of the RAF Small Arms Association.
- e. When holding the appointment of ADC to Her Majesty's Governor-General or Governor, as ordered by such representative of Her Majesty.
- f. When holding the appointment of Lord Lieutenant or Deputy Lieutenant of a county (see Note 2), High Sheriff or Sheriff and discharging the duties of that appointment.
- g. On the basis of a public announcement made by the Ministry of Defence.

Notes

- 1. Subject to para 0107 as for serving officers.
- 2. As an alternative to Lieutenancy dress. Lieutenancy insignia may not be worn on RAF dress but entitled RAF flying badges may be worn on the Lieutenancy dress.

0138. Apart from the occasions mentioned in QRs J198 and J199, officers of the rank of Group Captain and above may wear uniform at their own discretion and need not consult MOD. Permission to wear uniform by officers below the rank of Group Captain on occasions other than those permitted in para 0137 is to be sought from MOD (P1 (Cer)(RAF)).

0139. The uniform to be worn under the provisions of paras 0137 and 0138 is to be that appropriate to the occasion and of a pattern approved for current wear in the Royal Air Force. The badges of rank worn are to be those of the rank retained. The standard of turnout should be as for a serving officer.

0140. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing paragraphs, officers on the retired and reserve lists are to wear uniform when so directed by MOD.

0141. These regulations do not restrict the wearing of uniform by retired, R Aux AF or reserve officers when performing any air force duty, nor do they prohibit the wearing of appropriate uniform by officers appointed for service with the Air Training Corps (ATC) while engaged in duties arising out of their ATC obligations. In the latter case, the rank badges to be worn are those appropriate to the ATC appointment.

0142. Officers invalided from the Royal Air Force may continue to wear their appropriate uniform as long as they remain as patients in the hospital in which they are being treated at the time of invaliding.

Mess dress

0143. Mess dress is optional and at personal expense for officers who have retired, officers filling retired officer posts and officers serving on current commissions in the RAFRO Class CC, R Aux AF, RAFVR and RAFVR(T). Fully retired officers wear the badges of rank as recorded in the RAF Retired List. In all other cases the badges of rank to be worn are those of the officers' current posts. Mess dress is only to be worn at functions and on occasions when this form of dress is appropriate for serving officers.

0144. Ex-warrant officers/SNCOs are permitted to wear optional dress but not interim mess dress, at functions and on occasions when this form of dress is appropriate for serving warrant officers/SNCOs. Badges of rank are to be those to which the warrant officer/SNCO was eligible at the time of discharge. Ex-warrant officers/SNCOs may wear this form of dress in sergeants messes at their own discretion. If however an ex-warrant officer/SNCO wishes to wear mess dress at another location the prior approval of MOD P1(Cer) (RAF) must be obtained.

0145. When worn, mess dress must be of current design and in good condition. It is incumbent on all retired, auxiliary and reserve personnel when wearing uniform to present the same high standards of turn out as those still serving.

0146. Permission to wear uniform automatically lapses when permission to retain rank is withdrawn or cancelled.

Occasions when uniform is not to be worn by officers not on the Active List

0147. Uniform is not to be worn by any officer on the Retired or Reserve Lists or of the R Aux AF:

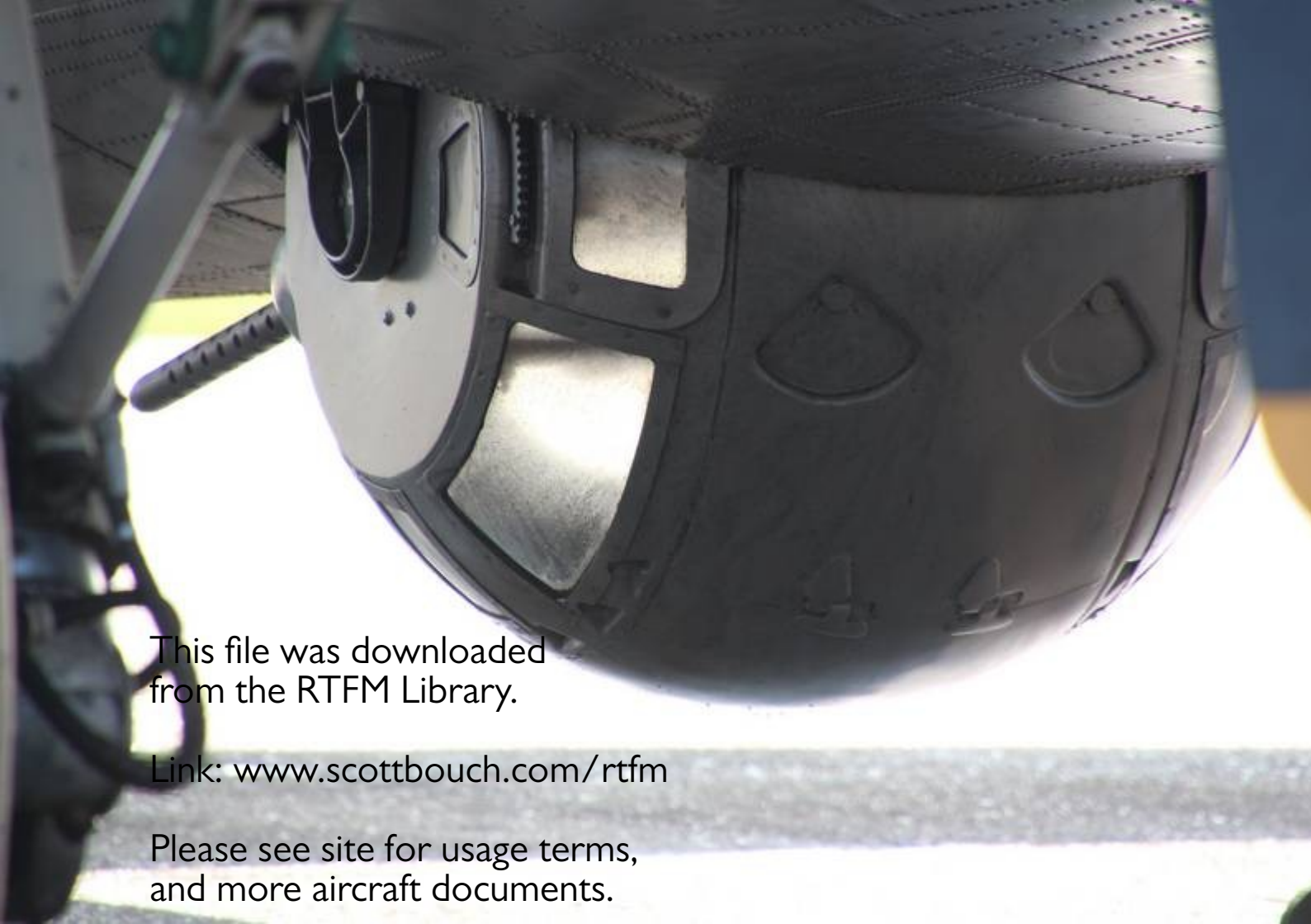
- a. When appearing on public platforms or making speeches at political meetings or otherwise engaging in political activities irrespective of whether they are prospective or adopted candidates for election to Parliament or local government.
- b. Whilst abroad, except with the permission of the Sovereign's representative in the country concerned.
- c. When permission to retain rank is withdrawn or cancelled.

Wearing of uniform by airmen after discharge or transfer to reserve

0148. Except as permitted for officers, vide paras 0142 to 0144, an airman is not to wear uniform after his discharge from the Service. The wearing of uniform by an airman reservist is only permissible when called out on permanent service or in aid of the civil power, or when undergoing or proceeding to and from annual or other training, or when otherwise engaged in HM Service in employment of which it is an express condition that while employed therein he is subject to Air Force Law. Para 0147a also applies to non-commissioned reservists.

Uniforms Act 1894

0149. The wearing of a military uniform by unauthorized persons is an indictable offence under the above Act and offenders are liable to arrest when intending to deceive by purporting to be a military person.



This file was downloaded
from the RTFM Library.

Link: www.scottbouch.com/rtfm

Please see site for usage terms,
and more aircraft documents.