

## CHAPTER 10

### GUIDE TO CORRECT ORDER OF DRESS WHEN ATTENDING FUNCTIONS AND PARTICIPATING IN CEREMONIAL

#### General

1001. The sponsor of an event will decide the form of dress appropriate to the occasion and whether orders, decorations and medals should be worn. The decision will be influenced by the degree of formality attached to it. If Royalty attends, the appropriate Household should be consulted through the usual Service channels before the dress decision is made and details are promulgated.

1002. When an invitation card indicates that 'decorations' are to be worn, this implies that the event is an official occasion and that insignia of orders, decorations and medals are to be worn in accordance with this chapter, ie broad riband, stars, neck badges and full size medals, subject to entitlement.

#### Investitures

1003. Serving personnel attending investitures in temperate areas as recipients of awards or spectators are to wear No 1 Dress without orders, decorations and medals. A sword is not to be worn but entitled officers are to wear the aiguillette (see Annex E). For dress to be worn in warm-weather areas see para 1011 below.

#### Service audience with the Sovereign

1004. Officers granted an audience with the Sovereign are to wear No 1 Dress, without sword. Entitled officers are to wear the aiguillette and one star. No other orders, decorations or medals are to be worn.

#### Royal garden parties

1005. The majority of RAF officers attending Royal garden parties may, entirely at their own discretion, wear either morning dress or non-ceremonial day uniform. However, those holding personal appointments (eg ADCs and PSOs etc), when attending in an official capacity upon the senior officer concerned, are to wear uniform with aiguillette. Officers holding the following appointments to the Sovereign are encouraged to attend at least one garden party during their term of appointment and are required to wear uniform on at least one occasion:

- a. Aides-de-camp.
- b. Honorary physicians.
- c. Honorary surgeons.
- d. Honorary dental surgeons.
- e. Honorary chaplains.

This ruling does not apply to personal aides-de-camp, air aides-de-camp or the heads of the women's services holding appointments to the Sovereign.

#### Launching of ships

1006. The dress when attending the launching of an HM ship is normally to be No 1 Dress without orders, decorations and medals. When a member of the Royal Family participates in the ceremony, No 1 Dress with one star (no other orders, decorations or medals), sword and aiguillette, subject to entitlement, may be prescribed for RAF officers attending in an official capacity.

#### State and Court functions, Joint Service parades

1007. To ensure that personnel of the three Services wear the equivalent orders of dress at State and Court functions also when participating in Joint Service parades, particularly in the presence of a member or members of the Royal Family, a Joint Service Officers' Ceremonial Dress Table has been drawn up based on three categories of dress for wear as follows:

- a. Full ceremonial dress – on very formal occasions.
- b. Ceremonial dress – when an element of formality is appropriate.
- c. Non-ceremonial dress – on informal occasions.

The dress to be worn on these occasions in temperate areas is indicated in Annex A to this chapter and Annex B deals with warm-weather areas. When promulgating the dress to be worn it is only necessary to quote the order of dress given in column b of the table, ie full ceremonial day dress (with or without sword), etc.

**RAF Service weddings**

1008. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to decide whether those taking part in an official capacity at an RAF wedding should wear uniform and also whether guests should be given the option of wearing uniform or plain clothes.

**Civilian functions**

1009. At civilian and other functions, when the order of dress is not specified and it is known that more than one RAF officer will be attending in uniform, the senior RAF officer is to decide on the dress to be worn and inform the other RAF officers attending of his decision.

**Presentation of degrees ceremony**

1010. Officers attending a presentation of degrees ceremony are to wear No 1 Dress with academic dress (including academic hat).

**Other ceremonial events**

1011. A guide to the correct order of dress to be worn by those attending other events in an individual capacity in temperate areas is given at Annex C to this chapter and Annex D deals with those participating in RAF ceremonial and events other than in an individual capacity. In warm-weather areas the equivalent dress to be worn is as follows:

*Temperate*

- a. No 1 Dress
- b. No 1A Dress
- c. Nos 5, 5A and 5B Dresses
- d. No 9 Dress
- e. No 10 Dress

*Warm-weather*

- No 6 or 6B Dress. No 6 Dress is to be worn by officers when required to wear a sword and on occasions when stars and neck badges are being worn. Airmen in special appointments also wear No 6 Dress on these occasions
- No 6A Dress
- No 8 Dress
- )
- ) No 11 Dress
- )

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