

CHAPTER 2

ORDERS OF DRESS

Introduction

0201. The annexes to this chapter table the constituents of the various numbered orders of uniform dress which are illustrated by a representative selection of plates. Annexes and plates should be studied in conjunction with the amplifying regulations set out below and other chapters dealing with specific aspects, as listed in the contents summary. In the regulations and tables master aircrew are included in any general reference to warrant officers.

0202. The revised dress tables reflect the most recent Air Force Board decisions about the conservation of No 1 Dress uniforms and the introduction of 'standard' orders of working dress. The term 'warm-weather' dress (applicable to Nos 6, 7, 8 and 11 Dress tables) is the revised Joint Service description of former 'tropical' dress, as scaled for tropical and semi-tropical areas.

0203. Male officers and airmen serving in PMRAFNS are to conform with RAF orders of dress and regulations. Women officers of the Medical, Dental and Legal Branches are to conform with WRAF orders of dress and regulations, except that women medical officers are to wear the PMRAFNS branch/rank brooch on their WRAF pattern No 5/8 mess dress.

No 1 Dress

0204. No 1 Dress uniform is to be reserved in the main for wear on ceremonial and other occasions approved by MOD (Air) or Commanders-in-Chief. For general guidance see para 0246 and Chap 10.

Wearing of relegated No 1 uniforms

0205. Officers and warrant officers who possess two No 1 uniforms may wear the second one as working dress so long as it remains presentable. Similarly serviceable relegated trousers and skirts may be worn.

0206. Airmen and airwomen are not to wear No 1 uniform as routine working dress unless specific authority is given by MOD (Air) for particular posts or duties. They may continue to wear (under coveralls or protective suits) part-serviceable trousers they have been allowed to retain at the exchange of Nos 1 and 2 Dress garments.

0207. Not allotted.

No 2 Dress

0208. For routine wear, when a specific order of dress has not been prescribed, the shirt, tie, head-dress and belt options shown in the No 2 Dress annexes may be at the individual's discretion. For occasions such as VIP visits, which call for the added smartness of uniformity but fall short of requiring No 1 Dress, Commanders may order 'standard' working dress, depending on the season.

0209. Columns c and d of the tables detail the standard forms of dress. Options, where permitted, are described in column e of the tables.

0210. For some occasions (instead of standard dress as defined above) it will be appropriate for Commanders to order the wearing of functional clothing by certain categories of personnel, eg combat clothing for RAF Regiment (vide para 0211), protective/working clothing for flight-line tradesmen/women.

RAF No 3 (Combat) Dress

0211. Combat clothing and compatible garments of Army pattern in olive drab (OD) are provided as working dress for officers and airmen of the RAF Regiment, as tabled under RAF No 3 Dress in Annex A. The RAF Regiment equivalents of 'standard' 2A and 2B Dress are No 3, 3A and 3B Dress. In accordance with paras 0208 and 0210 Commanders may order RAF Regiment personnel to wear No 2A, 2B, 3, 3A or 3B Dress whenever a standard dress is required, eg for an important visit. However, for most visits the appropriate RAF Regiment dress will be No 3, 3A or 3B.

0212. At Commanders' discretion, non-Regiment personnel, scaled for combat clothing, may be ordered to wear it during field training, deployment exercises, etc. Mixtures of blue uniform and combat clothing are not permitted.

0213. The beret is normal head-dress for RAF Regiment personnel in all orders of routine and standard working dress. It is also issued as training head-dress for student officers and officer cadets and is retained on graduation from IOT; with the appropriate miniature SD hat badge, it may be worn by officers with combat clothing when this is ordered in accordance with para 0212.

0214. Pending financial approval for introduction as scaled items, officers and airmen of the RAF Regiment may wear the optional RAF stable belt with routine and standard Nos 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 7A and 7B Dress; similarly, shoulder strap slides inscribed 'RAF Regiment' may be worn on combat and working dress garments.

Optional webbing belts RAF and WRAF

0215. The RAF stable belt may only be worn by male personnel (other than RAF Regiment) with Nos 2B, 7A and 7B Dress. Officers are to wear stable belts in accordance with instructions issued from time to time. The women's optional purse belt may be worn by WRAF personnel with routine No 2B Dress.

RAF working shirt

0216. The RAF dark blue working shirt is authorized for wear by airmen and airwomen in the following trade groups and trades:

TG 1	Aircraft Engineering
TG 2	Electrical Engineering
TG 3	Ground Electronic Engineering
TG 5	General Engineering
TG 6	Mechanical Transport
TG 7	Marine Craft
TG 8	Firemen and Kennelmaids only
TG 13	Safety and Surface
TG 18	Supply and Movements

The working shirt is to be worn only with routine 2A and 2B dress on station or for home to duty travel—normally without a tie and with the collar unbuttoned and turned down outside jersey necks. Airwomen employed on parachute packing may wear the WRAF summer shirt in winter as well as summer.

PMRAFNS dress tables

0217. The revised tables of No 2 and No 3 Dress for PMRAFNS women officers and airwomen (Annex B) reflect the approved working dress distinctions between Administrative Nursing Officers and Flight Nursing Officers (who are required to wear WRAF No 2 Dress components) and the majority of women officers and airwomen whose basic universal working dress is a white frock.

0218. Administrative Nursing Officers include:

- a. Principal, senior, deputy and assistant matrons.
- b. Officers employed on the following duties:
 - (1) Staff of the RAF College.
 - (2) Nurse tutor.
 - (3) Occupational health.
 - (4) Recruiting.
 - (5) SDL overseas.

Carrying of handbags

0219. Handbags are to be carried by all female personnel over the left shoulder with the adjustable strap fully extended. When the carrying strap is shortened by means of the press studs provided, the strap should be held in the left hand.

Seasonal limitations for Nos 2B and 3B Dress

0220. Nos 2B and 3B (RAF Regiment) Dress may be worn outdoors only during the summer season as promulgated by Commanders-in-Chief. For the remainder of the year jackets or jerseys may be discarded and No 2B or 3B Dress worn in heated indoor workplaces.

(Continued to para 0221)



Special regulations and scale variations PMRAFNS/WRAF

Skirts

0221. The fitted/finished length of uniform skirts and frocks is to be between the centre of the knee and 2 in (5.1 cm) below the knee.

Stockings and tights

0222. The approved uniform dress hose is beige colour seamless tights or stockings. Tights in the approved colour are stocked by the NAAFI.

0223. The styling of uniform items is not to be altered by ironing-in pleats or creases.

Slacks

0224. Except for categories detailed below, slacks are not permitted as working dress in offices, kitchens or hospitals and should not be worn on duty unless specially ordered for emergencies, night duties or exercises (eg when NBC clothing has to be worn).

0225. Service slacks may be worn with routine working dress by:

- a. Flight Nursing Officers and flight nursing attendants (including u/t).
- b. WRAF officers employed on engineering and supply duties at stations.
- c. Airwomen employed on stations in TGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 (Kennelmaids), 13 and 18.

0226. Slacks are not to be worn outside station bounds, except:

- a. When proceeding to or from dispersed sites on duty.
- b. In direct transit home to duty.
- c. On casualty evacuation duties.
- d. When employed on MT vehicles or similar duties.

Shoes

0227. Service issue laced shoes and blue/grey socks are to be worn with No 2 Dress slacks.

No 7 Dress

0228. For overseas areas, excluding NW Europe, RAF GAI 6022 (Annex E) permits the local provision of warm-weather shirts and slacks, as necessary, for WRAF officers of the engineering and supply branches. AP 830, Vol 3, Part C, Scale C104 lists airwomen's entitlement to warm-weather shirts, slacks and shorts. Blue/grey socks are to be worn with slacks.

0229. No 7 Dress is the summer season working dress for PMRAFNS Administrative Nursing Officers overseas, including Germany.

0230. During the summer dress season, WRAF officers and airwomen serving at NATO HQs on the Continent and in RAF Germany may wear the warm-weather frock with black laced or court shoes, as appropriate. Sandals of the approved pattern may be worn as an optional item.

Greatcoats – provision

0231. Greatcoats are provided on loan to officers promoted to air rank as required and to Directors of Music. RAF GAI 6025 regulates entitlements and arrangements for the loan issue of greatcoats for ceremonial and other particular requirements to all other personnel.

Greatcoats – when worn

0232. Except when other outerwear is ordered, all ranks may wear personal serviceable greatcoats of current pattern still in their possession or service raincoats. For officers, this includes the optional RAF pattern British warm.

0233. Liners provided for combat/protective overgarments and raincoats are not to be worn as outer garments.

Gloves – brown/blue grey

0234. **Officers.** Regardless of season, officers are to wear brown leather gloves on the following occasions:

- a. On all parades in No 1 Dress (except when swords are carried).
- b. When ordered on ceremonial and other formal occasions.

0235. Unless specifically ordered, gloves are not to be worn or carried by officers during VIP visits to their units.

0236. When No 1 Dress is worn for a reason unconnected with a ceremonial or other organized occasion or visit, gloves may be worn or carried at the local Commander's or the individual's discretion.

0237. In extreme weather conditions, gloves may be worn with working dress or in conjunction with personal issue greatcoats or raincoats.

0238. **Warrant officers.** Warrant officers may wear officer pattern brown leather gloves on all occasions when officers do so, vide paras 0234–0237.

0238A. **Airmen and airwomen.** Unless otherwise prescribed (vide para 0908) gloves are normally ordered for airmen and airwomen only during the colder months of the year, but they may be worn at individual discretion as regulated in para 0237.

0239. **Gloves – white.** The occasions for wearing of white gloves by officers, airmen and airwomen are stated at para 0908.

Rules for wearing tie and shirt with No 2 Dress

0240. Ties are always to be worn with the long sleeved wedgwood blue shirt, the PMRAFNS officers' white shirt and the WRAF obsolescent blue/grey shirt, in conjunction with No 2 Dress jacket or the heavy jersey. In No 2A Dress, both collar and tie are to be worn under the jersey. When jacket or jersey is removed at place of work (vide para 0220) or in 2B Dress station commanders may permit ties to be discarded, shirt sleeves rolled up and neck button unfastened. WRAF personnel are not permitted to remove their ties or roll up their sleeves.

0241. In routine Nos 2A and 2B Dress, the dark blue working shirt is to be worn without a tie and with the neck button unfastened; when a jersey is worn, the shirt collar is to be turned down outside the jersey neck.

0242. In routine No 2B dress, the men's optional short-sleeved and the women's short-sleeved shirt are to be worn open necked.

0243. In the cooler periods of otherwise warm days, the No 2 jacket or the jersey may be worn temporarily with 2B dress. In these circumstances a tie is to be worn. WRAF personnel may also wear the No 2 jacket or jersey over the summer shirt, the collar of the summer shirt is to be worn over the jacket collar.

Cuff links

0244. Cuff links prescribed for officers with formal orders of dress are to be plain gold or of similar appearance. Cuff links of this specification may also be worn by warrant officers with No 1 Dress and by warrant officers and senior NCOs with optional versions of RAF No 5 and 8 Dress. Cuff links are not to be worn with working dress.

Optional dress items

0245. Specifications and regulations for optional dress items are contained in Chap 3. These items are equally optional for the corresponding ranks of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, the Royal Air Force Reserve of Officers (Class CC and Class J, RAFVR(T)) and the Royal Observer Corps.

Dress for station duty personnel

0246. Dress for station duty personnel, eg Station Duty Officer, Orderly Officer, Orderly Sergeant, etc, should be published by commanding officers in accordance with MOD(Air) and command policy. Duties may properly be carried out in any day dress, or specialist clothing, as appropriate and when ordered. Whilst the wearing of No 1 SD uniform is usually to be reserved for ceremonial and formal occasions, local Commanders may authorize its use by duty personnel where they consider this to be appropriate.

Formal ball dress for women officers

0247. Women officers may wear civilian ball gowns at officers' mess annual formal balls.





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