

CHAPTER 8

WEARING OF AIGUILLETES AND SHOULDER DEVICES

Supply

0801. Aiguillettes and shoulder devices are to be worn by officers holding the appointments indicated in para 0808. Entitled officers are to refer their requirements for the supply of these items to their parent RAF station quoting this AP as authority. The parent station will demand the accoutrements from No 14 Maintenance Unit, RAF Carlisle and arrange loan issue to the officer concerned for the duration of the appointment. When the appointment is relinquished, the loan issue is either to be transferred to the new incumbent or returned to No 14 Maintenance Unit.

Dress with which aiguillettes are to be worn

0802. Aiguillettes are to be worn with Nos 1, 1A, 4, 5, 5A, 5B, 6, 6A, 6B and 8 Dresses on the occasions indicated in para 0805 but are not to be worn on a greatcoat or raincoat. When aiguillettes are worn with a jacket, shoulder straps are always to be fitted to cover the shoulder attachment. Jackets which do not normally comprise shoulder straps are to be modified by sewing straps manufactured in the same material as the garment into the shoulder seam and affixed by a small RAF gilt button close to the collar.

Method of wearing aiguillettes

0803. When worn by male officers, the aiguillette is to be attached to the appropriate shoulder of the jacket as indicated in para 0808 by a hook or button placed centrally on the shoulder, $\frac{3}{8}$ in (19 mm) from the outside shoulder seam. The loop of the aiguillette from which the tags are suspended is to be similarly attached under the lapel of the jacket so that on Nos 1, 1A, 4 and 6 Dresses, the tags fall over and in line with the inner seam of the appropriate breast pocket. On Nos 5A, 5B and 8 Dress jackets, the loop from which the tags are suspended is to be attached under the collar at the join of the collar and lapel. The hook or button is to be located so as to ensure that the aiguillette is not hidden at all by the lapel. With Nos 1, 1A, 4 and 6 Dresses the length of the longer cord should be such that the lower edge of the cord under the arm is approximately in line with the waist-belt, sash or waistline and in line with the middle button of Nos 5A and 5B Dress jackets. With No 6A Dress the aiguillette is to be attached to the shoulder of the tunic in the same manner as with the No 1A Dress. The loop of the aiguillette from which the tags are suspended is to be attached to the second button on the tunic underneath the wrap-over so that the tags fall slightly to one side of the buttons with the lower edge of the cord under the arm approximately in line with the sash. As only one size of aiguillette is available from stores, the position of the lower edge of the cord under the arm will vary depending on the build of the wearer. Minor adjustment can be achieved by moving the lapel attachment point.

0804. On women officers, attachment of the aiguillette to the shoulder and under the lapel of Nos 1, 1A and 4 Dresses is to be in the same manner as for male officers. Although there are no breast pockets, the tags are to fall on a similar alignment to those of aiguillettes worn by male officers with this numbered dress. With dress style uniform a miniaturized light-weight version of the aiguillette is to be worn by women officers as follows:

a. *With Nos 5 and 8 Dresses*

- (1) *PMRAFNS*. From the shoulder of the dress, attached by a hook or hooks located on the centre seam, $\frac{3}{8}$ in (19 mm) from the outside seam. The loop from which the tags are suspended is attached to a hook located level with the top of the miniature badges of orders, decorations and medals on the brooch and midway between the shoulder seam and the centre line of the dress running down from the collar opening.
- (2) *WRAF*. From the shoulder of the dress, attached in the same manner as for the *PMRAFNS*, with the loop from which the tags are suspended, located immediately below the collar seam in line with the side of the wearer's neck.

- #### b. *With Nos 6 and 6A Dresses, PMRAFNS and WRAF*. The attachment to the shoulder is to be in the same manner as for male officers but the loop from which the tags are suspended is to be attached under the lapel so that the tags fall on a similar alignment to those of aiguillettes worn by male officers with No 6 Dress.

Occasions when aiguillettes are to be worn

0805. Officers eligible to wear aiguillettes are to wear them on the following occasions:

a. State occasions when:

- (1) The Sovereign or the Sovereign's representative is present.
- (2) A parade or celebration of the birthday of the Sovereign is mounted.

- (3) Specially ordered on the occasion of any parade, ceremony or entertainment at which a member of the Royal Family is present.
- b. Official occasions, ie a function or entertainment given or arranged by any government department (including the armed forces) or a government institution. An official occasion is a formal event to which guests from outside the unit are invited. For example, a luncheon, ball and guest night could be in this category, whereas a dining-in night would not.
 - c. Public occasions, ie when invitations are issued in the name of a municipal corporation, institution or livery company.
 - d. When visiting British and foreign Naval or Army establishments on formal occasions; also when visiting foreign Air Force establishments.
 - e. When inspecting and taking the salute at parades or when attending as a spectator.
 - f. When meeting or attending upon very important persons in an official capacity eg representing the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Air Force Board or the Royal Air Force.
 - g. Audiences and Investitures. (In accordance with Chap 10, para 1003.)
 - h. Funerals and memorial services.
 - j. On such other occasions as the Air Force Board may direct.

The aiguillette may only be worn by personal staffs referred to in sub-paras 0808g and h, when in attendance in an official capacity upon the senior officer concerned. Diplomatic staff, mentioned in sub-para 0808f, are normally only to wear the aiguillette in the country to which they are accredited, providing it is the custom of the country and has the sanction of the British ambassador.

Shoulder devices

0806. The Royal Cypher, which is surmounted by a crown, both of gilt, is a device to indicate an honorary appointment to the Sovereign. There are two sizes for wear by entitled officers indicated in para 0808, as follows:

- a. *Large (1¼ in (3.2 cm) high and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) wide, including fixed crown).* With Nos 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 6 and 6B Dresses, also the greatcoat.
- b. *Small (15/16ths in (24 mm) high and 15/16ths in (24 mm) wide, including fixed crown).* With Nos 5, 5A, 5B, 6A, 8 and 8A Dresses. Also by certain officers after relinquishment of appointment, see para 0808.

0807. On uniform fitted with shoulder straps, the Royal Cypher is to be worn on both straps. With Nos 1, 5A and 5B Dresses, the lower edge of the device is to be 1 in (2.5 cm) from the bottom of the straps. With Nos 2, 2A, 2B, 6, 6A, 6B, 8 and 8A Dresses worn by male officers, also when worn with a greatcoat (other than by Marshals of the RAF), the device is to be superimposed on the lowest rows of ranking braid, with the lower edge of the device level with the bottom of the lowest row of the braid. With No 1A Dress and on shoulder straps worn by Marshals of the RAF, the device is to be affixed to the lower edge of the shoulder strap. On Nos 5 and 8 Dresses worn by women officers, only one Royal Cypher is to be worn as follows:

- a. *PMRAFNS.* ½ in (13 mm) above the attachment for the loop of the aiguillette.
- b. *WRAF.* On the collar immediately above the attachment for the loop of the aiguillette.

The device is held in position by a split pin when worn on a shoulder strap and a modified version in brooch form is best suited for wear on Nos 5 and 8 Dresses worn by women officers.

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0808. Entitlement to wear aiguillettes and shoulder devices

<i>Entitled Appointments</i>	<i>Aiguillette</i>	<i>Royal Cypher</i>
a. Personal aide-de-camp to the Sovereign.	Gold seven-line orris cord with gilt crown and Royal Cypher on tags in capital letters (to be worn on right shoulder).	Gilt crown and Royal Cypher in capital letters (see Note 3).
b. Air aide-de-camp to the Sovereign. Aide-de-camp to the Sovereign. Defence Services Secretary. Honorary Physician to the Sovereign. Honorary Surgeon to the Sovereign. Honorary Dental Surgeon to the Sovereign. Honorary Chaplain to the Sovereign. Honorary Nursing Sister to the Sovereign. Honorary aide-de-camp to the Sovereign. Equerry and extra equerry to the Sovereign. The Captain of the Queen's Flight.	Gold seven-line orris cord with gilt crown and Royal Cypher on tags, in capital letters (to be worn on right shoulder).	Gilt crown and Royal Cypher in capital letters (see Note 3).
c. Marshal of the Royal Air Force (see Note 1).	Gold seven-line orris cord with gilt eagle and crown on tags (to be worn on right shoudler).	
d. Air Members of the Defence Council (see Note 1). Air Members of the Air Force Board.	Blue and gold seven-line orris cord with silver eagle and crown on tags (to be worn on right shoulder).	
e. Equerry to members of the Royal Family other than the Sovereign. Personal staff (see Note 2) of Governors General. Aide-de-camp to the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.	Gold seven-line orris cord with no device on tags (to be worn on right shoulder).	No device
f. Head of British Defence Services Staff Washington. Air Attaches and Assistant Air Attaches. Service Advisers and Assistant Advisers in HM High Commissions in Commonwealth capitals. Head of Secretariat British Defence Liaison Staff Ottawa.	Blue and gold seven-line orris cord with silver eagle and crown on tags (to be worn on left shoulder).	

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