



**The RAF Ceremonial Office, Room G39
HEADQUARTERS
PERSONNEL AND TRAINING COMMAND
ROYAL AIR FORCE INNSWORTH
GLOUCESTER GL3 1EZ**



CHOTS E-Mail Address: P1cerraaf

BT: [REDACTED] GPTN: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED] Mil: [REDACTED]

See Distribution

Reference: Dress Policy Letter 01/04
PTC/312029/POL/SPSO
Date 14 Jan 04

ADVANCE AMENDMENT TO AP1358 – DRESS REGULATIONS FOR THE RAF

1. The AP1358 – Dress Regulations for the RAF, is currently subject to a complete revision. In future the regulations in the AP will contain guidance on personal appearance, which will include the standards to be applied and adhered to, when on duty. The revised AP is due for publication in the Summer 2004. However, given the number of enquiries we receive from stns there is obviously a pressing need for firmer guidance about personal appearance. Enclosed is an advance amendment to the AP1358¹ which encompasses changes to the following areas:

- a. 0127. Canes and Pace Sticks.
- b. 0128. Emblems.
- c. 0139. Gloves – Issue brown leather.
- d. 0141. Gloves – Issue black leather.
- e. 0143. Brief Cases, Rucksacks, Sports Bags and Holdalls.
- f. 0147 Ballgowns.
- g. 0152 to 0160 APPEARANCE – Hairdressing, Cosmetics, Body Piercing, Jewellery.

2. Please take the following amendment action:

- ✓ a. Page (i) amend the title to read: Uniform Dress and Appearance Regulations for the Royal Air Force.
- ✓ b. Chapter 1, remove pages 1-7 to 1-10, insert new pages 1-7 to 1-11.

¹ A corresponding amendment will be made to QRs 209 and 210 in due course.

c. File this covering letter with the record of amendments page.

4. The point of contact for the AP 1358 revision is [REDACTED], HQ PTC, RAF Cer&DP,
telephone [REDACTED]



for AOA

Enclosure:

1. AP1358 Chap 1 – Advance Amendment.

Distribution:

External:

Action:

Distribution List B11 (for Stn Adjs, OC GD Flt & SWO)

Information:

HQ STC (SO4 A4 Ops Plans (OCFE))
DCIPT (CLO)

Internal:

Information:

SPSO
SO2 UCPSM

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Contents

Introduction	0101
Authorized patterns	0102
Scales of clothing	0103
Initial outfitting and maintenance of service clothing	0109
Wearing of uniform in public (UK)	0111
Wearing of uniform (abroad)	0113
Name badges	0114
Wearing of uniform by retired, reserve and Royal Auxiliary Air Force officers	0115
Wearing of uniform by airmen/women after discharge or transfer to the reserve	0116
Dress for station duty personnel	0117
Order of uniform to be worn	0118
Dress for passengers - air and sea trooping	0119
Personnel on loan service or secondment	0121
Dress when off duty and for social and sporting events	0122
Wearing of headdress	0124
Motor bicycle and bicycle crash helmets	0126
Canes and pace sticks	0127
Emblems	0129
Duty armbands/Mourning bands	0131
Handbags	0132
Stockings and tights	0133
Umbrellas	0135
Scarves	0136
Trinkets and jewellery	0137
Cuff links	0138
Cosmetics	0139
Gloves	0140
Stable belts	0144
Briefcases, rucksacks, sports bags and holdalls	0145
RAF Sports representative blazer	0146
Boots / overshoes - female personnel	0148
Ballgowns	0149
RAF General blazer	0150
Formation ties	0151

Introduction

0101. The regulations in this publication supersede the contents of AP 1358 (4th Edition). They apply to officers, airmen and airwomen serving in the Royal Air Force (RAF) 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 authorised to wear RAF pattern uniform.

Authorised patterns

0102. The only patterns of dress and insignia to be worn with RAF uniform are those authorised by the Ministry of Defence (Air Force Department). Patterns and/or specifications for approved items are held by the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency (DCTA). Personnel who obtain items of uniform through trade sources are responsible for ensuring that they conform to the approved patterns.

Scales of clothing

0103. **RAF GAI 6021** lists the entitlement of free-issue clothing to officers (including chaplains) on first appointment and the mandatory items which are to be purchased from their initial outfitting allowances at the appropriate stages of service. The authority for repayment issues of appropriate uniform dress items to accredited scripture readers is defined in **RAF GAI J 5013**.

0104. **RAF GAI 6022** lists the allowances and scales of warm weather clothing prescribed for service outside the UK.

0105. **AP 830, Vol 3 Part C, Scale C101-C104** lists the scale of entitlement to free-issue clothing for airmen and airwomen.

0106. **A 830, Vol 3 Part C, Scale C203** lists the additional items of ceremonial and undress uniform for Directors of Music.

0107. **A 830, Vol 3 Part C, Scale C301** lists the initial outfitting and the supplementary trade and protective clothing items for airmen and airwomen.

0108. Full specifications and purchase descriptions for bespoke items are already known to the military outfitters who are advised of any changes by DCTA.

Outfitting allowances

0109. On initial appointment, officers and officer cadets receive free issues of certain clothing, with a one-off allowance for the purchase of other outfit items from commercial sources. Additional allowances are provided for the purchase of warm-weather clothing on initial posting outside the UK. Income tax relief is provided for the maintenance and replacement of officers' uniform items. However, flying, specialist and protective clothing are issued and maintained at

0110. Initial and replacement issues (iaw the timescales held by Supply Squadron) of airmen's and airwomen's uniform clothing, are free of charge, with the exception of premature replacements occasioned by individual neglect or culpability.

Wearing of uniform in public (UK)

0111. Uniform is not to be worn on the following occasions:

- a. When participating in non-service parades. However, this does not preclude the wearing of uniform by those officiating at a saluting base or officiating with a party of officials.
- b. At political meetings or when supporting political activities.
- c. At functions where fancy dress is worn.
- d. When on part-time or temporary civilian employment.

0112. The mixing of uniform and civilian dress is strictly forbidden. When the security situation advises against the wearing of uniform in public, the uniform should be completely covered. However, when travelling in a car between residence and place of duty, a civilian top may be worn over uniform but must be removed on leaving the car. Drivers of service vehicles are to comply with local MT orders.

Wearing of uniform (abroad)

0113. Except when serving with a British Force, Service personnel are not to wear uniform whilst in a foreign country without having obtained permission of the Sovereign's representative in that country. Such permission will be granted only when personnel are employed on duty, attending Court or State ceremonies to which they have been invited. Permission to wear uniform at foreign manoeuvres can only be obtained from HQPTC (P1 (Ceremonial) (RAF)).

Name Badges

0114. Officers are to wear name badges, except on ceremonial occasions, on No 1, No 6 and No 6B uniform and on No 2 Uniform when the jersey is worn. The badge is to be of blue plastic and is to be worn centrally above the right breast pocket of the jacket or horizontally just below the right shoulder pad of the jersey. Airmen employed on recruiting and instructional duties are to wear similar badges in the same manner.

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

0115. Officers on the Retired and Reserve Lists, Royal Auxiliary Air Force officers with their CO's approval may wear uniform on the following occasions:

- a. When attending:
 - (1) Investitures and Royal garden parties.
 - (2) State ceremonial occasions.
 - (3) Parades in an official capacity, in connection with the celebration of the Sovereign's birthday.
 - (4) Their own wedding or other military weddings when the sponsor requests the wearing of uniform.
 - (5) When attending formal service functions. (See para **0232**).
- b. When participating in an official capacity, in:
 - (1) Non-service parades.
 - (2) War Memorial services and associated parades.
- c. When inspecting or visiting:
 - (1) R Aux AF or RAFVR units in an official capacity.
 - (2) Units of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) or the Air Training Corps (ATC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence or Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Associations.
- d. When appointed for service with the ATC (the rank badges to be worn are those appropriate to the ATC appointment).
- e. When on duty as officials, duly appointed by the Ministry of Defence.
- f. When holding the appointments of ADC to Her Majesty's Governor-General or Governor.
- g. When holding the appointment of Lord Lieutenant or Deputy Lord Lieutenant of a county, High Sheriff or Sheriff and discharging the duties of that appointment. (Lieutenancy insignia may not be worn on RAF dress but entitled RAF flying badges may be worn on the Lieutenancy dress).

Wearing of uniform by airmen/airwomen after discharge or transfer to the reserve

0116. Except as permitted for officers, airmen/airwomen are not to wear uniform after their discharge from the service. The wearing of uniform by airmen/airwomen reservists is only permissible when called out on permanent service; in aid of the civil power; when undergoing annual or other training; and when otherwise engaged by HM Service in employment of which it is an express condition, that while employed therein, they are subject to Air Force Law.

Dress for station duty personnel.

0117. Dress for station duty personnel, eg Station Duty Officer, Orderly Officer etc, should be published by commanding officers in accordance with MOD (Air) and command policy. Whilst the wearing of No 1 service dress is usually to be reserved for ceremonial and formal occasions, local commanders may authorise its use by duty personnel when they consider this to be appropriate.

Order of uniform to be worn

0118. Orders of dress are detailed in **Chapters 2 to 6** inclusive. Guidance on the orders of dress for specific occasions is contained in the Annexes to **Chapter 10**.

Dress for passengers - air and sea trooping

0119. Dress regulations for air and sea travel are detailed in **Chapter 19, JSP 356 (Joint Service Manual of Travel Instructions)**.

0120. As appropriate to their ranks and the occasion, service uniform may be worn by RAF officers appointed as equeries to the Sovereign or other members of the Royal Family or as ADC to a Governor-General, Commissioner-General etc, (as listed in the table of aiguillette entitlements at **Chapter 9**).

Personnel on loan service or secondment

0121. RAF uniform is to be worn by personnel on loan service or secondment to other forces unless otherwise stipulated in the memoranda governing their appointments. Personnel of other forces on loan service or secondment to the Royal Air Force are to wear the uniform of their services on all appropriate occasions.

Dress when off duty and for social and sporting events

0122. All RAF personnel at home units should normally wear plain clothes when they are not required for duty. However, uniform is worn by officers, warrant officers and SNCOs on the following occasions:

AP 1358, CHAP 1

- a. At formal functions in an Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess or Junior Ranks' Club, when the appropriate form of dress is No 1, 4 or 5 and when overseas, the warm-weather dress equivalents. When attending an informal function in any of these Messes, officers and SNCOs are to wear suitable uniform or civilian dress as ordered by the Commanding Officer.
- b. At inter-service boxing tournaments No 5 or 8 dress is normally worn. Dress at RAF boxing tournaments is to be at the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief of the host station.

0123. Notwithstanding para **0122**, COs have the discretionary power to order that uniform be worn on particular off-duty occasions, should they consider it necessary.

Wearing of Head-dress

0124. When wearing uniform, head-dress is to be worn by all personnel in the following manner:

- a. **No 1 Service hat.** The No 1 Service hat is to be worn so that the bottom of the hat is 25mm above the eyebrows, the front of the hat level and the badge positioned centrally.
- b. **Forage cap.** The forage cap is worn tilted to the right so that the front edge is approximately 25 mm above the eyebrows and the side edge is approximately 12mm above the right ear. The material is blue/grey worsted baratheia of standard styling for Group Captains and below; the Air Officers cap is piped in Minerva blue.
- c. **Beret.** The beret is to be worn so that the black band is horizontal around the head and 25mm above the eyebrows. The surplus material is to be pulled down over the right ear and the badge clearly displayed in a position directly above the left eye. The adjustment ribbon is to be secured with a knot and the surplus ends hidden from sight.

0125. Hats are not be worn:

- d. When indoors at place of work.
- e. When in FOD hazard areas.
- f. When under arrest.
- g. When otherwise ordered.
- h. When engaged on P Ed instructional duties (PTIs only).
- j. When attending a church service (female personnel excepted).

- k. When in civil or service courts and when taking oaths (male personnel only). (AP 3265(Guide to Legal Procedures) and QR J202 refer).

0126. Motor bicycle and bicycle crash helmets. With the exception of Sikhs wearing turbans, personnel in uniform may wear civilian pattern crash helmets when riding privately owned motor bicycles and bicycles. The headdress appropriate to the uniform worn is to be carried.

Canes and Pace Sticks

0127. Only the following uniformed personnel are permitted to carry canes and pace sticks in the performance of their duties:

- a. CASWO.
- b. Warrant Officers filling the post of Station Warrant Officer (SWO).
- c. Pace sticks – by NCO drill instructors actively engaged on drill instructional duties.

With the exception of CASWO, canes are only to be used at individuals parent units. Only canes of the approved pattern are to be used. Neither the cane nor the pace stick is to be painted, altered or defaced in any way that results in a deviation from the original pattern and colour.

Emblems

0128. No unauthorised 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 – may be worn from onset of sales. Poppies are to be removed after the official observation of remembrance has concluded each year.
- c. Flags and emblems on the authorised day.

0129. Emblems should be of conventional dimensions and are to be worn immediately above the right breast pocket of the No1 dress jacket and in the corresponding position on warm-weather dresses, jerseys, shirts CS95 field jacket and shirt. When worn with greatcoat it is to be worn on the left lapel. In order to avoid damaging the waterproof materials, emblems should not be worn with the GPJ, CS95 gortex or jeltex outerwear.

Duty armllets/Mourning bands

0130. Identifying armllets used by personnel in performance of designated station duties, are to be worn on the left sleeve, positioned midway between the elbow and

the shoulder. During periods of service mourning, officers and warrant officers required to wear mourning bands are to do so on the left sleeve of the uniform in a corresponding position (see **QR 196**). Identifying armbands worn at the same time as mourning are to be worn on the right sleeve.

Handbags

0131. Except on parade, female personnel may carry service-issue handbags when wearing all forms of uniform. They are to be carried either over the left shoulder with the adjustable strap fully extended, or in the left hand if the strap is shortened by means of the press studs.

Stocking and tights

0132. The approved uniform dress hose colour is as follows:

- a. In UK.
 - (1) Pretty Polly Legworks – Barely Black
 - (2) Pretty Polly Smooth Knit – Barely Black
 - (3) Pretty Polly 15 Denier – Barely black (to be worn on ceremonial occasions)
 - (4) NAAFI – Barely black
- b. Overseas: Beige hosiery is only to be worn on ceremonial occasions with warm weather clothing and court shorts. When wearing blue as in 1a above.

0133. Female members of the RAF or PMRAFNS, are to wear seamless beige colour hose when wearing whites, warm weather clothing or in ward dress.

Optional dress items

0136. Umbrellas. Personal umbrellas may be carried by all personnel whilst in uniform, except when on parade or participating in other ceremonial occasions. They are to be plain handled, black in colour and of the short or telescopic style.

0137. Scarves. The approved pattern of scarf is woven blue/grey lambswool (available through NAAFI). Except on parade, it may be worn under outerwear provided not more than 25mm is visible above the neck of the outer garment.

0138. Cufflinks. Cufflinks prescribed for officers and warrant 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 SNCOs with the optional version of No 5 and No 8 dress.

0139. Gloves– Issue brown leather. Regardless of season, officers and warrant 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.

0140. Additionally, brown gloves may be worn or carried when in No 1 dress (unconnected with ceremonial) and working dress.

0141. Gloves – Issue black leather. All personnel of flight sergeant rank and below may wear official pattern black leather gloves when ordered on ceremonial and other formal occasions. Additionally, black leather gloves may be worn or carried when in No 1 dress (unconnected with ceremonial) and working dress.

0142. Optional belts. The RAF stable belt may be worn by all personnel with Nos 2A, 2B, 7A and 7B dress only.

0143. Brief Cases, Rucksacks, Sports Bags and Holdalls.

- a. **Brief Cases.** Brief cases may be used, but they are to be of plain dark colour. Briefcases are to be carried in such a manner to permit the paying of compliments when necessary.
- b. **Rucksacks, Sports Bags & Holdalls.** Personnel may use plain, dark colour rucksacks, sports bags. Any logos are to be discreet. When used they to be carried over the shoulder a manner to permit the paying compliments when necessary.

0144. RAF Sports representative blazer. Only personnel who have represented the Royal Air Force at home, in officially recognised senior inter-service championships against the Royal Navy or the Army are eligible to wear the RAF sports representative blazer, badge and tie. Certificates authorising their wear are issued by the Defence Sports Board (RAF).

0145. The RAF sports representative blazer is single-breasted, made of dark blue wool flannel, with three large buttons on the front and three small buttons on each cuff. The buttons are identical to those worn on the RAF officers No 5 dress jacket. Woven replicas of the sports representative badge are worn on the breast pocket.

0146. Boots/overshoes – female personnel. In snow or icy conditions female personnel may wear civilian-type boots, overshoes or wellingtons with uniform, except on parade. This footwear is to be plain black with a heel not exceeding 37mm in height. They are to be made of rubber, leather or plastic and extend no higher than the base of the wearers' knee.

0147. Ballgowns. At the discretion of the Station Commander, normally delegated to PMC or CMC as appropriate, female officers, warrant officers and SNCOs may

wear ball gowns at Officers' Mess and Sgts' Mess annual formal balls and Ladies Guest Nights.

0148. RAF General blazer. The general blazer may be worn by all serving and ex-members of the Royal Air Force and its ancillary services. It is double-breasted, made of dark blue wool flannel, with four large buttons on the front and three small buttons on each cuff. The buttons are chromium plated and indented with an eagle and crown. Buttons for the non-regular forces are further indented below the eagle and crown with the letters RAFAuxAF, RAFVR or RAFVR(T) as appropriate. Entitled personnel may wear a command or formation badge positioned on the breast pocket.

0149. Formation ties. Past and present members of the Royal Air Force Auxiliary Air Force and Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve may wear the appropriate formation tie.

APPEARANCE – Hairdressing, Cosmetics, Body Piercing, Jewellery

Growth of Hair and Beards - Male Personnel.

0152. Hair. The hair of the head is to be well cut and trimmed. Sideburns are to be short and well trimmed and are not to extend below a line running through the mid point of the ear. Extreme styles of haircuts and colouring are not permitted, if the hair is dyed or highlighted, the colour chosen is to be natural and in a uniform shade appropriate to the individual. The commanding officer shall be the arbiter as to what is or not an acceptable style or length of cut.

0153. Beards. Beards may be permitted on religious grounds or when specially authorised by COs on medical grounds under the provisions of AP1269. The beard is to be a full one and, with the exception of Sikhs (see below), it is to be kept short and neatly trimmed.

- a. **Sikhs.** Sikhs due to their religion may wear beards and their hair long in the Sikh tradition. The hair of the head is to be so arranged that it is placed under the turban.

For occupational or operational reasons, where a hazard clearly exists, personnel authorised to wear beards on religious or medical grounds may be ordered to modify or remove facial hair to such an extent as to enable the correct wearing of respirator or breathing apparatus. However, during routine NBC training or Stn exercises the beard may remain unshaven.

0154. Moustaches. If a moustache is worn the upper lip is to be unshaven and the moustache is not to extend below the edge of the mouth.

Hairdressing and Cosmetics -Female Personnel.

0155. Female personnel are to arrange their hair in a manner that permits the service dress cap to be worn correctly; hair is not to show under the front or peak of the cap and the style is to be kept neat and no longer than the bottom edge of the collar at the

back of the service jacket. Extreme styles of haircuts and colouring are not permitted, if the hair is dyed or highlighted, the colour chosen is to be natural and in a uniform shade appropriate to the individual. The commanding officer shall be the arbiter as to what is or not an acceptable colour or style. PMRAFNS personnel are to wear their hair off the collar when engaged in nursing duties. A hair band is permitted, but must be inconspicuous and either of a similar colour to the hair or black. Combs, when worn, must be plain and of a similar colour to the wearer's hair.

0156. In addition to the provisions of **para 0155**, female aircrew who are required to wear flying helmets or aircrew respirators for the performance of their aircrew duties are to wear their hair in a manner which:

- a. Is sufficiently short that the fit and stability of their flying helmet or aircrew respirator is not compromised.
- b. Allows the hair to fit completely and comfortably inside their flying helmet or aircrew respirator without the use of hairpins, clips or other hair-restraining device that might constitute an operational or flight safety hazard.

0157. When in uniform women personnel are forbidden to use brightly coloured nail varnish and cosmetics of a conspicuous nature. Nursing staffs are forbidden to use nail varnish of any kind when on ward duty. Female aircrew are forbidden to wear cosmetics of any kind when performing flying duties that require the use of oxygen masks or aircrew respirators.

Body Piercing and Wearing of Trinkets & Jewellery

0158. In the case of male personnel, the wearing of watch-chains and trinkets in such a manner as to be seen is not permitted when wearing uniform. A wedding ring and/or one other plain precious metal ring and watch of inconspicuous style may be worn. Earrings are not to be worn.

0159. The prohibition in **para 0158** is equally applied to female personnel who are similarly forbidden to wear jewellery when in uniform. They may, however, wear wedding rings and/or engagement rings, or a plain signet ring. Following the piercing of the ears they may wear one plain gold stud earring in each ear lobe. The studs are to be small and unobtrusive and are not to be worn on parade.

0160. Where any part of the body, other than the ear for women, has been pierced or prepared, whether for any ring stud or sleeper, no such items are to be worn when on duty or standby duty. Similarly, when not in uniform but on duty, standby duty or representing the RAF, the wearing of body piercing jewellery, trinkets or rings etc is not permitted, nor at any time when it may be seen to hold the service in disrepute or adversely reflect upon the RAF.





This file was downloaded
from the RTFM Library.

Link: www.scottbouch.com/rtfm

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