

CHAPTER 2
RAF ORDERS OF DRESS

(Male personnel)

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Introduction

This chapter illustrates, through a selection of plates and explanatory notes, the various orders of dress for male RAF personnel and stipulates the occasions on which each type of uniform should be worn. In these regulations and tables, master aircrew are included in any general reference to warrant officers.

Male officers and airmen of the PMRAFNS are to comply with the RAF orders of dress. Chaplains also conform to these orders, except where stated otherwise.

The first plate in each numbered order of dress details the uniform items appropriate to that dress, in full. Thereafter, plates showing acceptable alternatives within that order of dress, specify the variations to the first and not always the full description.

No 1 Dress - Officers and airmen

0201. Occasions for wear. The No 1 dress uniform is to be worn on all formal and ceremonial occasions as ordered by MOD (Air) or Commanders in Chief. Additionally, local commanders have the discretionary power to authorise its wear at other times.

0202. Hat. Only the service issue No 1 hat may be worn, as follows:

a. Officers. Group Captains and above wear a hat with an embellished patent peak, Wing commanders and below have a cloth covered peak. Officer cadets wear a white band over the black mohair band

b. Airmen. The airmen's No 1 hat, with a black patent peak is to be worn by all non-commissioned ranks. The warrant officers hat has an anodised badge depicting an eagle above laurel leaves, surmounted by a crown in lieu of the airmen's badge.

0203. Tunic. The No 1 uniform is manufactured as a suit, from the same length of fabric, therefore the tunic from one issue should not be worn with the trousers of another. All commissioned ranks and WOs wear the same style tunic (shown in plate 1). However, officers of the rank of AVM and above and all officers who are entitled to wear aiguillettes and / or the Royal Cypher (including Honorary Chaplains to the Sovereign) also wear plain shoulder straps. All airmen of FS rank and below wear the same style tunic (also shown in plate 2-1).

0203A. Eagle shoulder badge. The Eagle shoulder badge is to be worn only by flight sergeants and below on the No 1 dress uniform jacket and greatcoat. The eagle is to face to the rear and be positioned 3.9 cm from the shoulder seam to the top of the patch on which the eagle is situated. The centre of the eagle is to be in line with the shoulder seam.

0204. Trousers. The No 1 suit trousers are to be worn with pressed in creases, front and back, extending the full length of each leg

0205. Shirt. A long-sleeved wedgwood blue shirt is to be worn, with creases pressed in on each sleeve running from the centre of the epaulette to the cuff.

0206. Tie. A plain black tie is to be worn, secured with a windsor knot. Chaplains are to wear a clerical collar with a spade stock.

0207. Socks. Black only.

0208. Shoes. Highly polished black leather Oxford pattern shoes are to be worn by officers and WOs. Non-commissioned members of the RAF Regiment are to wear similarly polished boots, and all other trades, DMS shoes.

0209. Gloves. Brown service issue leather gloves are to be worn or carried by all officers and WOs. Airmen may wear black leather or blue/grey woollen gloves. On certain ceremonial occasions (as detailed in **Chapter 9**) white cotton gloves are to be worn by **all** personnel.

0210. Sash. Officers, when employed on AFB ushering duties, may wear a light blue sash. Similarly, airmen employed as recruit training instructors, IOT staff and certain members of QCS may wear a sash for ceremonial purposes, it is only to be worn whilst on parade.

0211. Greatcoat. Except for officers who possess their own, greatcoats are provided on loan as required, in accordance with **RAF GAI 6025**. They are normally to be worn on ceremonial occasions only and the officer-style greatcoats have provision for a sword slit. For Air Cdres and below, they have built in shoulder straps with blue/black rank braid and for AVMs to ACMs the shoulder straps are detachable; one set having conventional blue/black rank braid whilst the other is ranked in gold, with embellishments.

0212. Raincoat. Raincoats are not to be worn on ceremonial occasions.



RAF NO 1 SERVICE DRESS

Officer
No 1 Dress



Airmen
No 1 Dress





RAF Not Service dress
(Warrant Officer)





RAF NO 1 A SERVICE DRESS
(AVM rank and above)

(To be issued)

1. **Hat.** The double row of embellished gold oak leaf depicts an air officer.
2. **Tunic.** Embellished shoulder boards fixed by means of shoulder loops and 27 ligne anodized buttons are worn on the No 1A tunic and the waist has a self supporting hook on the left hand side. Plain boards are worn only with No 1 dress (non-ceremonial day)
3. **Gloves.** White cotton gloves are worn or carried as appropriate. Brown leather gloves are worn on with No 1 dress (non-ceremonial day).
4. **Sash.** A gold / blue sash is worn with No 1A Ceremonial Day Dress



No 2 Dress - Officers and airmen

0213. Occasions for wear. The Standard No 2 dress uniform may be worn by all personnel as a routine working dress, throughout the year. Except when a specific order of dress has been prescribed, the head-dress and belt options may be worn at the individuals discretion. The No 2A dress may be worn throughout the year; however, under no circumstances are ties to be removed or shirt sleeves rolled up, even in the work-place. The No 2B dress may be worn all year round but see para 0217.

0214. Hat. A No 1 hat, forage cap or beret may be worn by airmen. Officers may wear a No 1 hat or forage cap, RAF Regiment officers may wear a beret.

0215. Jersey. The service issue No 2 dress jersey is to be worn. Stable belts are not to be worn outside the jersey.

0216. Trousers. No 2 dress standard issue or lightweight trousers are to be worn, with pressed in creases front and back, extending the full length of each leg. Service issue blue / grey webbing belt or stable belt may be worn with either of the trouser options. When the stable belt is worn the dark stripe is to be uppermost and the fastenings secured over the left hip.

0217. Shirts. A long-sleeved wedgwood blue shirt is to be worn with a plain black tie, when in No 2 or 2A dress. Chaplains however, may opt to wear a clerical collar with a spade stock or the tunnel collared RAF Chaplains shirt. A short-sleeved, open-necked wedgwood blue shirt may be worn at all times in summer months 1 May - 30 Sep (No 2B dress) The RAF dark blue working shirt, No 2C dress is authorized for wear, throughout the year, by airmen in the following trade groups and trades:

TG 1	Aircraft Engineering	TG 6	Mechanical Transport
TG 2	Electrical Engineering	TG 8	Firemen only
TG 3	Ground Electronic Engineering	TG 13	Safety & Surface
TG 5	General Engineering	TG 18	Supply & Movements

The working shirt is only to be worn with No 2C dress on station, or for home to duty travel - without a tie and with the collar unbuttoned and turned down outside the jersey neck. In summer months the sleeves may be rolled up above the elbow.

0218. Socks. Black only.

0219. Shoes. Polished black Oxford pattern or service issue DMS shoes

0220. Coats. Either a raincoat, general purpose jacket or jeltex jacket may be worn by officers or airmen. Officers who are in possession of their own serviceable greatcoat or British Warm may wear them.

0221. Gloves. Brown leather gloves (officers, warrant officers and SNCOs) and blue/grey woollen or black leather gloves (airmen) may be worn, at the individuals discretion.



RAF NO 2 SERVICE DRESS

Standard No 2 dress

No 2A dress





RAF NO 2 SERVICE DRESS

No 2B dress



No 2C dress





No 3 Dress - Officers and airmen

0222. Occasions for wear. The No 3 dress uniform, consisting of DPM jacket and trousers, is issued to **all** personnel to be worn on ground defence duties during operations, ground defence training, station guard force duties and when specially ordered by MOD. When filling an administrative post and / or when a standard dress is ordered, RAF Regiment personnel (including officers) should wear No 2 dress, not No 3 dress.

0223. Hat. When there is no operational requirement to wear a helmet or DPM hat, the service issue beret, with appropriate hat badge, must be worn.

No 3A Dress.

0224. Jersey. Service issue olive drab (OD) jersey. Stable belts are not to be worn outside the jersey.

0225. Trousers. Service issue DPM trousers, except members of the RAF Regiment in routine working dress, who should wear olive green (OG) lightweight trousers. A more extensive range of disruptive pattern clothing and also some Army pattern OD garments are issued as working dress for officers and airmen of the RAF Regiment, to be worn when they are actively engaged on regimental duties.

No 3B Dress

0226. Shirt. A long-sleeved OD shirt with creases pressed in on each sleeve, running from the centre of the epaulette to the cuff. In summer months the sleeves may be rolled above the elbow.

0227. Socks. Black only.

0228. Boots. Combat high.

0229. Coat. Service issue DPM jacket or smock.

0230. Gloves. Green service issue or black leather combat gloves may be worn.



RAF No 3 DRESS

Standard No 3 dress RAF



Standard No 3 dress RAF Regiment



Note: OG trousers are worn by RAF Regt personnel only



RAF No 3 DRESS

RAF No 3A dress



RAF Regiment No 3A dress



Note: OG trousers are worn by RAF Regt personnel only



RAF NO 3 DRESS

RAF No 3B dress



RAF Regiment No 3B dress



Note: OG Trousers to be worn by RAF Regiment personnel only



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No 4 Dress - RAF Officers, Warrant Officers and NCOs

0231. The order of dress is the same as for No 1 dress except that the wedgwood blue shirt is replaced by a plain white shirt and the tie by a plain, black bow tie

Plate 2-9





No 5 Mess Dress - Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs

0232. Occasions for wear. The No 5 dress is provided as an initial free issue to regular serving commissioned officers but is an optional purchase item for warrant officers and SNCOs. It is reserved in the main as an evening or mess dress and is worn by commissioned officers, warrant officers and senior non-commissioned personnel at formal evening functions eg dining-in nights and guest nights. It may also be worn by retired officers, WOs and SNCOs and additionally, officers serving in the RAFRO class CC, R Aux AF, RAFVR and RAFVR(T) on all occasions when this form of dress is appropriate for serving personnel. Badges of rank are to be worn as follows:

- a. Fully retired officers wear the badges of rank as recorded in the RAF Retired List.
- b. Officers serving on commissions in the subsidiary branches listed above wear the badges of rank conversant with their current posts.
- c. Ex-warrant officers and SNCOs wear the badges of rank to which they were eligible at the time of discharge.

0233. Hat. No 1 hat appropriate to rank.

0234. Jacket. All commissioned ranks wear the same design jacket and all WOs/SNCOs wear a similar design jacket. Officers of the rank of AVM and above and officers entitled to wear aiguillettes and / or the Royal Cypher wear plain shoulder straps. (See **chapter 9**)

0235. Trousers. Only No 5 dress trousers are to be worn. The trousers are supported with braces.

0236. Shirt. Officers wear a white marcella shirt of approved design, worn with gold cuff links. WOs/SNCOs have the option of the marcella shirt or a similar plain white dress shirt. Chaplains should wear a white shirt with vest stock and double collar.

0237. Waistcoat/Cummerbund. Officers are to wear the blue waistcoat (No 5B dress), but, at the station commander's discretion, it may be replaced with a slate grey, pleated (males) unpleated (females) cummerbund. Light blue cummerbunds are not acceptable except overseas. Official squadron cummerbunds may only be worn at the station commander's discretion and only on occasions when official guests are not present. A slate grey cummerbund is always to be worn by WOs/SNCOs.

0238. Bow tie. Plain black double ended

0239. Socks. Black.

0240. Shoes. Black patent evening shoes, without toe caps.

0241. Dress studs. Plain gold or gold type are optional.

No 5A Mess Dress - Officers only

0242. The standard No 5 waistcoat is replaced by a white waistcoat and it is worn with a white wing collared shirt and black bow tie. Air Cdres and above provide the waistcoat, shirt and collar at personal expense. Gp Capts and below, attending a function in No 5A dress may claim the cost of purchasing this item, in accordance with **GAI 6021** or may borrow the required items from the pool held at RAF Uxbridge.

RAF NO 5 MESS DRESS
(SNCOs Optional wear)





RAF NO 5 MESS DRESS

No 5A Mess Dress (Officers only)

No 5B Mess Dress (Officers only)



RAF Nos 6, 7 & 8 Dress (warm weather dress - abroad) - Officers and airmen

0243. Dates of changeover. 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:

	Warm-weather to temperate	Temperate to warm-weather
Cyprus	3rd Monday in November	3rd Monday in April
Gibraltar	4th Monday in October	3rd Monday in May
Hong Kong	1st Monday in December	1st Monday in April

0244. Changes in the above dates and the effective dates for other areas, are to be signalled by the headquarters concerned to all commands and D Mov(RAF) for action, giving at least 48 hrs notice. Intending visitors to the above areas in the months of change should consult their command P1 staffs for advice on dress requirements.

0245. 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.

RAF No 6, 6A and 6B Dress

0246. Occasions for wear. The standard No 6 dress uniform is worn by officers on ceremonial and formal occasions overseas, as ordered by MOD (Air) or Commanders in Chief. Issues to Warrant Officers and airmen are restricted to designated SDL postings only. The No 6B dress is worn by all ranks on ceremonial and other formal occasions.

0247. Hat. Only the service issue No 1 hat may be worn.

0248. Tunics.

a. No 6 dress - all commissioned ranks and Warrant Officers wear the same style tunic, with epaulettes (shown in plate 2-11) and all FSs and below wear the same pattern, without epaulettes (also shown in plate 2-11). It should be worn with creases pressed in, on the front and rear of each sleeve.

b. No 6A dress - consists of a pocketless patrol type jacket in white polyester cotton (shown in plate 2-12), fastened by six 37 ligne detachable mounted gilt buttons. Worn with No 1 SD Hat, white collarless shirt, No 8 dress uniform shoulder straps, black oxford shoes and black socks. If entitled, a full sized gold and silver wire flying brevet is to be worn and aiguillettes are to be worn if holding a personal staff appointment.

c. No 6B dress - all ranks wear the same bush jacket (shown in plate 2-14 with

anodised or black buttons to be worn as ordered.

0249. Trousers. The No 6, 6A and 6B dress trousers are made of the same material as the relevant jacket and are to be worn with pressed in creases, front and back, extending the full length of each leg.

0250. Shirt. A stone long-sleeved shirt is to be worn with No 6 dress with creases pressed in on each sleeve, running from the centre of the epaulette to the cuff. Chaplains should wear a white shirt with a clerical collar and spade stock (not double collar).

0251. Tie. A plain black tie, secured with a windsor knot, should be worn with 6 dress.

0252. Socks. Black only.

0253. Shoes. Highly polished black leather Oxford pattern shoes are to be worn by officers. All other airmen are to wear similarly polished service issue DMS shoes.

RAF NO 6 DRESS

No 6 Dress
(Officers & Warrant Officers)



No 6 Dress
(NCOs & airmen)





RAF NO 6B PARADE DRESS
(all ranks)

Non-ceremonial

Ceremonial





RAF No 7 Dress

0254. Occasions for wear. Both forms of No 7 dress are worn overseas as a working dress only. The trouser mode (No 7A dress) is always to be worn with Oxford pattern black leather or service issue DMS shoes and black socks whilst, at the discretion of the Commanding Officer, desert boots of the approved shade and pattern may be worn with the shorts mode (No 7B dress). Stockings worn with the shorts mode are to be stone coloured.

0255. Shirt. A long sleeved shirt is to worn with the trousers mode (No 7A dress) and a short sleeved shirt with the shorts mode (No 7B dress)

0256. Hat. Either the No 1 hat, or forage cap may be worn by officers and the No 1 hat, forage cap or beret by airmen.

0257. Belt. Blue/grey belt or optional stable belt.



RAF No 7 DRESS

No 7A Dress



No 7B Dress





RAF No 8 Mess Dress

0258. Occasions for wear. The No 8 mess dress is purchased at personal expense. It is worn by officers, warrant officers and SNCOs at formal evening functions eg. dining-in nights and guest nights. This remains an optional item for WOs/SNCOs. Those personnel who do not have the No 8 mess dress should wear No 6 B dress (with anodized buttons) only.

0259. Jacket. All commissioned ranks wear the same design white jacket (with shoulder straps) and all WOs/SNCOs wear an identical design (without shoulder straps).

0260. Trousers. Standard No 5 dress trousers are normally worn however, individuals may purchase trousers of the No 5 dress pattern and colour, in a lightweight material if preferred.

0261. All remaining accessories are as per No 5 dress.



RAF NO 8 MESS DRESS





RAF Outerwear

Raincoat airman

Greatcoat airman





RAF Outerwear

General purpose jacket



Jeltex jacket





RAF Outerwear

Warrant officer

Bandsman SNCO





Greatcoats

Officer



Director of Music







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