

CHAPTER 3
RAF ORDERS OF DRESS

(Female personnel)

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Introduction

This chapter illustrates through a selection of plates and explanatory notes, the various orders of dress for female RAF personnel. It also 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. Chaplains assistants are outfitted on the same basis as female officers however, they are not to wear RAF insignia or rank badges (other than the RAF Chaplaincy brooch as detailed in **Chapter7**).

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, only specify the variations to the first and not the full description.

No 1 Dress - RAF Officers and airwomen

0301. 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.

0302. 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 wear a hat with a cloth covered peak. Officer cadets wear a white band over the black mohair band.
- b. **Warrant Officers.** Warrant officers wear a hat with a cloth covered peak with an anodised badge depicting an eagle surrounded by laurel leaves surmounted by a crown.
- c. **Airwomen.** The airwomen's No 1 hat is worn by all non-commissioned ranks other than warrant officer.

0303. 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 skirt from another. All commissioned ranks and warrant officers wear the same style tunic (shown in Plate 18). Officers who are entitled to wear aigullettes and/or the Royal Cypher also wear plain shoulder straps. All airwomen of FS rank and below wear the same style tunic (also shown in Plate 18).

0304. Skirt. The No 1 suit skirt is to be worn. Vertical creases are not to be pressed into the skirt and optional ~~money~~^{money or stable} belts are not to be worn. The finished length of uniform skirts is to be between the middle of the knee and 2 ins (5.1 cms) below the middle of the knee.

0305. Shirt. A long-sleeved wedgwood blue shirt is always to be worn, with creases pressed in on each sleeve, running from the centre of the epaulette to the cuff. Front darts are to be pressed in to the level of the second button and the rear darts down the full length of the shirt.

0306. Tie. A plain black tie is to be worn.

0307. Hose. The approved uniform dress hose colour is as follows:

- a. Pretty Polly Legworks - Barely Black
- b. Pretty Polly Smooth Knit - Barely Black
- c. Pretty Polly 15 Denier - Barely black (to be worn on ceremonial occasions)

d. NAAFI - ^{Basely Black}~~Black~~ Mist

0308. Shoes. Highly polished service issue black laced shoes are to be worn on marching occasions, otherwise approved pattern or service issue court shoes may be worn, as ordered. Female personnel may privately purchase plain black court shoes with either leather or patent uppers. The heel dimensions are to be as advised separately by Adviser Women. The shoes are to conform to the general classic style.

0309. Gloves. Brown service issue leather gloves should be worn or carried by all officers and Warrant Officers and service issue black leather gloves by all airwomen, as appropriate. On certain ceremonial occasions (as detailed in **Chapter 9**) white cotton gloves are to be worn by all personnel.

0310. Sash. Officers, when employed on AFB ushering duties, may wear a light blue sash. Similarly, airwomen employed as members of recruit training staff may wear a sash for ceremonial purposes however, it is only to be worn whilst on parade.

0311. Greatcoat. Greatcoats can be provided on loan, in accordance with **RAF GAI 6025**. 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.

0312. Raincoats. Raincoats are not to be worn on ceremonial occasion

No 1 A Dress - Officers of AVM rank and above.

0313. Female officers may wear No 1A dress as ordered, the specific details for which, are as per their male counterparts (see **Plate 2-2**).

RAF NO 1 SERVICE DRESS

Officers - General
No1 Dress



Airwomen - General
No 1 Dress





No 2 Dress - RAF Officers and airwomen

0314. 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 **0319**.

0315. Hat. The head-dress options are as follows:

a. Officers. Female commissioned officers and Warrant Officers may either wear their own style, relegated No 1 hat, the airwomen No 1 hat with appropriate badge or forage cap. They are not to wear berets.

b. Airwomen. All female non-commissioned personnel may wear a relegated No 1 hat, forage cap or beret.

0316. Jersey. The standard service issue No 2 jersey is to be worn.

0317. Skirt. The No 2 dress standard issue or lightweight skirt may be worn, throughout the year at individuals discretion, unless otherwise ordered.

0318. Slacks. Service issue slacks may be worn as part of No 2A, 2B or 2C dress except when Standard No 2 dress is ordered, throughout the year, by airwomen in ^{Call} the following trade groups and trades:

TG 1 Aircraft Engineering	TG 9 ATC
TG 2 Electrical Engineering	TG 11 CSA(V) only
TG 3 Ground Electronic Engineering	TG 13 Safety and Surface
TG 5 General Engineering	TG 14 ASOP and Photographer
TG 6 Mechanical Transport	TG 18 Supply and Movements
TG 8 RAF Police	

0319. Shirt. A long-sleeved wedgwood blue shirt is to be worn with a plain black tie, when in standard No 2 or 2A dress. A short-sleeved, open-necked wedgwood blue shirt may be worn at all times in summer months (No 2B dress). Additionally, the RAF dark blue (No 2C) shirt is authorized for wear, throughout the year, by airwomen in the following trade groups and trades:

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



The dark blue 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.

0320. Footwear. No 2 dress. Service issue black laced shoes or court shoes may be worn, at the individuals discretion, unless otherwise ordered. Additionally, privately purchased court shoes are permissible as per para **0308**. These are all to be worn with hose as per para **0133**.

0321. Coats. Either a raincoat general purpose jacket or jeltex jacket may be worn by officers or airwomen. Officers in possession of their own greatcoat or British Warm may wear them.

0322. Gloves. Brown leather gloves (officers and WOs) and black leather gloves (airwomen) may be worn.

0323. Optional money or stable belt. The approved pattern money or stable belt may be worn with Nos 2A, 2B and 2C dress only

Maternity Wear

0324. Maternity wear for pregnant female personnel is available as follows:

- a. Skirt.
- b. Tunic top.
- c. Long and short sleeved shirts.
- d. Cardigan.
- e. Dress (in process of introduction)

This order of dress is intended for wear on those occasions when No 2 dress would be worn throughout the period of pregnancy.



RAF NO 2 SERVICE DRESS

Standard No 2 dress

No 2A Dress





RAF NO 2 SERVICE DRESS

No 2B dress



No 2C dress



Shown with optional money belt



No 3 Dress - RAF Officers and airwomen

0325. Occasions for wear. The No 3 dress uniform (combat clothing) 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.

0326. 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 is:

0327. Jersey. Service issue OD jersey.

0328. Trousers. Service issue DPM trousers with trouser or webbing belt.

No 3B Dress is:

0329. Shirt. A long-sleeved OD shirt with creases pressed in on each sleeve, running from the centre of the epaulette to the cuff. It is to be worn without a tie and with the collar unbuttoned and turned down outside the jersey neck.

0330. Socks. Black only.

0331. Boots. Combat high boots.

0332. Coat. Service issue DPM jacket or smock.

0333. Gloves. Green service issue or black leather combat gloves may be worn.



RAF NO 3 DRESS

RAF No 3 dress



RAF No 3A dress





RAF No 3B Dress





No 4 Dress - RAF Officers, Warrant Officers and NCOs (female)

0334. 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 black court shoes are to be worn.

Plate 3-6





No 5 Mess Dress - RAF Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs (female)

0335. Occasions for wear. The No 5 dress is provided as an initial free issue to regular serving commissioned officers but is an optional purchase, at personal expense, for Warrant Officers and Senior non-commissioned personnel. It is reserved in the main as an evening or Mess Dress and is worn by officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs 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 RAF Retired List (worn on both sleeves of the uniform).
- b. Officers serving on commissions in the subsidiary branches listed above wear the badges of rank conversant with their current posts (worn on both sleeves of the uniform).
- c. Ex-Warrant Officers and SNCOs wear the badges of rank to which they were eligible at the time of discharge (worn on the right sleeve of the uniform only).

No 5 Mess Dress (post 1992)

0336. Jacket. All personnel wear the same design jacket however, officers entitled to wear aiguillettes and/or the Royal Cypher also wear plain shoulder straps. Half-size gold embroidered flying badges may be worn.

0337. Skirt. All personnel wear the same design ankle length skirt, which is to have a 12" slit only, measured from the bottom edge of the hem at the centre back seam.

0338. Blouse. The standard approved pattern white blouse only, which is to be worn fastened to the neck, **without** a tie or any alternative form of neck decoration.

0339. Cummerbund. A plain slate grey cummerbund is normally to be worn (without pleating) however, Station Commanders may also permit the wearing of squadron cummerbands.

0340. Hose. As for No 1 dress see para 0133.

0341. Shoes. Black patent evening or court shoes.

0342. Handbag. Black patent evening or clutch bag.

0343. Earrings. Small, plain, pearl or gold earrings may be worn.

Female Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs may continue to wear the No 5/8 Mess Dress



(royal blue jersey evening gown), on all occasions when No 5 dress is ordered, in lieu of the new No 5 dress detailed above, until 31 December 1999. Both uniforms are current although newly commissioned officers are being issued with the new pattern No 5 dress. Those issued with the Royal blue gown may continue to wear it until 31 December 1999 when it will become obsolete, or purchase, at private expense, the new pattern No 5 dress. With effect from 1 January 2000, all female officers **are** to be in possession of the new pattern No 5 dress uniform; those who were not issued with then new dress on commissioning will be required to make a personal purchase at private expense. Warrant Officers and SNCOs may choose to purchase the new-style Mess Dress, at personal expense (if not having already done so) or, alternatively, opt to wear No 4 dress to formal Mess functions.



RAF NO 5 MESS DRESS

WO and SNCO
(Optional wear)

Officer



(An illustration of the Royal blue evening gown is at Plate 9-4)



RAF Nos 6A, 6B, 7 & 8 Dress (warm weather dress-abroad) - RAF officers and airwomen

0344. Dates of changeover. The changeover dates between temperate and warm weather dress are as detailed in paras 0243 - 0245 (inclusive).

RAF No 6, 6A and 6B Parade Dress

0345. Occasions for wear. The standard No 6 dress uniform is worn by officers on all formal and ceremonial occasions overseas, as ordered by MOD (Air) or Commanders in Chief. Issues to warrant officers and airmen is restricted to designated SDL posts only. No 6B dress is worn by all ranks on ceremonial and other occasions.

0345a. Worn with No 1 dress uniform hat; No 8 dress shoulder straps; seamless beige hose; black court shoes and gold stud earrings. Full size gold/silver wire flying brevet to be worn if entitled. Minaturised aiguillettes to be worn if holding a personal appointment. 7

0346. Hat. The head-dress options are as follows:

a. Officers. The service issue No 1 hat only, is to be worn on formal and ceremonial occasions however, when worn as routine working dress, they may opt to wear the airwomen's No 1 hat, with appropriate hat badge. Berets are not to be worn.

b. Airwomen. All female non-commissioned personnel may wear either their No 1 hat or beret with non-ceremonial dress however, the No 1 hat only, must be worn with No 6B ceremonial.

0347. Hose. Seamless beige stockings or tights are to be worn.

0348. Shoes. Either service issue flat black laced or approved pattern black court shoes may be worn.

0349. Sandals. When ordered, brown sandals may be worn with working dress during warm weather seasons. Hose need not be worn, at the individual's discretion.

**RAF NO 6A FULL CEREMONIAL DRESS
(female officers - holding specified appointments)**

(To be issued)

RAF NO 6 / 6B DRESS

No 6 Dress
Ceremonial



(No 1 Dress hat and court shoes)

No 6B Dress
Non-ceremonial



(Any hat may be worn as may court shoes, laced shoes or sandals)

Black buttons for non-ceremonial



No 7 Dress

0350. Occasions for wear. Both forms of No 7 dress are worn overseas as a working dress. It is authorised for wear by officers and airwomen in the following branches and trades only:

a. Officers. When ordered, both Nos 7A and 7B dress, may be worn by officers of the Engineering and Supply branches.

b. Airwomen. When ordered, both Nos 7A and 7B dress may be worn by airwomen of the following trades and trade groups:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| TG 1 Aircraft Engineering | TG 9 ATC |
| TG 2 Electrical Engineering | TG 11 CSA(V) only |
| TG 3 Ground Electronic Engineering | TG 13 Safety and Surface |
| TG 5 General Engineering | TG 14 ASOP and Photographer |
| TG 6 Mechanical Transport | TG 18 Supply and Movements. |
| TG 8 RAF Police | |

0351. Hat. Either the airwomens No 1 hat, a beret or the optional forage cap may be worn however, officers are not to wear berets unless specifically authorised.

0352. Footwear. Service issue flat, laced, black shoes and black socks are to be worn with the trouser mode (No 7A dress). Brown sandals, **without** hose, or desert boots with stone coloured, knee length stockings are to be worn with the shorts mode (No 7B dress).

0353. Belt. Optional money belts or stable belt may be worn with either mode of dress.

0354. Maternity dress. A maternity dress is available for personnel who require it in lieu of Nos 6 or 7 dress.



RAF NO 7 SERVICE DRESS

No 7A Dress

No 7B Dress



Stable or money belt optional



RAF No 8 Mess Dress

0355. Occasions for wear. No 8 dress is worn at formal evening functions eg. dining-in-nights and guest nights. It consists of the No 5 Dress with the jacket removed and a rank brooch worn on the left breast. Non-commissioned personnel who are not in possession of No 8 dress should wear No 6B parade dress (ceremonial). Officers with either flying badges, medals or aiguillettes may retain the jacket. All ranks may continue to wear the royal blue evening gown as No 5 Mess Dress until 31 December 1999.



RAF No 8 Dress





Nos 9, 10, 11 Dress - Female musicians

0356. The orders of dress for female musicians are identical to those of their male counterparts, details of which are given at **Chapter 2 paras 0262 - 0294**. However the following plates detail the changes where skirts or dresses are substituted for trousers



RAF No 9 Dress - female





RAF No 9A Dress (Female)





RAF No 11 Dress - female



RAF No 11A Dress - female





RAF Outerwear

Raincoat



general purpose jacket





RAF Greatcoats

Officer

Airwoman





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