

CHAPTER 11 – CATERING COMPETITIONS

1101. **General.** The primary aim of the military catering competition is to provide Caterers, Chefs and Stewards with the opportunity to further develop their culinary skills, whilst nurturing pride in professional development and achievement. Catering competitions are held not exclusively within the internal Armed Services arena but are also held externally at both National and International levels. Invitations to the UK Armed Forces to compete on the international stage provide an additional benefit of providing a platform for Defence Diplomacy activity while showcasing our service personnel's skills.

1102. **Competitions.** Competitions are the vehicle that provides service personnel with the opportunity to develop their core competencies to a level that ultimately benefit the military community. The continuous professional development of culinary skills is matched with the need to develop management techniques whilst developing team work and leadership skills. The main competition is Exercise Joint Caterer, where both individual's and teams having competed in a series of unit and regional qualifying events are selected to represent their Service at this event. Exercise Joint Caterer (ExJC) also provides the platform for identifying talented individuals to join the Combined Services Culinary Arts Team (CSCAT).

1103. **Exercise Joint Caterer (ExJC).** Held annually and coordinated by Cap JLE, Defence Logistics and the DP (Team Leidos), ExJC is a tri-service competition designed to consolidate individual's craft skills within a competitive environment. The competition is run over three days and is made up of live and static events encompassing the wide and diverse range of catering skills employed on Operations and for normal daily feeding. Each of the FLC's nominates a Team Captain who, supported by a committee, manage their competitors against the competition schedule. The competition identifies individuals that have the potential to represent the CSCAT in both National and International culinary competitions.

1104. **Competition Budget (CB).** Annually, each of the 3 Service training schools and Catering Support Regiment RLC (Cat Sp Regt RLC) is allocated a Cookery Training Allowance (CTA) to cover the cost of training; provisions. In addition to the CTA, training schools, CSCAT, Army HQ and Cat Sp Regt RLC are allocated a Competition Budget (CB), which is to be used solely to purchase ingredients for competitions. Bids for both CTA and CB are to be staffed through DE&S CMO by 31 January. The 3 Service training schools, 167 Cat Sp Regt RLC and HQ Army are to provide DE&S CMO with a quarterly and annual expenditure breakdown (forecast and actual). DE&S CMO will issue each training school, 167 Cat Sp Regt RLC and Army HQ with an annual Letter of Delegation which will detail the financial allocation and control measures.

1105. **Armed Forces Caterer of the Year.** The Cost Sector Catering Awards is an annual event aimed at Caterers in the Cost Sector business. The awards are run by Dewberry Redpoint Ltd the publishers of Cost Sector Catering magazine. The Armed Forces Award was introduced by Dewberry Boyes Ltd in 2001 recognising that the feeding of military personnel is a unique skill that deserved particular recognition. A single nomination from each of the 3 Services is sought for either an individual who has had an outstanding career and has achieved excellence over many years of service or an individual who has shown dedication over and above the call of duty within a specific situation. Nominations for the award are sought by Cap JLE in January with all three nominees being invited to the award ceremony in April where the winner will be announced.

1106. **Armed Forces Chef of the Year.** This award is presented by the Craft Guild of Chefs, the leading Chefs' Association in the UK originally established in 1965 as a Guild of the Cookery and Food Association. The award is to recognise a serving Chef of the Armed Forces, either regular or Reserve forces, who has demonstrated outstanding levels of individual craft skill whilst also passing on these craft skills to others.

SINGLE SERVICE COMPETITIONS

1107. **Naval Service Competitions.** The Naval Service element of the Competition Budget, which is managed by the Logistics Training Officer (LTO) at the Defence Maritime Logistics School (DMLS), can be used for the following approved competitions:

a. **Royal Navy Flotilla & Royal Marines Cook & Serve competitions.** This competition is held annually and is open to all units assigned to the particular flotilla hosting the event. Civilian teams are able to compete but must fund their own entry. The competition is to run on the same lines as the ExJC Cook & Serve competition.

1. Devflot Cook & Serve.
2. Fasflot Cook & Serve.
3. Porflot Cook & Serve.
4. Royal Marine Units Cook & Serve.
5. Interflot Cook & Serve.

b. **Hotelympia/World of Hospitality.** Classes may be entered at this event, providing that the CSCAT are not entering that Class. This can be confirmed by the CSCAT Manager.

c. **SCOTHOT.** If the CSCAT has pre-selected this competition, then a secondary culinary competition will be selected by the LTO at the DMLS.

d. **Royal Navy & Royal Marines Field Cookery Competition.** This competition is held annually and is open to all Royal Navy and Royal Marine Units (regular and reserve). From this competition the top 3 teams are selected to represent the Naval Service at ExJC.

e. **ExJC.** Competitors are given the opportunity to attend DMLS 2 weeks before ExJC to hone their skills and practice dishes before the major competition takes place. A maximum of 3 practise 'run throughs' and the actual competition event will be funded from the CB.

f. **Naval Service Individuals.** On occasion, funding may be required to support participation in regional competitions, should this be the case, the same guidance and rules will be applied as detailed at para 1107 e above.

1108. **Army Competitions.** The Army element of the Competition Budget can be used as follows:

a. **Trainees.** In order to provide trainees with an introduction to the professional rigour required of Catering Competitions, selected Phase 2 trainees will participate in one Catering College based Competition per annum.

b. **Field Army.** In order to prepare for the rigours of Operational service, Army HQ have been provided with an allocation funding for annual Divisional Field and Catering Competitions. HQ Army may aggregate this to Brigade level as appropriate.

c. **Hotelympia/World of Hospitality.** Classes may be entered at this event, providing that the CSCAT are not entering that Class. This can be confirmed by the CSCAT Manager.

d. **SCOTHOT.** If the CSCAT has pre-selected this competition, then a secondary culinary competition will be selected by the DLS.

e. **ExJC.** Competitors are given the opportunity to attend DLS 2 weeks before ExJC to hone their skills and practice dishes before the major competition takes place. A maximum of 3 practise 'run throughs' and the actual competition event will be funded from the CB.

f. **Army Individuals.** On occasion, funding may be required to support participation in regional competitions, should this be the case, the same guidance and rules will be applied as detailed at para 1108e above.

g. **Ex ARMY SUSTAINER.** This annual catering competition is open to both Regular and Reserve military chefs and is administered by 167 Cat Sp Regt RLC.

1109. **RAF Competitions.** The RAF element of the Competition Budget, which is managed by the Defence Logistics School (DLS), can be used as follows:

a. **The RAF Culinary Competition.** The RAF Culinary Competition runs along similar lines to ExJC and is designed to identify potential competitors for ExJC. Selected Phase 2 trainees will be encouraged to participate in the RAF Culinary Competition. The competition includes the following events:

- (1) Worshipful Company of Cooks Senior Chef Skills.
- (2) Open Chef Skills.
- (3) Worshipful Company of Cooks Junior Chef Skills.
- (4) Senior Steward Skills.
- (5) Open Steward Skill.
- (6) Junior Steward Skills.

b. **Hotelympia/World of Hospitality/SCOTHOC.** Classes may be entered at this event, providing that the CSCAT are not entering that Class. This can be confirmed by the CSCAT Manager.

c. **Gold Service Scholarship.** Entry into the Gold Service Scholarship is through selection by FS Cat Assurance, A4 Logs Spt Role Office. Competitors' CVs and application forms will be vetted prior to submission.

d. **ExJC.** Competitors are given the opportunity to attend DLS 1 week before ExJC to hone their skills and practice dishes before the major competition takes place. A maximum of 3 practise 'run throughs' and the actual competition event will be funded from the CB. Selected Phase 2 trainees will be encouraged to participate in Ex JC.

e. **RAF Individuals.** On occasion, funding may be required to support participation in regional competitions, should this be the case, the same guidance and rules will be applied as detailed at para 1109 b & d above.

The Combined Services Culinary Arts Team (CSCAT).

1110. The CSCAT represents the UK Armed Forces at both National and International culinary competitions. This activity is managed by the CSCAT Management Board (CSCAT MB) and supported by DFS in respect to funding i.e. CTA and associated team travel and subsistence costs.

1111. **CSCAT Competitions.** Each December the CSCAT MB will select the two competitions that they will enter, usually one National and one International event. Once CSCAT has entered a competition no other Service team or individual may enter the same event unless authorised by the CSCAT MB.

1112. **CSCAT Selection.** CSCAT squad members are selected for a period of 2 years. When entering a competition, a team will be drawn from existing squad members, however in exceptional circumstances, a non-squad member may be included within the competing team when a particular skill set is required.

1113. **CSCAT Medal.** The CSCAT Medal and Certificate is awarded to each individual on their selection to CSCAT and will be presented to the recipient at ExJC. The individual will only receive this award once, irrespective of the number of occasions that they are subsequently selected.

There is also the “outstanding achievers” medal that is awarded at the discretion of the CSCAT MB to an individual who has competed at both national and International level during their time with the team. Exceptionally, this medal may be awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in support of CSCAT.

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