



Ministry
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref: 2020/13455

[REDACTED]

22 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of the 8 December 2020 requesting the following information:

Can you please supply me with pdf copies of the minutes of any Dress Committee meetings from Feb 2019 to the present.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request, which has been due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the effect on resources and necessary changes to our ways of working.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Copies of the minutes of the Royal Air Force (RAF) Extraordinary Dress Policy Working Group February 2019 are attached at Annex A. Copies of the minutes of the of the RAF Clothing and Dress Policy Steering Group November 2019 and July 2020 are attached at Annex B and C.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, under S40(2) of the FOIA (third party personal data), information contained within the documents is withheld as exempt information. This is an Absolute Exemption and not subject to the Public Interest Test.

Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), it may be useful for you to know that the documents attached are those which are in scope of your request up to the 8 December 2020.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Air Command Secretariat

Enc: Annex A
Annex B
Annex C

20 Feb 19

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY RAF CLOTHING AND DRESS POLICY WORKING GROUP (DPWG) HELD AT RAF NORTHOLT ON 20 FEB 19

Present	Section 40 [Redacted]	Section 40 [Redacted]	Chair
In Attendance Apologies	Section 40 Section 40 [Redacted]	Section 40 [Redacted]	Secretary
<p>Item 1 – Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>1. The Chair welcomed the attendees to the Extraordinary Working Group (ExWG). The Secretary outlined the direction from the previous Steering Group (Oct 18) and the Co-Chairs' (DACOS A1 and A4) requirement for Branch and Trade engagement with the Warrant Officer cadre.</p> <p>Item 2 – Presentation</p> <p>2. Section 40 delivered the presentation (attached) containing the proposals for consideration.</p> <p>Item 3 – Proposals</p> <p>3. USAF Space Badge. An informal agreement with a previous CASWO (unknown) had provided local approval for qualified personnel to wear another Nation's qualification badge only while at RAF Fylingdales and Buckley AFB (US). The ExWG challenged the informality of endorsement but acknowledged the rationale behind the wearing of a prestigious badge in a multi-national environment.</p> <p>a. Decision. Noting the stand-up of the UK Space Force in Summer 19, the WG were to consider retrospective permission for the badge to be worn.</p> <p>Secretary's note; 18 Apr 19 CAS authorised amendment to AP1358 to reflect that the Space Ops Badge may be worn with No2A, 2B and PCS.</p> <p>4. Branch and Trade Insignia. The ExWG recommendation was to move forward with combined Branch and Trade insignia, noting that separate badges for and within trade environments could be divisive. Section 40 informed the ExWG of his concerns regarding the potential delay in progress of the Eng Branch and Trade badges that had been funded and awaiting approval.</p> <p>a. Decision. Section 40 agreed to approach BTAs to consider the introduction of a single badge within respective AORs.</p>			<p>Action</p> <p>Sec</p> <p>Sec</p>

<p>5. Qualification Badges. The ExWG saw no requirement to change or increase the current range of RAF qualification badges. All applications for future Qualification Badges should continue to follow the existing authorisation process, via Air A4 Log Spt Commodities.</p> <p>a. Decision. Closed.</p>	<p>Sec</p>
<p>6. Insignia for wear on shirts (No2 SD modes). A variety of metal badges depicting aircrew qualifications were viewed. A proposal to permit private purchase of the badges was not viewed favourably as potential for variations was considered significant.</p> <p>a. Decision. SG to consider cost implications of Service Supply.</p>	<p>Section 40</p>
<p>7. Medal Ribbon bars for wear on shirts (No2 SD modes). The ExSG recognised that while medals were awarded there were fewer occasions where Ceremonial Dress was worn. Enabling the wearing of medal ribbon bars on No2 SD for certain events could be viewed as a positive move, especially for SP employed in International HQs. As with metal badges, the ExWG considered private purchase inappropriate.</p> <p>a. Decision. SG to consider cost implications of Service Supply.</p>	<p>DPSG</p>
<p>8. Additional comments. Concerns were raised in respect of statistic values presented, along with the costs of introducing Service Supplied accoutrements as private purchase was not considered an appropriate avenue, especially if individuals were directed to purchase such items. Recruiting and retention statements were also challenged with Into Training Targets being noted as currently higher than previous years. Tailoring Contracts would also need to be considered in case of an uplift in volume. The ExWG were advised of a handover of CAS to take place in Summer 19 and that ratification of any SG endorsements would likely not occur until Autumn.</p>	
<p>Item 4 – AOB</p>	
<p>9. Nil.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Date of Next Steering Group Meeting</p>	
<p>10. The next meeting of the Steering Group to review the proposed actions will take place during the second quarter of 2019.</p> <p>a. Decision. Section 40 to advise the SG members.</p>	<p>Sec</p>

Section 40

For DACOS A4

Distribution:

Action:

Copy to:

Section 40

Section 40
All DPWG Attendees

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

AC/312029/1/2/A4

13 Nov 19

See Distribution

MINUTES OF RAF CLOTHING AND DRESS POLICY STEERING GROUP (DPSG) HELD AT RAF HIGH WYCOMBE ON 13 NOV 19

Present	WO J Alpert Section 40	CASWO Section 40	Chair
			Secretary
In Attendance			
Apologies	Section 40	Section 40	
Item 1 – Branch and Trade Insignia			Action
<p>1. The SG considered a proposal to adopt Branch/Trade insignia and endorsed the concept of shoulder titles to which rank insignia would be affixed. The SG also agreed that name badges meeting the RAF Branding Guidelines would be issued upon completion of Phase 2 training. A further proposal to permit the wearing of metal flying and aircrew badges was approved subject to a cost forecast. The wearing of medal brooches on working dress was not approved.</p> <p>a. Decision. CASWO will proceed with the design and production of a sample shoulder title for all trades, and procurement of metal flying badges in consultation with SG out of committee.</p>			CASWO, A4
Item 2 – Wearing of tie with jersey.			
<p>2. A proposal to review the wearing of ties when the jumper is donned over a shirt was not approved and the rules contained in AP1358 were to remain.</p> <p>a. Decision. Closed. Sec to advise originator.</p>			Sec
Item 3 – HUMINT badge.			
<p>3. The Human Intelligence badge awarded to personnel completing Op SAMSON training was not approved for wear on RAF uniforms.</p> <p>a. Decision. Closed. Sec to advise originator.</p>			Sec
Item 4 – Cyber Reserve Specialist insignia.			
<p>4. The proposal to introduce a 'Cyber Reserve' shoulder title badge was considered by the SG with advice from CASWO that cyber operations were under tri-Service review.</p> <p>a. Decision. Postponed until tri-Service review undertaken.</p>			Sec

Item 5 – AOB

5. RAF Regt Barrack Dress shirt. The SG reviewed the Business Case to issue RAF Regt personnel with the Barrack Dress variant of PCS Combat Uniform and noted that LAND was redesigning the garment. CASWO advised that he would raise the matter with AOC 2 Gp out of committee.

a. **Decision.** Postponed.

CASWO

6. Formation Badges. The SG endorsed the badge submitted for wear on No3 Combat Uniform by 605 Sqn RAuxAF.

a. **Decision.** Approved. Sec to advise originator.

Sec

7. Working dress. The SG discussed the dated style and fabrics of No2 Service Dress and whether a longer-term project to 'modernise' the clothing ranges was practicable.

a. **Decision.** Work ongoing.

8. Steering Group Membership was discussed with suggestions regarding permanent members and those to be invited when specialist engagement was required.

a. **Decision.** Chair to discuss with Secretary.

Chair/Sec

9. Use of mobile telephones in uniform. The Chair stated that the use of mobile 'phones while transiting a unit in uniform was a discipline matter and not the remit of the Dress Policy Steering Group.

a. **Decision.** Closed.

Item 6 – Date of Next Steering Group Meeting

10. The next meeting of the Steering Group to review the proposed actions will take place at RAF High Wycombe 13 May 20.

a. **Decision.** Section 40 to advise the SG members.

Sec

Section 40

For DACOS A4

Distribution:

Action:

Copy to:

Section 40

Section 40
Section 40

CASWO

Section 40

All DPWG Attendees

OFFICIAL

improvements could be made to working dress. All AOCs were to promulgate the survey, including to the diaspora.

a. **Decision.** Ongoing.

CASWO,
A4

5. HUMINT badge. The DPSG endorsed the proposal to adopt the tri-Service Defence Human Intelligence badge for wear by FS and OR on the lower left sleeve of No1 uniform.



a. **Decision.** Endorsed. Sec to advise originator.

Sec

6. Wearing of 2* Accoutrements by Comdt RAFAC. The DPSG endorsed the wearing of embellished ceremonial shoulder boards and gold barrel sash by the Commandant RAF Air Cadets. This endorsement does not carry any further entitlements associated with 2* appointments (i.e. aiguillettes worn by personal staff).

a. **Decision.** Approved. Sec to advise originator.

7. Gender Neutral Dress Policies. A paper by Discip Pol is attached. The DPSG supported the proposals with the following observations;

Sec

i) That ear studs, one in each or single ear, not exceeding 8mm diameter and of a single precious metal or gemstone may be worn by all personnel except when on ceremonial duties including parades.

ii) That nail varnishes may be worn by all personnel but that colours/hues would need to be determined.

iii) That hair style and dyed hair styles were applicable to all personnel, noting that direction would need to be sound to enable personnel to adhere according to the spirit of Service requirements. Section 40 stated that clarification would be needed in respect of Rastafarian personnel and the use of turbans.

iv) To delete the current regulations within The Queen's Regulations and AP1358 in respect of concealed body piercing. The matter of body modification would need to be addressed in concert with medical and B&T advisors regarding workplace safety.

Page 2 of 4

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

v) The current 'Barely Black' 15D rule for hosiery would be reviewed from both an appearance and ecological perspective.

DPSG

a. **Decision.** ExCo review for approval

8. **Tri-Service Items.** The DPSG expressed concern in respect of adopting the accoutrements of Other Arms such as the maroon beret of Airborne Forces (16 Air Assault Brigade) and the green beret awarded on completion of the All Arms Commando Course. The preservation of the RAF blue/grey heritage was considered paramount and that identity should stand out within combined formations. The wearing of Other Arms qualification badges, such as the Submariner's badge, would require further consideration.

Sec

a. **Decision.** Sec to draft tri-Service accoutrements brief.

9. **Queen's Colour Squadron (QCS) Ceremonial Dress.** Section 40 advised the DPSG that female Regt Officers and Gunners were potentially in scope for undertaking the QCS Ceremonial Course. The female officer No1 is regarded as fit for purpose in a parade executive role, the female OR No1 had the potential to cause several problems in terms of appearance, excessive wear due to prolonged use beyond that experienced by the wider user group as well as unit cohesion and the inclusion of the Gunner. The Force Protection FC will propose a QCS female order of dress to AOC 2 for the consideration of DCom Ops. Attached to these minutes will be considered by the DPSG for amendments of the AP1358.

DPSG

a. **Decision.** DPSG to review ratification.

10. **Formation Badge.** The Eng & Logs Sqn Formation Badge request from RAF Scampton needed to provide numbers of personnel expected to wear the badge along with 'criteria' for doing so.

Sec

a. **Decision.** Sec to advise originator.

11. **Joint Terminal Attack Controller badge (J-TAC).** To be discussed between CASWO and Other Service Cmd WOs for clarification. The Section 40 will present a business case for the wearing of a qualification badge.

CASWO

Item 6 – Date of Next Steering Group Meeting

10. The next meeting of the Steering Group to review the proposed actions will take place at RAF High Wycombe in late Nov/early Dec 2020.

Sec

a. **Decision.** Section 40 to advise the SG members.

OFFICIAL

Section 40

For DACOS A4

Distribution:

Action:

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

CASWO

Section 40

Copy to:

All DPWG Attendees

OFFICIAL

Page 4 of 4

