

CHAPTER ONE: NEW CADET INFORMATION



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CHAPTER ONE

Learning Objectives

1. Have an understanding of the history and origins of the RAFAC.
2. Know the basic structure of your squadron as well as the RAFAC in general.

SQUADRON INFORMATION

Speak to cadets and staff at your location to find out the information below.

Squadron Name:	
Squadron Address:	
Contact Number:	
Squadron Website:	
Squadron Email:	
Parade Nights & Times:	
Social Media Pages:	
Commanding Officer:	
Training Officer:	
Adjutant:	
Other Squadron Staff:	
Other Important Info:	

ORIGINS OF THE RAFAC

We are all part of the organisation known as the Air Training Corps. This section describes the origins of this organisation that now has more than 34,000 enrolled Royal Air Force Air Cadets as well as another 10,000 CCF (Combined Cadet Force) Air Cadets throughout the UK.

The most influential person in the Corps history is Air Commodore Chamier who is widely known as the 'Father of the Air Cadets'.

The Air Defence Cadet Corps

- Air Commodore J. Chamier is regarded as the Father of the Air Cadet Movement. In 1938, he came up with a plan to form an organisation known as the Air Defence Cadet Corps (ADCC).
- During World War One many young men were sent to the skies for air combat, often with only a few hours training. This meant there were many casualties.
- Air Commodore Chamier knew that pilots needed more training, so the ADCC was set up to train young men aged 16-18 who had an interest in aviation. To do this he set up squadrons in towns and cities across the country. His aim was to form 200 squadrons with at least 20,000 cadets in the first three years.
- To help the nation prepare for war, 1000s of young men joined the ADCC. Squadrons were formed by local communities, who provided volunteers and support to help run them.



*The Air Defence
Cadet Corps Badge*



*Air Commodore
J. Chamier*

- It was initially difficult to get communities to set up squadrons. In an effort to get more squadrons to form, it was announced that the first 50 would be able to put the letter F after their squadron number.
- At the start of the war the ADCC was asked to train young men who were waiting to be called up into the RAF. This was very successful.
- Because of the good work the ADCC was doing in training cadets for WWII, the government decided to take over the running of the corps in 1940, which led to the creation of the Air Training Corps on 5th February 1941.
- King George the VI was made Air Commodore in Chief for the new organisation.

Summary

- The ATC was founded on 5th February 1941.
- The forerunner of the ATC was the Air Defence Cadet Corps (ADCC).
- Air Commodore Chamier is known as the "Father of the Air Cadets".



The 100th recruit for the East Ham Air Training Corps is enrolled by the mayor of the Borough (second from right) shortly before the organisation came into being on 5 February 1941. Also pictured are ADCC cadets waiting to sign up to the ATC.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAFAC

The organisation that Air Commodore Chamier established is very different to the organisation that we know today. Indeed, many key developments have taken place since its creation in 1941.

The Beginnings of the Air Training Corps

- After the first month of the formation of the ATC from the ADCC, numbers of squadrons had doubled to over 400. Within the first year there were 1524 squadrons (compared to around 950 today).
- The new ATC badge was approved by the King in August 1941. The Air Commodore's motto 'Venture Adventure' was incorporated into the badge. The centre contains a falcon to represent the qualities a cadet should have; vision, strength and courage.
- This badge is still used today.
- Lack of flying opportunities became a problem in the beginning so, in 1943 a flight of 10 dedicated aircraft were created to give cadets air experience flights. Cadets also got the chance to fly overseas on some RAF aircraft.
- Because of the good work the ADCC and ATC did during the war, the ATC was retained and became part of a new RAF department named 'Reserve Command' in 1945.



Cadets receive instruction from Flt Lt C C Taylor (seated in glider) in 1945

After World War II

- Just after WWII many gliding schools were set up, to give cadets more practical flying opportunities. By 1946, the ATC had 84 gliding schools, spread all over the country. In 1948, the decision was made for cadets to train in two-seater gliders, enabling cadets to be trained whilst flying.
- The ATC introduced a flying scholarship scheme in May 1949 which gave some cadets the opportunity to complete intensive flying training.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award was trialled in 1956 with seven squadrons. It was so successful that it was rolled out to everyone in 1960.
- In 1962, the 21st anniversary of the ATC, the corps was presented with its own banner by the Duke of Edinburgh.
- On the 3rd May 1974, Air Commodore Chamier died at the age of 91.



The Duke of Edinburgh attending a service commemorating the 21st anniversary of the ATC.

More Recent History

- In 1980, girls were welcomed into the ATC on a trial basis, with six squadrons being allowed to accept females. They took part in all activities. The trial was successful, and girls were allowed to join all squadrons just two years later.
- In 1999, cadets began to fly in the Grob Tutor aircraft for their air experience flying. This aircraft is still used today. The ATC share the aircraft with 'University Air Squadrons'.
- In 2016 the Air Cadets celebrated its 75th anniversary. Commemorations included a large concert at RAF Cranwell, a specially commissioned torch which was passed around every ATC wing and a squadron sports challenge. A group of cadets also swam the English Channel.

Summary

- The ATC was absorbed into Reserve Command in 1945, making it an official part of the RAF.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was trialled in 1956 and girls were allowed to join in 1980.
- Air Commodore Chamier died in 1974, aged 91.

RAFAC STRUCTURE

The RAFAC has around 950 squadrons spread all over the country, with thousands of cadets and staff. It also has its own headquarters at RAF Cranwell along with Wing and Regional headquarters. Where does your squadron fit into the bigger Air Cadet organisational structure?

Basic Structure

The basic structure of the RAFAC is below.

Corps	Headquarters Air Cadets
Region	Six Regions
Wing	34 Wings
Squadron	Approximately 950 RAFAC Squadrons
Detached Flight	A small unit attached to a squadron



Detached Flights

- Must have at least 15 cadets.
- Reports to a local Squadron.
- Staff are volunteers.
- Normally commanded by a Flying Officer.
- Can apply to 'upgrade' to squadron status if they have more than 30 cadets.
- Shares the attached squadrons number with DF at the end.

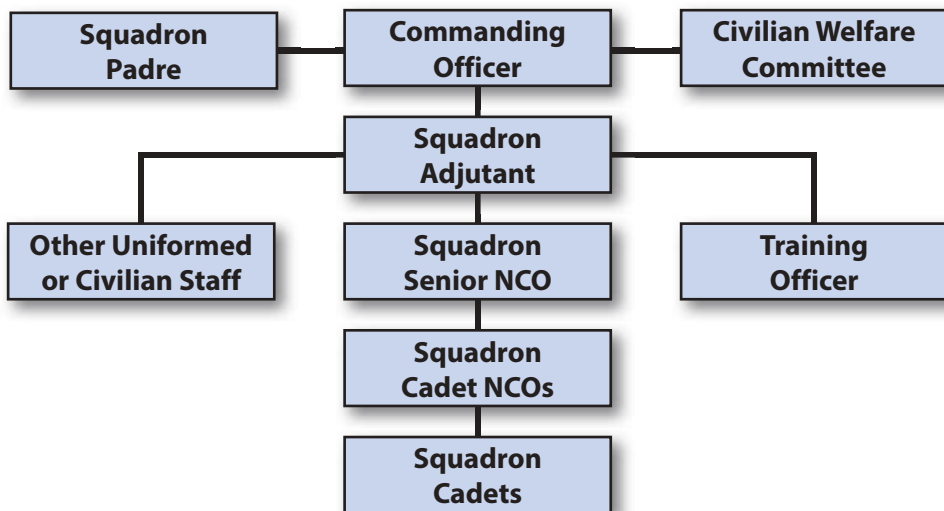


Squadrons

- The basic unit of the ATC.
- Minimum of 30 Cadets.
- Staff are volunteers.
- Normally Commanded by a Flight Lieutenant.
- Has a Civilian Committee who looks after finance and welfare of cadets.
- There are two types of squadrons: one run in communities by volunteers from the area and Combined Cadet Force (CCF) RAF units that operate in schools led by school teachers who also volunteer as CCF staff.



Squadron Structure



- The Adjutant will normally manage all of the squadron's administration and take charge of health and safety. They support the Officer Commanding in the management of the squadron.
- Other key staff include the Training Officer who looks after all of the training needs on the unit, and the squadron Senior NCO (SNCO)/ Warrant Officer (WO) who manages drill and discipline.
- There are also other uniformed staff and Civilian Instructors that help with various aspects of the squadron and help teach lessons and run parade evenings.
- Cadet NCOs aid staff in delivering parade evening activities and teaching lessons.

Wings

- Squadrons are grouped into wings.
- Volunteer staff officers form most of the wing.
- Commanded by a volunteer Wing Commander.
- Has a Civilian Committee who looks after finance.
- Wings will also have a Padre who looks after welfare.
- Squadrons and Detached Flights can compete against others in wing level competitions and lots of courses are run by wings.



What Wing is your Squadron in?

What is the name of your Wing Commander?

Regions

- There are 6 regions in the Air Cadets:
 1. Scotland & Northern Ireland
 2. North
 3. Wales & West
 4. Central & East
 5. London & South East
 6. South West
- Each region has a team of full-time staff, commanded by a full time Group Captain.
- Each region also has a Civilian Committee and a Padre.



What Region is your Wing in?

Corps - Headquarters (HQ) Air Cadets

- Headquarters Air Cadets (HQAC) is based at RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire.
- It has a large group of full time staff.
- It is commanded by an Air Commodore.
- It looks after rules and regulations for the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.
- It works with and has some responsibility for the RAF Section of the Combined Cadet Force.
- Cadet Force officers and NCOs complete their training at RAF Cranwell.



What is the name of the current Commandant Air Cadets?

Summary

- All the staff on your squadron have their own roles and responsibilities.
- Squadrons and detached flights are normally run by an volunteer officer.
- Your unit is a part of a much larger organisation.
- The RAF Air Cadets is mostly run by volunteers, with a small number of full time staff who provide administrative support.
- A Full Time Air Commodore is responsible for the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

THE CADET PORTAL

Cadets and instructors have access to the cadet portal which is a great online resource that allows individuals to manage their cadet experience. Available through a computer, tablet or mobile phone there is a whole array of options.

NOTIFICATIONS



- Get news and info on everything that interests you.
- Customise your notifications to only get what you want.
- Choose to receive updates by text or email.

PERSONALISE



- Choose what information you see.
- Set favourites.
- Make it your own.

ACTIVITIES

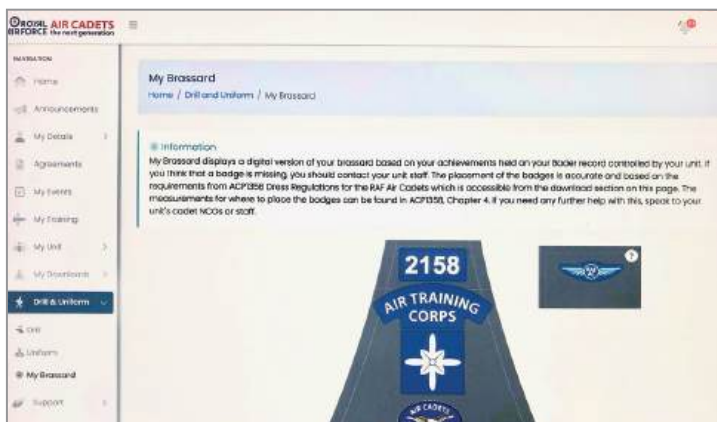


- Search for events and courses.
- One click to show you're interested in taking part.
- Get event details such as dates, times, location etc.

TRACK YOURSELF



- Track your classification progress.
- View current rank and qualifications.
- See what next steps are available to you.



SIGN UP

Instructors have automatic access to the cadet portal but cadets will need to register online.

Before starting you will need the following:

- Email address of parent/guardian that can easily be accessed.
- Cadet service number (your Squadron Commander can provide this).
(Service number will need to have been active for at least 24 hours).

Sign up here:
www.portal.cadets.mod.uk

- Click on 'create account'.
- Select option 1 (I have a Defence Service or staff number)
- Fill in the relevant details (service number is your cadet number).
- Read and confirm you have read SyOps & JSP740 and submit.
- Check your emails and verify.
- Check your email and follow the link to verify your email address.
- Go back to www.portal.cadets.mod.uk and login.

My RAFAC

My RAFAC is an app for mobile phones that allows cadets to easily track their progress and keep up to date with announcements and events.

Features:

- Access your personal MyRAFAC ID card.
- View your Personal Details & Emergency Contact Information.
- View your Aviation & Marksmanship logs, and First Aid badges.
- See the latest announcements from MyRAFAC.
- Sign up to and view your events.
- Upload a new profile photo to Cadet Portal.



ETHOS OF THE AIR CADET ORGANISATION

"The Ethos of the Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) is the distinctive character, spirit and attitude of the Corps which together inspire people to pursue the spirit of adventure while providing a framework upon which to build sound moral principles and develop the desire for achievement and self-improvement and thereby provide example and leadership for the young people of the country".

Core Values of the Air Cadet Organisation

The ACO provides access to challenging and demanding activities that develop self confidence as well as good qualities of citizenship and leadership. The standards of conduct required from cadets and staff is extremely high and a set of values and standards are used to achieve this. There are four ACO Core Values and all actions and decisions should be checked against them to ensure appropriate conduct and behaviour.

1. RESPECT - Self and Mutual Respect

Self Respect: This means having respect for yourself so that you do the right thing and avoid taking part in any activity that would lower your dignity.

Mutual Respect: This means having respect for others in all areas in and out of the RAFAC environment. Having respect for the rank of other cadets and staff is important but there must not be any discrimination of any kind regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender etc.

2. INTEGRITY - Courage, Honesty, Responsibility and Justice

Integrity means doing the right thing all the time, even if no-one is watching.

Courage: Moral courage allows you to make the right decisions and enforce rules, even if it may make you unpopular.

Honesty: Being honest builds trust which is essential when working with or leading others. It also means adhering to rules and laws.

Responsibility: Taking responsibility for your actions is also important and owning up to mistakes helps to build trust.

Justice: Decisions must be fair and consistent when it comes to punishments for bad conduct or rewards for good conduct.

3. SERVICE - Service Before Self

This means to put your duties and the requirements of others before your own personal needs.

Loyalty: Being loyal and dedicated to the Core Values as well as to your leaders and subordinates.

Commitment: Being committed to your duties, your role and to those around you, even if it requires an element of self sacrifice.

Pride: Take pride in the RAFAC and ourselves by adhering to the Core Values and constantly setting an example to others in and out of the organisation.

Teamwork: This is essential to achieve goals by constantly supporting each other and carrying out duties selflessly.

4. EXCELLENCE - Striving for Excellence

Utilising the values of Respect, Integrity and Service to strive for excellent results and the highest of standards.

Self Discipline and Self Control: Being able to complete tasks and maintain high standards without being told. It also means controlling emotions to avoid letting any core values slip.

Personal Excellence: For your own satisfaction and to set a good example to others, you should always strive to achieve the best you can.

Excellence in the use of Resources: All resources including personnel and equipment must be utilised correctly to ensure longevity. Appropriate use and maintenance of equipment will ensure it lasts. Looking after the staff will ensure they continue to serve and do a great job for the ACO.

Leadership

Although it is not part of the Core Values, good leadership is essential in making the ACO a success. Planning of events and activities, dealing with serious or emergency situations and handling people in a fair and appropriate manner are what makes the organisation work and ensures all training and activities are fun, engaging and safe.

Good leaders will always lead by example and use the Core Values as their benchmark for their own and others standards, conduct and behaviour.