

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Application of the Army Dress Manual

1.1 These orders are issued by the command of the Chief of Army (CA) and the Army Dress Manual constitutes a lawful general order. All Australian Army personnel are to ensure that the provisions of the Army Dress Manual are applied and obeyed as orders. Failure to do so is an offence under the [Defence Force Discipline Act, 1982](#).

1.2 Army Dress Manual applies to all ranks of the Australian Army and to other persons entitled to wear the Australian Army uniform. This includes those Army members posted to positions outside the Army group and overseas duties. The Army Dress Manual is the authority to wear the Australian Army uniform, the wearing of all items of dress and embellishments, and provides the policy and information for Army dress. The Army Dress Manual does not apply to civilian persons or for those persons not authorised to wear the Australian Army uniform; however, members may apply to the CA through Director General Career Management–Army (DGCM–A) to wear the Australian Army uniform after separation, IAW [para 1.36](#).

Variations to Army Dress Manual

1.3 Permanent variations to the Army Dress Manual are not to be made without prior approval of CA. Director General Personnel–Army (DGPERS–A) is authorised to approve temporary variations to orders of dress for specific occasions, such as unit ANZAC Day ceremonies or weddings.

1.4 A proposal to vary or introduce any item of dress or embellishment to the Army Dress Manual is to be forwarded through the chain of command and Head of Corps (HOC)/Head of Regiment (HOR), to DGPERS–A for consideration. The chain of command and HOC/HOR are to endorse the submission with comments and recommendations.

1.5 Submissions may be in Minute format and are to detail the change and include justification, and where possible, an indication of any costs or savings likely to result from the proposal.

Layout of Army Dress Manual

1.6 The Army Dress Manual explains all orders of dress—ceremonial, general duty, mess, field, operational, sport and protective. To avoid unnecessary complexity and to ensure that it is easily understood by all personnel, the Army Dress Manual provides the standard information on dress policy that is applied to all Army personnel. The Army Dress Manual is **not** an authority for entitlement purposes. Entitlements can be found within Army Block Scales.

Interpretation of the Army Dress Manual

1.7 The Army Dress Manual is to be interpreted as positive instructions, meaning if a situation is **not** specified in the Army Dress Manual, it is therefore prohibited; however, elements of this manual provide specific direction to the reader.

1.8 Tables throughout the Army Dress Manual list items authorised to be worn with particular orders of dress. Where more than one type of item is authorised, a commander of a sub-unit, unit, or formation may, order a particular type of item to be worn for a particular duty. Those same commanders may order that any item of uniform is to be worn as part of an authorised order of dress on a particular occasion. The exception to this is that, whilst all members may be required to wear trousers with all orders of dress, female members may not be ordered to wear skirts with ceremonial or general duty orders of dress.

Australian Regular Army

1.9 Members of the Australian Regular Army (ARA) are to wear the Australian Army uniform when on duty. In exceptional circumstances, approval to wear civilian clothing may be given by a commander, Commanding Officer (CO) or Officer Commanding (OC).

Army Reserve

1.10 Members of the Army Reserve (ARes) are to wear the Australian Army uniform when on duty. A commander or CO may:

- a. Authorise in writing, the wearing of civilian clothing in circumstances such as:
 - (1) when a member has not been issued all items of uniform and embellishments on enlistment
 - (2) when a member has not been able to change into uniform as a result of unavoidable circumstances
- b. Authorise in writing, the wearing of the Australian Army uniform at significant events, while the member is performing a specific voluntary unpaid duty/attendance.

Inactive Reserve

1.11 Members of the Inactive Reserve may wear the appropriate Australian Army uniform when attending military ceremonies or when on duty or authorised by a Senior Commander for specific events.

Australian Army Cadets

1.12 Members of the Australian Army Cadets (AAC) are authorised to wear the Australian Army uniform, IAW AAC dress policy which is subordinate, but conforms to the Army Dress Manual. Variations to AAC dress policy are to be forwarded to DGPERS–A, before implementation within AAC.

Civilian clothing

1.13 Civilian clothing may be worn by members when on duty, IAW 1.9. Personnel wearing civilian attire on duty are to present a neat, clean and non-offensive appearance.

1.14 Visible civilian items of apparel are not to be worn with the Australian Army uniform, except where specifically authorised in the Army Dress Manual. Items of any military uniform are not to be worn with civilian attire, and the mixing of orders of dress or mixing military and civilian clothing is not permitted, except wearing of the Garrison jacket.

Standards and responsibilities

1.15 The image, pride and esteem of the Australian Army are highly dependant upon the maintenance of the highest standards of dress, appearance, grooming and bearing that is expected of a professional military force. It is the responsibility of all personnel to maintain their uniform in good order and repair, and present the highest possible standards of appearance. Alteration to the basic design of the issue Australian Army uniform is prohibited, e.g. removal of pockets, removal/cutting off sleeves/trouser legs, etc. Special consideration is given where the uniform may be altered on specific occasions by attaching the appropriate poppy/badge/ribbon/pin on or above the left breast pocket, or on the left lapel portion of the collar when **only** general duty orders of dress is worn. Only one poppy/badge/ribbon/pin is to be worn on the Army uniform at any one time. When involved in authorised charitable activities, members are to uphold their appearance, and maintain the reputation and standards of the Australian Army. The wearing of a poppy/badge/ribbon/pin is only authorised on the following occasions:

- a. ANZAC Day (25 April, to include the week of 25 April)—poppy or badge.
- b. Remembrance Day (11 November, to include the week of 11 November)—poppy or badge.
- c. Legacy Week—poppy or badge.
- d. Breast Cancer Pink Ribbon Day (last Monday in October, including the remainder of that week)—Pink Ribbon.
- e. Reconciliation Week (27 May–3 June)—Army Indigenous Pin.
- f. National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week (first or second week of July)—Army Indigenous Pin.
- g. Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade (first Saturday in March, including the week preceding the parade)—Army Pride Pin.
- h. White Ribbon Day—(25 November, to include the week of 25 November)—White Ribbon.

1.16 Items of clothing or equipment which are not of an approved design or material are not to be worn as part of the Australian Army uniform.

1.17 While recognising the standards of society, the traditional military standards have proved their value in fostering group identity and morale.

- 1.18 Members wearing the Australian Army uniform are not to:
- a. consume alcohol in a public place (unless authorised by a commander/CO/OC)
 - b. chew gum, slouch, saunter, place hands in pockets
 - c. smoke in the street, jay walk or loiter
 - d. undertake any similar deportment which detracts from a military appearance in the eyes of the public.

1.19 Unless otherwise stated, orders of dress apply to both female and male personnel.

Uniform allowance

1.20 Uniform Allowance is paid to ARA members for replacement and maintenance of uniforms. The allowance does not cover laundry or dry cleaning costs and is reviewed regularly.

Special appointments

1.21 Specific orders of dress, embellishments and accoutrements are worn by serving and selected personnel in special appointments.

- 1.22 A special appointment is one of those listed as follows:
- a. an aide-de-camp (ADC) to the Sovereign
 - b. an officer holding a personal appointment to the Sovereign
 - c. an Equerry to His or Her Royal Highness (HRH) or Extra Equeries to other members of the Royal Family
 - d. an ADC to, or an officer on the personal staff of the Governor-General or the Governor of a State or Administrator of an Australian Territory
 - e. the Comptroller to the Governor-General
 - f. an Australian Army force or component commander (MAJGEN rank and above)
 - g. a military assistant and/or ADC to the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF)
 - h. a military assistant and/or ADC to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF)
 - i. a military assistant and/or ADC to the CA
 - j. the escort officer to the Minister for Defence, or the Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science or the Minister for Veterans' Affairs;

- k. the Director of Protocol and Visits (Headquarters Australian Defence Force (HQ ADF))
- l. a military assistant and/or ADC to a General officer
- m. an officer nominated as an escort officer to a visiting officer of MAJGEN rank or above.

Selected personnel

1.23 Selected personnel are those who fill one of the following employment positions:

- a. Director General Career Management – Army
- b. Director General Training
- c. Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army (RSM–A)
- d. **Royal Military College of Australia (RMC-A) and Royal Military College–Duntroon (RMC-D):**
 - (1) Commandant (COMDT) RMC-A
 - (2) CO RMC-D
 - (3) Director of Military Art
 - (4) RSM RMC-A
 - (5) RSM RMC-D
 - (6) officers, warrant officers (WO), senior non-commissioned officers (SNCO) and staff cadets (SCDT) posted to the Corps of Staff Cadets
 - (7) officers nominated by the COMDT for host/escort duties at appropriate ceremonial occasions
- e. **Australian Defence Force Academy:**
 - (1) COMDT and Deputy COMDT (when filled by Army)
 - (2) SO3 Cadets
 - (3) Academy Sergeant Major (when filled by Army)
 - (4) all Army officer cadets (OCDT) and other Army personnel fulfilling parade appointments
- f. All Tier C RSM's
- g. RSM Ceremonial-Army
- h. RSM Ceremonial-ADF.

1.24 Philanthropic representatives are not authorised to wear any items of Disruptive Pattern Combat Uniform (DPCU). The equipment that may be issued to philanthropic representatives and the policy of wearing other associated dress is at [The Philanthropic Manual \(PHILOMAN\)](#):

1.25 Philanthropic representatives are authorised to wear general duty and ceremonial orders of dress but only IAW [PHILOMAN approved clothing list](#). General duty and ceremonial orders of dress may be worn with orders, decorations, medals and ribbon bar as appropriate to dress orders, but without any Australian Army embellishments, titles or badges of rank.

1.26 Grading/status badges provided by the approved philanthropic organisation may be worn, IAW the status of the philanthropic representative.

1.27 Philanthropic representatives who accompany the ADF on overseas operations are to wear protective dress and equipment, IAW Chief of Joint Operations Command (CJOPS) directives for the designated Area of Operations (AO).

Honorary Colonel/COLCOMDT and other honorary appointments

1.28 An officer or person appointed honorary Colonel (COL), COLCOMDT or Regimental COL of a Corps or Regiment, may wear uniform when attending activities of the Corps or Regiment. The uniform and embellishments of the Corps or Regiment, including lanyard, with the badges of rank of a COL are worn, but without coloured cap-band, gorget, patches or Senior officers cap badge. Alternatively, an officer may wear the badges of rank and other insignia of the rank which they held when serving, Inactive Reserve or of the military rank or title granted on retirement. For example; a retired Brigadier (BRIG) may wear the embellishments of that rank, and would not wear any Corps/Regiment embellishments such as shoulder titles, lanyard or Corps/Regiment badges. Regardless of rank, the appropriate special to Corps/Regiment beret may be worn, IAW Corps custom and these orders. Honorary appointments wear either the mess dress orders of dress of the Corps with the rank insignia of COL or the mess dress orders of dress to which they are entitled by virtue of their rank on retirement.

1.29 Honorary appointments are to wear the orders of dress, IAW annex C to chapter 5 'Senior Officer Dress' and [DI\(A\) PERS 99-1](#) 'Honorary Appointment':

Dress at receptions

1.30 Dress for members invited to attend Australian (both Federal and State) and foreign receptions, will normally be indicated on the invitation. If doubt exists as to the correct order of dress, the advice of superior HQ or DGPERS—A is to be sought.

Foreign receptions

1.31 Dress for attendance at Armed Forces and National Day Receptions will normally be indicated on invitations, e.g. 'Uniform/Lounge Suit/National Dress'. However, if no preferred dress is given, the appropriate Australian Army uniform is to be worn.

1.32 Dress for receptions other than Armed Forces or National Day will also normally be indicated on invitations. However, if no preferred dress is given, Service personnel attending evening receptions are to wear lounge suit.

Australian receptions

1.33 When a State Reception is hosted by an Australian Government representative, where awards or prizes are to be presented as a result of Service Recognition, e.g. Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for Humanitarian Assistance, the dress is to be the appropriate Australian Army uniform. If the reception is to be for the receiving of a civilian award, e.g. Young Australian of the Year, the most outstanding charity fund raiser, the recipient is to wear lounge suit.

Discretionary judgment

1.34 Should guests at official receptions have an immediately prior or subsequent engagement requiring the wearing of an order of dress other than that specified on the invitation, it is convention that the host be advised of the order of dress that will be worn by the guest.

Orders of dress worn on particular occasions

1.35 The dress to be worn by all personnel on particular occasions is at annex A to chapter 5 'Orders of Dress Worn on Particular Occasions'. If doubt exists as to the correct order of dress, the advice of the chain of command or DGPERs—A is to be sought.

Wearing of uniforms after separation

1.36 A member may apply in writing to the CA through DGCM—A, for approval to wear their military uniform after separation; however, approval is not automatic. Members who have been granted permission to wear their military uniform after separation may wear their uniform appropriate to the rank, Corps and/or unit in which they last served in the Army, at military ceremonies or military entertainments. Enquiries to wear uniform on other than military occasions is to be sought from DGPERs-A. The entitlement and wearing of 'R' insignia on military uniforms after retirement is at annex J to chapter 4 'Retired Members Insignia'.

1.37 The approval to use title or wear the military uniform after separation does not infer an entitlement at Commonwealth expense to maintenance or issue of uniform and associated embellishments. Officers authorised to use the post-nominal 'Retd' are to seek an issue of the 'R' insignia embellishment prior to separation.