

First Class – Part One

Revision Sheet – Ranks & Badges

Cadet Ranks & Classifications

There are two routes to progress in the ATC – Classifications and Ranks. The difference between these two is simple.

- Classifications- to progress in classifications you take *exams* showing understanding and knowledge of Air Cadet curriculum such as Airframes, Navigation or Propulsion.
- Ranks – progression in the ranks is only through *promotion* at the CO's discretion. Qualities that are likely to get you chosen for promotion are leadership, initiative, being responsible, being professional, looking smart. However there is no guarantee that any cadet will be promoted.

Classifications

- Junior Cadet - A cadet who has newly joined and has no uniform.
- Second Class Cadet – Cadet has passed First Class, Part One. Should have uniform.
- First Class Cadet – Cadet has passed First Class, Part Two. Has First Class badge (star)
- Leading Cadet – Cadet has passed Leading exams. Has Leading badge (propeller)
- Senior Cadet – Cadet has passed Senior exams. Has Senior badge (star & propeller)
- Staff Cadet – Cadet has passed Staff exams, Part 1 & 2. Yellow lanyard, left shoulder

Ranks

- Cadet (Cdt) – No rank, no badge.
- Corporal (Cpl) – Junior NCO rank (JNCO). Badge: Two chevrons
- Sergeant (Sgt) – Senior NCO rank (SNCO). Badge: Three chevrons
- Flight Sergeant (FS) – SNCO rank. Badge: Three chevrons, crown on top
- Cadet Warrant Officer (CWO) – SNCO rank. Badge: crown and wreath of laurels

Note: 1 - NCO stands for Non Commissioned Officer. This means that the officer has *not* been appointed by the Queen. Cadets can only be NCOs.

Note: 2 – Remember that all cadets aged 18 or over must take a one day training course and wear a badge stating they are an 'Instructor Cadet'.

Staff Ranks

There are three groups or categories of staff.

Civilian Instructors

These members of staff do not wear uniform. They assist with any teaching or administrative work that is required. Treat them with the same respect you would show any other member of staff and call them Sir or Ma'am to their face, or use their title (Mr, Mrs or Miss) when talking about them.

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NCO Staff (Non-Commissioned Officers)

These members of staff are uniformed but have not been appointed by the Queen. There are three ranks of NCO staff – Sergeant, Flight Sergeant and Warrant Officer. These staff are responsible for Drill, Dress and Discipline as well as teaching. Their badges are the same as the cadet badges for these ranks, except that they have a small, gold 'ATC' badge over the top. Call these staff Sergeant or Flight Sergeant to their face, except the WO whom you call Sir or Ma'am, and use their rank or their title (Mr, Mrs or Miss) when talking about them.

Commissioned Officers

Uniformed members of staff that have been appointed by the Queen. When you salute them you are saluting Her Majesty. These are the only members of staff whom you salute [see rules for saluting below]. These staff hold the most senior positions in the Squadron and have their own rank system. Their badges will have a small, gold VRT (Volunteer Reserve, Training) badge pinned over the top to distinguish them from regular officers in the RAF. Call these staff Sir or Ma'am to their face and use their rank or their title (Mr, Mrs or Miss) when talking about them.

Rules for Saluting

- Only salute Uniformed Officers and the ensign, as they represent the Queen
- Only salute when wearing your beret
- Only salute when standing up
- Always salute when entering and leaving the Adjutant's or CO's office. If not wearing your beret, come to attention.
- When an officer wearing his hat enters a room full of cadets you do not need to salute, as the most senior cadet or NCO in the room will call you to attention.

Commissioned Officer Ranks, RAF VR(T)

- Officer Cadet – Newly-made officer, awaiting his official course at Cranwell.
Badge – A white tab with the VRT pin over the top.
- Pilot Officer (Plt Off) – Badge – A thin, blue line with the VRT pin over the top
- Flying Officer (Fg Off) – Badge – A thick blue line with the VRT pin over the top
- Flight Lieutenant (Flt Lt) – Badge – Two thick blue lines with the VRT pin over the top

Senior Officer Ranks

- Squadron Leader (Sqn Ldr) – Badge – Two thick blue lines with a thin blue line sandwiched in the middle and the VRT pin over the top
- Wing Commander (Wg Cdr) – Badge – Three thick blue lines with the VRT pin over the top

Headquarters Staff Senior Commissioned Ranks

- Group Captain (Gp Cpt) – Badge – Four thick blue lines
- Air Commodore (Air Cdre) – Badge – One very thick blue line