Chapter 6 - Dress Instructions

1. Canadian Forces Dress Instructions (A-AD-265-000/AG-001) provides direction for standards of personal appearance and wearing of Canadian Forces uniforms. Engineers must conform to these regulations and wear authorized CME accoutrements as described in this chapter. Serving CME personnel will not wear former RCN, RCE, or RCAF accoutrements including buttons. Retired individuals are entitled to wear the uniform that was authorized at the time of their release, to special ceremonies and celebrations when appropriate approval has been obtained by the organizer of the event.

DEPORTMENT AND APPEARANCE

2. The deportment and appearance of all ranks, whether in uniform or in civilian attire, reflects on the individual, the CME and the CF. A favourable impression is created when members are smartly dressed, professional in conduct, and in compliance with instructions governing the proper forms of address and paying of compliments (see Chapter 5).

3. The Canadian Forces dress manual is updated periodically and all members should be familiar with the current dress regulations. In general, members should always have uniforms properly fitted and pressed, and shoes shined. Buttons, fasteners, and zippers should be closed and pockets should not bulge or have items such as pens protruding from them. Headphones are not to be worn, and tote bags and backpacks should be of a conservative colour and carried in the left hand, or worn on the back. Sunglasses should be simple and conservative.

4. Civilians are quick to judge personnel in uniform and nothing should be done to attract undue attention. Good taste and common sense should guide the deportment of an Engineer at all times. Bear in mind that Engineers are gentlemen and ladies, and act accordingly. When in uniform, behaviour such as chewing gum, slouching, placing hands in pockets, and smoking on the street is forbidden. Service personnel will not hold hands or show other outward signs of affection when in uniform. A gentleman may, however, take a lady’s arm when escorting her.

SALE OF CME ACCOUTREMENTS

5. The CME Kit Shop is managed by the Commandant, CFSME and is operated for the Branch Council. Revenue from the CME Kit Shop subsidizes CME activities such as CME Museum operating costs and top student awards. The CME Kit Shop is set up as a commercial enterprise and operates on the Internet at: www.cmekitshop.ca. It is both a wholesale operation (marketing to unit retail kit shops) and a retail outlet that markets directly to individuals. The CME CWO approves all new items sold by the CME Kit Shop to ensure that only high quality items that are in keeping with the image of the CME are produced. Units may make recommendations for new items to the CME CWO or to the CME Kit Shop Officer.

6. The CME Kit Shop is the only authorized merchandiser of Engineer accoutrements and devices. All CME items for resale must be purchased through the CME Kit Shop as unit kit shops are not authorized to produce CME devices and accoutrements themselves. CME accoutrements and memorabilia may be purchased through local unit kit shops or through the central CME Kit Shop. Individuals can order by clicking on the INDIVIDUAL button and following the sequence. At present, this online site is for credit card purchases only. Cash/cheque/money order purchases should be directed to one of the local authorized kit shops that can be seen under the AUTHORIZED MILITARY PERSONNEL button but you should first confirm the local prices. Note that the primary use of the AUTHORIZED MILITARY PERSONNEL button on the home page is for authorized kit shops to conduct their bulk ordering.
CME HAT BADGE

7. All CME Chief Warrant Officers and commissioned officers (below the rank of General in the Navy and Air Force or Colonel in the Army) wear the wire-embroidered CME hat badge, available from the CME Kit Shop. General and Flag officers wear the Canadian Forces hat badge while Army colonels wear the colonel’s hat badge. The CME Colonel Commandant is authorized to wear the hat badge and other CME identifiers on all uniforms regardless of rank. All non-commissioned members wear the loom-embroidered cloth CME cap badge that is available through the supply system. The positioning of the badge is in accordance with Canadian Forces Dress Instructions.

8. Recruits are issued the Canadian Forces hat badge and are presented with the CME hat badge, collar badges, and buttons on completion of their Qualification Level 3 training. Officers under training are presented their accoutrements on completion of their Phase III training.

SERVICE DRESS

9. Table 6-1 describes the appropriate CME accoutrements for wear with service dress. The CF dress manual is the authority, detailing the proper location for each accessory listed in the table below. Most CME accoutrements are available from the kit shop; however, those items marked with an asterisk are available through the supply system.
Figure 6-2  CME Brass Belt Buckle

Figure 6-3  Brass Shoulder Title

Figure 6-4  Army Collar Badge

Figure 6-5  Army CME Brass Buttons
**Table 6-1 Table of CME Service Dress Regulations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>NAVY</th>
<th>ARMY</th>
<th>AIR FORCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belt</td>
<td>The belt with a buckle bearing an engraved or coloured CME badge, is worn with all orders of dress. (Figure 6-2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunic Buttons</td>
<td>Navy buttons* are worn.</td>
<td>Untrained members wear CF buttons, and trained members wear brass CME buttons.</td>
<td>Air Force buttons* are worn. Not worn on Air Force or Navy dress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder Titles</td>
<td>Not worn on Navy dress.</td>
<td>Worn on the epaulettes of the tunic. See Note 1 and Figure 6-3.</td>
<td>Not worn on Air Force dress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloth Shoulder Titles*</td>
<td>Slip-ons, reading CANADA, are worn on the epaulettes of the shirt. Officers wear shoulder boards.</td>
<td>Slip-ons bearing the unit designator, ENGINEERS, or GENIE, are worn on the epaulettes of the shirt. See Note 1.</td>
<td>Slip-ons, reading CANADA, are worn on the epaulettes of the shirt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Epaulettes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On combat uniforms, unit designators are worn if authorized; otherwise slip-ons bearing either ENGINEERS or GENIE are worn. See Note 1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collar Badges</td>
<td>No collar badges are worn on the Navy tunic.</td>
<td>Collar badges (Figure 6-4) are worn, aligned with the lapel seam of the tunic, with the beavers parallel to the ground and facing inwards.</td>
<td>No collar badges are worn on the Air Force tunic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation Badges*</td>
<td>Badges shown are worn on the lapels.</td>
<td>Badges are worn on the right sleeve of the tunic.</td>
<td>Half wing badges are worn on the right breast of the tunic, above the nametag. General Officers do not wear half wings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Figure 6-6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill Badges*</td>
<td>Qualified personnel may wear up to two skill badges; one above the ribbons and the other (in miniature) centred on the left breast pocket. Only one Specialty skill badge with the crown shall be worn at a time and it is to be worn above any badge without a crown.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wings*</td>
<td>Members who have earned wings (Diver, EOD, Pilot, Pathfinder etc....) may wear them on the left breast of the tunic or pinned above the left breast pocket of the shirt or the tunic.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Available through the CF Supply System

Note 1: Members of English language units will wear ENGINEERS and those in French language units, GENIE. Personnel in bilingual units may wear either, but not both at the same time.
Figure 6-6  CME Occupation Badges
DECORATIONS

10. Members shall wear decorations as detailed in dress regulations. Medals are worn only on those social and ceremonial occasions where the invitation or parade order indicates that they are appropriate. When not wearing medals, undress ribbons are worn. Normally medals are removed upon entering a mess; however, they may be worn in a mess at a New Year's Levee, Remembrance Day and similar occasions. No foreign decorations shall be worn with the exception of the U.S. Ranger and Special Forces Course decorations that have been approved for wear on the Distinctive Environmental Uniform, but not mess dress.

CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS

11. On parades when the ceremonial white belt is worn, the CF or CME brass buckle should be used. The belts and buckles are usually held by the unit Sergeant Major for use only on parade. The CME buckle is no longer available; however, units that do have them may use them at the discretion of the unit Sergeant Major. The CME Museum also has historic uniforms available for loan and for use at very special CME celebrations and historic re-enactments.

ENGINEER BLAZER AND TIE

12. An Engineer necktie for wear with civilian attire is available from the CME Kit Shop. Its pattern is a series of crimson, royal blue and grey-blue stripes of various widths slanted at a 45-degree angle sloping up from the lower left to the upper right. The first two colours derive from the former Royal Canadian Engineer tie and all three from the former Royal Canadian Air Force tie. Ties are available as a standard necktie (the point of the tie should touch the belt buckle) or a hand-tied bow tie.

13. There is no officially recognized CME blazer. However, a navy blue, single-breasted blazer, with two lower patch pockets, a left breast patch pocket, and a single vent in back is the most popular style worn by CME members. This is similar to blazers worn by veterans on Remembrance Day. A double-breasted version is also appropriate. A metal embroidered CME badge for wear on the left breast pocket is available from the Kit Shop. CME buttons, available from the kit shop, may also be worn. The blazer is worn with grey slacks, a white shirt, and the Engineer tie. For women, the blazer may be worn with a grey skirt or pants, a white blouse and the Engineer tie or scarf.

MESS DRESS

14. Mess dress is worn at formal functions such as mess dinners, dining-ins, formal balls and any other function where the invitation states mess dress. Mess dress may also be appropriate for other formal functions; however, if it is not explicitly stated on the invitation, permission should be requested to wear the uniform. Mess dress is not supplied by the Canadian Forces and must be purchased by the member. It is required that all officers have mess dress and it is common practice to acquire mess dress just prior to commissioning. Warrant Officers are also expected to have mess dress shortly after promotion. Junior NCMs are not required to have mess dress but may purchase it if desired. In lieu of mess dress, male NCMs are expected to wear service dress (order 2B), with a white shirt (turned down collar) and black bow tie. Female NCMs wear service dress (order 2B) with the white, long-sleeved blouse with gold buttons, available at CANEX retail outlets. Ribbons, not medals, are worn with this order of mess dress. See Figures 6-8 and 6-9 for mess service dress details.
15. Mess dress is individually tailored using the approved pattern that is available from qualified tailors of military uniforms. The tailors on staff at clothing stores usually have lists of local tailors who are qualified to make mess dress, otherwise it is advisable to check with peers to find a reputable tailor. It is important that the tailor is experienced in making mess dress and that access to the proper fabrics is available.

16. Serving members who served with the Royal Canadian Navy, Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers, or Royal Canadian Air Force who possess the former service pattern mess dress may continue to wear it. Similarly, members of the CME who possess the former CF mess dress may continue to wear it. Any member joining the CME, or replacing mess dress, after February 1991 is expected to wear the mess dress corresponding to the appropriate distinctive environmental uniform. Retired members are authorized to wear the mess dress that was recognized at the time of their retirement.

17. Table 6-2 describes the CME versions of the three orders of mess dress.
No. 2B
NAVY: MESS SERVICE

SHIRT, WHITE, LONG-SLEEVED, PLAIN
WITH TURNED DOWN COLLAR
AND STANDARD CUFFS

SHIRT, WHITE, LONG-SLEEVED, CUFFED, PLAIN OR
PLEATED FRONT WITH WING OR TURNED
DOWN COLLAR

BOWTIE, BLACK (HAND TIED)

CROSSOVER TAB, BLACK

AS FOR No. 3 DUTY SERVICE DRESS
EXCEPT AS NOTED

SHOES, LEATHER BLACK WITH
SOCKS, BLACK

PUMPS, BLACK LEATHER / PATENT LEATHER OR
SHOES (OXFORDS) WITH NYLONS, BEIGE PLAIN
PATTERN

NOTES
1. Female personnel may carry a clutch evening bag, black.
2. Undress ribbons of orders, decorations and medals shall be worn.
3. Dress slacks or skirt shall be worn by female personnel as ordered or as appropriate. With slacks, plain black
   nylons may be worn in lieu of beige.

Figure 6-8 Navy Mess Service Dress
No. 2B
ARMY AND AIR FORCE: MESS SERVICE

BLOUSE, WHITE, LONG-SLEEVED HIGH BUTTONED CONVERTIBLE COLLAR WITH GOLD BUTTONED FRONT CLOSURE

OR

SHIRT, WHITE PLAIN FRONT, LONG SLEEVE WITH TURNED DOWN COLLAR AND STANDARD CUFF

WITH

BOWTIE, BLACK

AS FOR No. 3 DUTY SERVICE DRESS EXCEPT AS NOTED

SHOES, LEATHER BLACK WITH SOCKS, NYLON BLACK

PUMPS, BLACK LEATHER OR SHOES (OXFORDS) WITH PLAIN PATTERN BEIGE NYLONS

NOTES
1. Female personnel may carry a black clutch evening bag.
2. Undress ribbons shall be worn.
3. Army members wear a rifle green or tan uniform depending on the season.
4. Air Force female members shall wear a skirt (heavyweight or lightweight).

Figure 6-9 Army and Air Force Mess Service Dress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>NAVY (Figure 6-10)</th>
<th>ARMY (Figure 6-11)</th>
<th>AIR FORCE (Figure 6-12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pants/Skirt (Note: Women have the option of pants or skirt)</td>
<td>Navy blue (gold strip for CPO1 and Officers, no stripe for non-commissioned members). Women’s skirt is full length with two side slits to the knee.</td>
<td>Black, with scarlet stripe on outside of leg. Women’s skirt is full length with two side slits to the knee.</td>
<td>Midnight blue, with midnight blue stripe on outside of leg. Women’s skirt is full length with two side slits to the knee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacket</td>
<td>Navy blue with navy blue lapels</td>
<td>Scarlet doe skin with black lapels.</td>
<td>Midnight blue with blue satin lapels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttons</td>
<td>Navy buttons are worn.</td>
<td>CME buttons are worn.</td>
<td>Air Force buttons are worn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collar Badges</td>
<td>No collar badges are worn.</td>
<td>Wire embroidered collar badges are worn with the beavers facing in.</td>
<td>No collar badges are worn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill badges</td>
<td>Up to two specialist skill badges are permitted. They are worn on the left breast above the miniature medals. No foreign badges are permitted on mess dress.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorations</td>
<td>Court mounted miniature medals are worn. No neck badges, stars of orders or foreign decorations are worn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cummerbund/Waistcoat</td>
<td>A brick-red cummerbund is worn with the pleated opening uppermost.</td>
<td>A black waistcoat is worn in lieu of cummerbund.</td>
<td>A brick-red cummerbund is worn with the pleated opening uppermost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirt/Blouse</td>
<td>Mess Dress/Men – white shirt with pleated front, wing tip or turned down collar, and French cuffs. Mess Dress/Women - white, long-sleeved blouse with high collar and plain gold buttons available at CANEX retail outlets. DEU/Men and Women – white un-pleated shirt with full turned-down collar and standard cuffs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuff Links/Shirt Studs</td>
<td>Plain gold or Navy pattern</td>
<td>Plain gold or CME pattern.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Black bow tie for men. Women wear no tie.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder Titles</td>
<td>Embroidered Canada shoulder titles.</td>
<td>No shoulder titles are worn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Mess Dress Jacket (Optional)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Approved for wear on any occasion when summer dress is in effect and mess dress is appropriate. All accoutrements remain the same as above. Skill badges and collar badges on the usual dark backing are worn. Metal shoulder titles are not worn, and the CME brick red cummerbund is worn in lieu of the Army waistcoat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 6-2: Table of CME Mess Dress Regulations**
Figure 6-10  Navy Mess Dress for Male and Female Members

NOTES
1. Miniature orders, decorations and medals, and miniature flying and specialist skill badges shall be worn.
2. Tailcoat, navy blue is worn by Capt (N) and above (male and female officers).
3. No. 2A is as for No. 2 except that the jacket, mess dress, white, shall replace the jacket mess dress, navy blue.
4. For No. 2A, choice of white or black clutch evening bag (see annex F of Chapter 6).
Figure 6-11 Army Mess Dress for Male and Female Members
No. 2
AIR FORCE: MESS STANDARD

BLOUSE, WHITE, LONG-SLEEVED HIGH
BUTTONED CONVERTIBLE COLLAR
WITH GOLD BUTTONED FRONT CLOSURE
OR
SHIRT, WHITE, PLEATED FRONT
WITH COLLAR AND FRENCH CUFFS
WITH
BOWTIE, BLACK
JACKET, MIDNIGHT BLUE
BUTTONS, AIR FORCE
COMMERBUND
TROUSERS, MIDNIGHT BLUE
SKIRT, LONG, MIDNIGHT BLUE
SHOES, LEATHER BLACK OR WELLINGTONS
WITH SOCKS, NYLON BLACK
PUMPS, BLACK LEATHER WITH PLAIN
PATTERN BEIGE OR BLACK NYLONS

No. 2A
AIR FORCE: MESS WHITE
(NOTES 3 AND 4)

NOTES
1. Female personnel may carry a clutch evening bag.
2. Miniature orders, decorations and medals and miniature cloth embroidered (metallic thread) flying and specialist skill badges are worn.
3. No. 2A is as for No. 2 except that a white mess jacket shall be worn.
4. No. 2A is optional and not worn by noncommissioned members

Figure 6-12 Air Force Navy Mess Dress for Male and Female Members