

CHAPTER 20

MESSES

SECTION 1 - OFFICERS' MESSES

1636. Organization.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

Officers' messes at home and abroad are normally to be organized and conducted as station messes. At permanent air force stations exceptions to this rule are only to be made with the approval of the MOD. At places where air forces are stationed temporarily, AOCs are to make such arrangements as they think fit regarding the organization and administration of the officers' messes.

1637. Mess Administration and Accounting.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

Every RAF officer serving, or on temporary duty, at a station is to be a member of the station mess. The mess and its funds are to be administered and accounted for as laid down in AP 3223 (Administration and Accounting for Service Funds). Chapter 4 of AP 3223 contains information specifically on Officers' Messes.

1638. (Omitted)**1639. Responsibility of Station Commander.***Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

A Stn Cdr may delegate such responsibilities and duties in connection with the discipline and management of the mess as he wishes, but remains ultimately responsible for its general discipline, tone and management and for ensuring that all the regulations relating to officers' messes are observed.

1640. (Omitted)**1641. Discipline.***Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

(1) The president of the mess committee is responsible to the station commander for the maintenance of mess discipline generally. It is, however, the duty of all officers to observe the regulations and rules for officers' messes and it is incumbent upon the senior officer present on any particular occasion to maintain discipline and, if necessary, to report any breach of the regulations and rules.

(2) Members are responsible for any guests introduced by them into the mess.

1642-1645. (Omitted)

SECTION 2 - SERGEANTS' MESSES

1646. Organization.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

A sergeants' mess is to be formed whenever practicable and is normally to be managed as a station mess.

1647. Mess Administration and Accounting.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

Every WO and SNCO serving, or on temporary duty, at a station is to be a member of the mess. The mess and its funds are to be administered and accounted for as laid down in AP 3223. Chapter 5 of AP 3223 contains information specifically on Sergeants' Messes.

1648-1649. (Omitted)

1650. Responsibility of Station Commander.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

The Stn Cdr is to appoint an officer in charge of the sergeants' mess who is to be responsible for the immediate supervision, conduct and management of the mess. However this requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Stn Cdr provided the Chairman of the Mess Committee is not below Warrant Officer rank and a Services Funds Accounting Section is in operation. In these circumstances, the Chairman of the Mess Committee is to assume the duties of the Officer in Charge. The Stn Cdr is to remain responsible for the due observance of the regulations contained in AP 3223.

1651. Discipline.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

The senior warrant officer or SNCO present in the mess is responsible for the maintenance of good order and discipline and for the observance by members of the regulations and rules for the mess.

1652-1655. (Omitted)**SECTION 3 - JUNIOR RANKS' MESS****1656. Responsibility for Catering.***Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

The Stn Cdr is to be ultimately responsible for the maintenance of an efficient standard of catering on the station. The detailed regulations on supervision and control are contained in AP 3344 (RAF Manual of Catering) and JSP 456 (Joint Service Catering Accounting Regulations).

1657. Dietary.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

(1) The Stn Cdr is to pay particular attention to the catering arrangements in the Junior Ranks' Mess and is to impress upon his subordinates the important bearing which good catering has upon the efficiency and morale of the airmen. The food provided is to be well prepared, cooked and presented, and of adequate variety. Due attention must be paid to healthy eating.

(2) The Stn Cdr is to visit the Junior Ranks' Mess frequently and satisfy himself as to the standard of catering.

1658. Junior Ranks' Messing Committee.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

A representative committee is to be formed under the presidency of a senior officer appointed by the Stn Cdr to ascertain whether a satisfactory standard of messing is maintained. It is to meet not less frequently than once per quarter as directed in AP 3344. The committee is to consist of the president (PJRM), the OC Cat Sqn/Flt/Contract Catering Supervising Officer (CCSO)/Contract Manager, the Warrant Officer or SNCO chef IC mess or in the case of a contractorized mess the senior chef and representatives from other sections of the station as decided by the Stn Cdr.

1659. Messing Suggestions Book.*Sponsor: Air A4 Cat Ops*

When the Stn Cdr has agreed that meetings be held less frequently than once a month, a messing suggestions book is to be maintained in each Junior Ranks' Mess. It is to be used to record not only the airmen's suggestions but also the action taken or proposed by the OC Cat Sqn/Flt/Contract Catering Supervising Officer (CCSO)/Contract Manager. All entries are to be actioned promptly. Airmen are to have access to this book at all times.

1660-1719. (Omitted)