

A New Cadet's Guide to Combat ("Green") Uniform



Barr Beacon School
'Proud to Succeed'

Barr Beacon School CCF (RAF)

 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
AIR CADETS
the next generation

TYPES OF UNIFORM

As a new cadet you will be issued a set of “No.2 Dress” uniform. This is your blue uniform which includes the following:

- Beret with beret badge
- Jersey
- Trousers / ladies slacks
- Skirt
- Light blue shirt
- Dark (Working) blue shirt
- Blue Belt
- Tie
- Brassard with badges
- Waterproof Jacket



Items NOT issued, which must be privately purchased are:

- Parade shoes (Female / Male versions)
- Stable belt (optional item for Lance-Corporals and above)



If your child is Pupil Premium, Looked After Child (LAC) or on Free School Meals, help is available to provide these items for your child whilst they are cadets.

The blue uniform is the standard working dress for most Air Cadet activities, however there are certain activities for which the blue issued uniform is not suitable. In these instances, you will need to wear suitable combat uniform clothing, commonly referred to as “greens”.

The “green” uniform is not issued to air cadets and is therefore a private purchase item only. There are two patterns currently in circulation and whilst both may still be worn, they must not be “mixed and matched”.

As part of your first few months in cadets we will loan you a set of green uniform – this MUST be returned once you have bought your own set of MTP.

MTP PERSONAL CLOTHING SYSTEM (PCS)



The Current standard issue combat uniform for the UK military is known as “Multi Terrain Pattern” (MTP) and is designed as a “Personal Clothing System” (PCS). This system is intended to be used in a layer system throughout the year to offer flexibility and comfort for the user. Cadets **MUST** ensure that they have all of the mandatory components of this system, as follows:

- Field Jacket
- Lightweight Jacket (Shirt)
- Trousers
- T-Shirt (this may be olive green, sand or brown coloured)
- Green belt
- Combat boots (these may be black or brown, but must be supportive of the ankle)



DPM CS95



The previous green uniform system used by the UK armed forces was known as “Combat Soldier 95” (CS95) and was in a darker set of colours known as “Disruptive Pattern Material” (DPM). This uniform has been withdrawn from use in the military but may still be worn by Air Cadets if they hold it. It must not be mixed with the newer MTP PCS uniforms. The CS95 clothing system consists of the same items as the MTP PCS as follows:

- Field Jacket
- Lightweight Jacket (Shirt)
- Trousers
- T-Shirt (this may be olive green or brown coloured)
- Green belt
- Combat boots (these must be black and must be supportive of the ankle)



Optional items for either MTP or DPM uniforms are commercially available:



- Hats (woolly hats, baseball cap style or bush hats)
- Gloves (green, brown, black, camo etc...)

- Waterproof jackets
- Waterproof trousers
- Daysacks
- Webbing / Assault vests
- Etc....

Optional items are useful to have if you intend to get more involved in these types of activities and will make your experience more comfortable. It is sometimes possible to “loan” some of these optional items, so ask your staff before you purchase your own kit.

WHERE TO BUY IT FROM

There are lots of commercial outlets for “Military Surplus” uniforms and equipment, most are online, although there are a few still on the high street in certain towns. Make sure that you know what you are looking for.

When shopping, search for items such as “MTP PCS” and use reputable suppliers. Uniforms are available in “new” condition and also “Grade 1 used”. Grade 1 is fine for most cadets first uniforms as it is a cost effective way of sourcing uniform that you will likely grow out of at some point and need to replace.

Recommended websites include:

Strikeforce Supplies – www.strikeforcesupplies.co.uk (Reasonable prices and good range)

Cadet Direct – www.cadetdirect.com (Often higher in price, but they have good stocks) Cadet Kit

Shop – www.cadetkitshop.com (Another cadet kit supplier) eBay – www.ebay.com (If you search carefully you can find some bargains and save a lot of money)

If you are in doubt, consult a member of your unit staff before placing an order. They may be able to help you source items or there may be an older cadet selling something that no longer fits.

SIZES

All military uniform sizes are measured in cm, so be prepared for this. Often you will see adverts with specific and unfamiliar sizes. The common sizing methods for green uniforms are as follows:

Jackets & shirts:

Height / Chest (e.g. 180/96)

Trousers:

Leg / Waist / Seat (e.g. 85/92/108)

The sizes come in grouped sizes, so for example to get a larger waist you may end up with a longer leg measurement. Bear this in mind when looking for the sizes you need.