

CFAO 27-1 -- MESSES

PURPOSE

1. Pursuant to QR & 27.01, this order prescribes the policy governing the establishment and administration of messes in the Regular Force and Primary Reserve.

GENERAL

2. The term "mess" means, as appropriate, an Officers' Mess, an Officer Cadets' Mess, a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, a Junior Ranks Mess or any combination thereof.

3. The term "mess" is used interchangeably to mean:

- a. the organization, whose membership is related to an identifiable and specified rank structure, formed for the purpose of building "esprit de corps" and comradeship; or
- b. the facility, or facilities, which provide space in which to carry out the functions of the organization and may include a wardroom or dining room, bar or anteroom, lounge, games room and other common rooms.

ESTABLISHMENT

4. A commanding officer (CO), designated by the relevant Canadian Forces Organization Order (CFOO) as responsible for mess and institute services for a location, may, with the approval of the authority specified in paragraph 6, establish the following categories of messes:

a. separate messes such as--

- (1) an Officers' Mess,
- (2) an Officer Cadets' Mess, when the number of officer cadets so warrants,
- (3) a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and
- (4) a Junior Ranks Mess; or

b. a combined mess, when the number of persons is insufficient to justify separate messes.

5. Normally, only one mess facility and one mess organization will be

authorized at each base for each category. However, a CO, specified in paragraph 4, may with the approval of the authority specified in paragraph 6, establish a separate organization and/or facility for an identifiable and homogenous group within a mess category where:

- a. it is required by limitations of the physical plant, geographical location or other unique circumstances; and
 - b. the additional organization and/or facility can be supported within existing scales for accommodation, personnel, equipment and furniture.
6. The approving authority for the establishment, suspension or closing of a mess is:
- a. for a Regular Force Mess, the officer commanding the parent command of the CO specified in paragraph 4; and
 - b. for a Primary Reserve Mess, the area or equivalent commander of the CO specified in paragraph 4.
7. When more than one organization and/or facility has been authorized within a mess category, the CO shall establish appropriate accounting and administrative procedures to ensure that expenses and resources are allocated equitably.

RESOURCES

8. The policy for the division of responsibility between the public and non-public funds (NPF) for the provision of resources in support of messes is contained in Chapters 3 and 4 of A-PS-110-001/AG-002 Policy Governing Operation of Personnel Support Programs in the Canadian Forces. Implementing scales for this policy are contained in the following publications:

- a. Accommodation-- C-08-005-120/AG-000 Canadian Forces Construction Engineering Manual (CFCEM), Chapter 10, Annex E, Appendices 6,7 and 11;
- b. Personnel-- A-AE-219-003/AG-001 Organization, Establishment Staffing Criteria, Book 9, Public Support for NPF activities;
- c. Equipment, furniture, furnishings-- Canadian Forces Scale (CFS) 2 and A-LM-182-001/JS-001 Standard Supply Instructions, Chapter 23 for procurement of non-standard items.

9. When more than one facility is authorized at a base for one category of mess, the total public resources allocated to that category shall not exceed that determined by applying the total eligible strength of personnel in that rank category against the appropriate scales. Non-public resources may be used to provide services or facilities in excess of approved scales as well as those areas designated as a non-public responsibility detailed in Chapters 3 and 4 of A-PS-1 10-001/AG-002.

MEMBERSHIPS

10. Every member shall belong to a mess appropriate to the member's rank. When for valid reasons the individual wishes to belong to a mess appropriate to the member's rank that is other than the one established to serve the member's unit, the member may do so with the approval of the COs concerned.

11. The membership of a mess consists of ordinary, associate, and honorary members.

ORDINARY MEMBERS

12. The following persons are ordinary members of the mess appropriate to their rank designated to serve their unit:

- a. members of the Regular Force and Primary Reserve;
- b. members of the armed forces of other countries who are on exchange with or on loan to the Canadian Forces and who are employed at a base, station, unit or ship served by the mess;
- c. members of the Reserve Force when performing Class "B" or "C" Reserve Service at a Regular Force establishment; and d. officers of the Cadet Instructors List of directly sponsored cadet units who share the same facilities, upon application.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

13. Subject to paragraph 15, the following persons may, with the approval of the CO, be associate members of a mess appropriate to their rank or status:

- a. Retired. This category comprises, except in a ship's mess, persons who--

(1) were honourably released from the Regular Force and entitled

to an immediate or deferred service annuity, or deferred service annuity, or

(2) were honourably released from the Primary Reserve and have accumulated 12 or more years of service;

b. Working. This category comprises --

(1) DND civilian employees who are employed at the unit or other element for which the mess is established,

(2) teachers, supervisors, inspectors and administrators employed in schools sponsored by DND,

(3) other civilians similarly employed at or in connection with the unit or other element served by the mess,

(4) members of the Supplementary List, Cadet Instructors List or Canadian Rangers,

(5) members of the regular armed forces of other countries serving in the vicinity of the unit or other element served by the mess;

c. Officer Cadets. This category comprises officer cadets of the ROTP attending university during their academic year if a mess is not established at their institution; d. Social. This category comprises, except in a ship's mess, personnel other than those mentioned in subparagraphs a, b and c, who may be admitted to membership for a term not exceeding one year (without prejudice to renewal thereof for further one year terms), upon the recommendation of the mess committee, the majority vote of those present at a general mess meeting and the approval of the CO.

Note -- Associate membership under subparagraph 13d shall be reviewed at the same date each year. Temporary membership may be granted until the next general mess meeting upon approval of the CO.

14. Priority for associate membership should be given in the order that the categories are listed in paragraph 13.

15. Associate membership is not transferable from one mess to another. However, a person may have associate membership in more than one mess but shall pay dues in each mess.

16. Associate membership is subject to suspension or cancellation for cause. A person who is eligible under subparagraph 1 3b(1), (2) or (3) but who fails to join the mess and is not an honorary member, shall not be permitted to use the facilities of a mess. A person who is otherwise eligible but who refuses or is refused associate membership in a mess may be permitted to use only the dining facilities when no other suitable facilities exist.

17. An associate member shall be accorded the privileges of the mess but may not serve on the mess committee. An associate member may assist the mess committee or subcommittee but by doing so assumes no responsibility.

HONORARY MEMBERS

18. Members of the Canadian Regular Force or Primary Reserve are honorary members of every mess appropriate to their rank, except in the mess in which they are ordinary or associate members and in seagoing ships.

19. Any distinguished person may be invited to become an honorary member of a mess for a term not exceeding one year, without prejudice to renewal of membership for further one year terms, upon recommendation of the mess committee, majority vote of those present at a general mess meeting, and approval of the CO.

20. An honorary lifetime membership that was granted to former RCAF personnel in accordance with former RCAF policy is valid only in messes that were RCAF prior to 1 Feb 68. Such memberships shall not be rescinded without NDHQ concurrence.

Note -- There were no similar provisions in the Navy or Army.

21. Subject to paragraph 20, individual messes may honor a retiring or retired member by granting an honorary lifetime membership, valid only in the mess granting the membership. However, such memberships shall be honored in other messes, except messes in ships, on an infrequent and casual basis. If the holder of an honorary lifetime membership wishes to become an associate member of any mess appropriate to the holder's former rank, the holder may so apply to the CO through the mess committee.

22. An honorary member shall be accorded the privileges of the mess but shall not pay mess subscriptions nor serve the mess in any capacity. An honorary member may be assessed a proportionate share of expenses associated with any mess function or entertainment attended. Except as provided in 19-8, an honorary member may not enter DND property, buildings or messes for the purpose of soliciting or transacting business. Membership may be cancelled by the CO for cause, except as provided in paragraph 20.

23. Honorary membership of all types are intended to recognize an individuals position or contribution to the nation or to the military by providing opportunities for the occasional use of messes. However, when an honorary member, including an ordinary member of another mess, wishes to use the facilities of a mess on a frequent basis the honorary member should apply for associate membership.

TEMPORARY OR ATTACHED DUTY

24. When a member proceeds on temporary or attached duty to another unit for a period in excess of 14 days, the mess subscription and special assessments shall be suspended at the parent unit and instituted at the other unit.

VISITS TO MESSES

25. A member of a mess, except in the course of duty, shall not enter another mess inappropriate to the member's rank or attend social functions at such messes without a proper invitation sanctioned by the CO. Such invitations are normally limited to official and traditional visits, eg, visits by officers at a New Year's Eve levee in a Junior Ranks Mess.

26. In a marriage between members of different ranks, the spouse holding the higher rank may attend social functions at the mess of the spouse of lower rank, if the spouse holding the higher rank is invited by the president of the mess committee (PMC) of the others spouse's mess.

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