

RAAF FORMALITIES

Parades

An introduction to RAAF formalities for an aspiring RAAF boy apprentice in 1954 was to be directed to line up at Recruitment Centre, Rushcutters Bay, Sydney and have a man in a white coat ask each of us to drop our pants whilst he grasped a testicle and asked us to cough, but not in his direction. This was followed by a day of testing, questioning and formal interviews.

The next parade was on the Country Platform, Central Station Sydney, on the evening of 16th January 1955 to have one's name ticked off a list and be allocated a carriage on the Albury Country Mail for transportation to Wagga Wagga, NSW, where we were to enter life as RAAF Engineering Apprentices or Junior Equipment Administrative Trainees (JEATs). The unit was RAAF School of Technical Training (formerly No 7 Stores Depot).

The parade I remember less fondly that January was a Needle Parade where c120 of us pimply faced, skinny, adolescents were administered a range of needles apparently with the intention of inoculating us against every disease known to humankind, Yellow Fever, Tsetse Fly, Cholera included. We then retired to our allocated brown lino floored huts, iron beds with sprung wire support topped by horsehair mattresses and blankets and shivered our way through the next hours in 38 degrees heat - shivering and other reactions being the effect the vaccines had on our bodies.

Subsequent parades included Emu Parades where lines were formed over a large area and litter collected; Meal Parades; Graduation Parades; Defaulters Parade where those convicted of an offence were awarded Confinement to Barracks (CB) and were required to report to the Guard on Duty in uniform and full kit at 0600hrs and 1800hrs each day of the punishment. The Orderly Officer or Orderly SNCO carried out an inspection of those on Defaulters Parade. There were daily roll call parades and on Tuesdays inspection parades.

Church Parade on Sundays at 0900hrs was an interesting one. Catholics were separated from Other Protestant Denominations and Church of England personnel and we attended religious services under threat of disciplinary action for non-attendance. The majority of us were unused to attending church services at all and we understood that this compulsory exposure to ministers of these respective congregations was intended to provide some moral and ethical guidance to life in the 1950s specifically life within the Military. At a time when our hormones were raging and inappropriate feelings were likely to invade our sensibilities, Church parades were well intentioned but, to most of us, useless guides to morality and ethical behaviour - the values of individuals was more likely to be influenced by the group and leaders within the group, than it was by any figure of authority, including Ministers of Religion. Quite influential to many were characters from films played by actors such as Marlon Brando of *The Wild One* (1953) or Vic Morrow of *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) or James Dean of *Rebel Without A Cause* (1955) who had an influence to most of us far and away over those of the likes of Billy Graham or Pope Pius X11.

Inspection Parades included those arranged for visiting dignitaries. Below is one such parade occurring at RAAF Base Butterworth where one of "Nature's Gentleman" Air Marshall Eaton, accompanied by Wing Commander Myers, inspects No 75 Squadron, 1969.



Another parade might be the occasion to confer awards, or certificates of commendation to personnel. One such occasion is shown below where another of “Nature’s Gentleman”, Air Commodore F. Barnes presents Warrant Officer Alexander with a Certificate of Outstanding Service, No 5 Airfield Construction Squadron, RAAF Base Learmonth, 1974



Orders

Orders, Regulations, Instructions, Procedures, Laws very quickly become a familiar part of life in the military and more evident during the months and sometimes years of training. Unit Routine Orders would be the most familiar to most as these orders contain formal and informal information useful to the efficient and effective administration of the Squadron. Here is a (light-hearted parody) example of a typical Routine Order delivered to the assembled at a 40th Anniversary Dinner, Canberra, ACT 19th May 2007 in the company of Air Chief Marshal A.G.Houston,AO,AFC and Air Marshal G.D. Shepherd,AO,BSc, Chief of Royal Australian Air Force.

UNIT ROUTINE ORDER

75/68

ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY
OF
THE COMMANDING OFFICER
WING COMMANDER
J.H.FLEMMING

- Parade** There will be a parade at 0800hrs Tuesday. Marker is High Noon Falloon. The following awards will be presented by the Commanding Officer:

Monthly Award for Flat Hat: Mick Bennett
Monthly Award for Longest Shorts: Bob Kable
- Flight Safety** All tools are to be removed from the cockpit at conclusion of maintenance.. Pieces of wire, split pins, soft drink cans, cigarette butts, Playboy magazines are also to be removed from the cockpit by maintenance personnel. Aircrew are reminded to retrieve their biros, or biro tops (black) or biro tops (red), crusts, soft drink cans, cigarette butts, cigarette holders, and Golf Monthly on leaving the cockpit. Biros and biro tops(black and red) located by maintenance personnel at B servicing are to be retained at the flight line desk and the EE500 annotated accordingly.
- Morale** Junior Engineering Officers are to refrain from making bad jokes whilst on duty, especially near the flight line, and especially during aircrew pre-flight checks. Senior Officers are to be addressed appropriately and terms such as Billigan and Skull Bones are not to be used. Senior Officers may address Junior Officers as they see fit.
- Health** Houses of ill repute are strictly out of bounds. From time to time C Flight Commander accompanied by their Adjutant will be doing random inspections of such premises at any time of the night or day. You have been warned.
- Equipment** The SEO Base Squadron requires empty biros to be returned to Base Squadron before replacements can be issued. Replacements will only be provided for the respective colours returned. Black or blue biro replacements will not be provided for red coloured biro lids.
- Recreation Leave** All personnel are entitled to two travel warrants a year in order to avail themselves and the accompanying families of rest and respite in a cooler climate conducive to rest and recreation. Receipts of accommodation and details of travel are to be attached to claims for reimbursement. Before submitting applications ensure journeys have actually been taken.

7. **Flight Kitchen** Filet Mignon will be served at breakfast Mondays and Wednesdays only. Married personnel are reminded that are normally expected to breakfast at home. Single personnel only are entitled to cheese omelettes. Married personnel are reminded that mid morning Filet Mignon is limited to one serving per flight member on Mondays and Wednesdays as the case may be.

8. **Supplies** NCO I/C Orderly Room Sgt Cahill has been instructed not to issue biros to aircrew.

9. **Alcohol** Personnel are reminded we are guests in a Muslim country. Drinking in public places is prohibited. For Officers, in the Officers' Mess and in the privacy of married quarters, one sherry before dinner is acceptable. For SNCOs one can of beer before dinner is acceptable provided it is taken in the Sgts Mess. For Airmen soft drinks only.

10. **Sanitation** All personnel are reminded that sleeping in toilets is not permitted whether on or aft duty.

11. **Road Safety** Personnel licensed to do so may use private transport to and from work but should be aware of the congested nature of roads. Sports car enthusiasts are cautioned - the Base to Ferry road is not a rally road. Motorbike riders are cautioned about driving too close to the rear of lorries containing (expectorating betel juice) workers as visors may become smeared and hard to see through.

12. **Base Squadron Stores** Biro Exchange Hours are: 1000hrs - 1100hrs Tuesday and 1600-1700hrs Friday.

13. **Mach 1 Club** - Cpl Lupson is to be congratulated on joining the Mach 1 club. Pilot involved Flying Officer Coleman.

Flg Off I.G.W. Muldoon
Adjutant

NOTICES

14. **Commander's Call.** A commander's call will be held Friday evening next. Gentlemen assemble Tin Club at 1800hrs. B Flight organizing. A cultural, gastronomic and educational tour of Penang is planned followed by films of a documentary nature. Ladies are to foregather at Commanding Officer's residence Butterworth for an evening of mahjong organised by Pat Flemming. It is not necessary to bring a plate.

15. **Water Skiing** Water skiing lessons on Saturday. Contact Roodle or Whisk.

16. **Xmas Raffle** Raffle tickets available from Cpl Hunt Orderly Room.

3rd Prize	Dual mirage flight with Flt Lt Warrener
2nd Prize	Dual Mirage flight with Flt Lt Magrath
1st Prize	Set of Parker Biros courtesy Flt Lt Hubbard