CHAPTER 44

ORDERS AND DECORATIONS, MEDALS AND MEDAL RIBBONS – UNIFORM GUIDELINES

(Sponsor: NAVY PEOPLE-PSP EXEC SO3)

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CHAPTER 44

ORDERS AND DECORATIONS, MEDALS AND MEDAL RIBBONS – UNIFORM GUIDELINES

SECTION 1

GENERAL

4401. Authority For Wear

a. The King's Regulations for the Royal Navy require all personnel to wear the proper ribbons for the medals which have been awarded to them and to comply with the instructions respecting the manner of wearing orders, decorations and medals and the order in which they are to be worn, as laid down in these uniform regulations.

b. It is forbidden to wear any orders, decorations or medals without authority. Foreign orders, decorations and medals may be worn only when the Sovereign's permission has been given. This may be sought by application to Naval Secretary's Division. It should be noted, however, that permission is rarely granted and only in the most exceptional circumstances.

4402. Terms of Issue

a. The insignia of orders, decorations and medals and the Ribands to which they are attached are issued gratuitously on presentation; 229mm of medal ribbon for sewing on to garments is also supplied in the case of campaign medals.

b. Brooches for medals and medal ribbons are available from service stores. Officers purchase these items as required. Ratings and RM warrant officers, NCOs and ORs and associated reservists awarded a medal are given a gratuitous issue of one medal brooch and one medal ribbon brooch of the appropriate size.

c. Replacement brooches and ribbons are purchased as required.

d. Miniatures, ribbons and brooches for miniature medals and ribbons are not provided but may be purchased privately at the individual's expense.

4403. Order of Precedence

Orders, decorations, medals and medal ribbons are to be worn arranged in the order of sequence (or seniority) shown in JSP 761 'Honours and Awards in the Armed Forces' The number of each type of insignia of orders, which may be worn, with various dresses is shown in the Table of Dresses (Chapter 3 Annex 3A (RN)), (Chapter 4 Annex 4A (RM)). When the insignia of more than one order are worn, the one occupying the first position should be the most senior, unless for any reason a junior or foreign order is more appropriate to the occasion.

4404. Conditions Governing Awards

Extracts from the various Statutes and Warrants regulating the awards of Orders, Decorations and Medals are to be found in JSP 761. A number of Statutes and Warrants are in course of amendment, to take account of revised eligibility criteria introduced in 1994. Until such time as these are published, it should be noted that all gallantry awards are available at all ranks and rates.

4405. Spare

SECTION 2

MANNER OF WEAR

4406. Insignia of Orders

The insignia of the various orders are as follows:

a. **First Class**. Knights of the Garter, Thistle and St Patrick and Knights and Dames Grand Cross and Grand Commander. Broad riband (with badge attached). Collar when ordered.

b. **Second Class.** Knight and Dame Commander - star. Neck decoration (i.e. badge suspended on narrower riband, normally worn round neck).

c. **Third Class Companion and Commander**. Neck decoration (but the badges of companions of the Distinguished Service Order and Imperial Service Order are worn as medals only).

d. **Fourth and Fifth Classes.** Officers and members - badge worn as medal.

4407. Broad Riband

a. The broad riband of Knights of the Garter and Thistle is worn over the left shoulder, the bow from which the badge is suspended resting on the right hip. The broad riband of other orders is worn over the right shoulder, with the badge on the left hip. The ribands of orders when the riband alone is worn will be of the width of the ribands of the membership of the order. If there is no membership class the riband will be of the width of the riband of the companionship of the order.

b. With ball dress the broad riband is worn under the mess jacket and over the waistcoat (or dress).

c. With full dress the broad riband is required to pass under the shoulder strap, and in dresses which do not include shoulder straps the procedure is as follows:

(1) If an aiguillette is worn on the right shoulder the broad riband, other than that of the Garter and Thistle, is worn under the aiguillette shoulder strap. For the Garter or Thistle an additional aiguillette shoulder strap is worn on the left shoulder.

(2) If an aiguillette is not worn on the right shoulder the broad riband is worn under a blue cloth shoulder strap ornamented with gold and blue cord, of the pattern worn with ‘Staff’ type aiguillettes (Chapter 39, Para 3912).

4408. Collar

a. The collar of an order is worn on certain special occasions as ordered, instead of the broad riband, with full dress only (Nos. 1 and 1W Dresses). The collar is worn under the shoulder straps or epaulettes near the outer edge, hanging at an equal distance back and front, with the badge suspended below the front centre.

b. Collar Days[1], in accordance with instructions of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood are Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, Whit Sunday, Trinity Sunday, 1 January, 6 January (Epiphany), 25 January (Conversion of St Paul), 2 February (Presentation of Christ in the Temple), 6 February (The Queen's Accession), 1 March (St David), 17 March (St Patrick), 25 March (Lady Day), 21 April (The Queen's Birthday), 23 April (St George), 29 May (Restoration of the Royal Family),2 June (The Queen's Coronation), 24 June (St John Baptist), 4 August (Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother's Birthday), 6 August (Transfiguration), 29 September (St Michael and All Angels), 1 November (All Saint), 30 November (St Andrews), 25 December (Christmas Day), 26 December (St Stephen), 28 December (Innocent's Day), when His Majesty opens or prorogues Parliament and by those taking part in the Ceremony of an Introduction of a Peer in the House of Lords. In dresses that do not include shoulder straps, the procedure is as follows:

(1) If an aiguillette is worn on the right shoulder an additional aiguillette shoulder strap is worn on the left shoulder.

(2) If an aiguillette is not worn on the right shoulder a pair of blue cloth shoulder straps is worn.

c. The holder of more than one First Class Order, when wearing the collar of one order also wears the broad riband of the next order in sequence. Only one collar may be worn.

4409. Stars

a. Stars of orders are worn on the left side.

b. When only one star is worn it should be in the centre line of the breast pocket with the upper point not less than 25mm below the lip of the pocket, or in the corresponding position on garments without a breast pocket.

c. When two stars are worn the second star is placed directly below the first, with its upper point not less than 25mm below the lower point of the star above.

d. When three stars are worn the second and third stars are normally worn below the first, in horizontal line, with the second towards the wearer's right, but if in this position the stars interfere with the broad riband, the first and second stars may be worn in line, senior star to the right, with the third star beneath.

[1] To be revised when ordered by Buckingham Palace following the accession of HM The King.

e. When four stars are worn the first is worn above, the second and third in line below, senior star to the right, and the fourth below again, in vertical line with the first.

f. When either three or four stars are worn on the undress coat it is necessary to position the first so that the second is clear of the top left-hand button of the coat, for which purpose it is permissible for the top star to the worn with its upper point up to 13mm above the lip of the breast pocket.

g. With women officers' dresses which include a cape or bolero, stars are worn thereon - not on the dress.

4410. Neck Decorations and Court Mounting of Medals

a. With the ceremonial day coat, and with RM tunics and frockcoat with stand collar, the first or only badge is worn with the riband inside the coat or tunic collar, emerging between the hook and eye and the bottom of the collar. If a second badge is worn it is suspended from a small eye stitched inside the coat or tunic, on 76mm of ribbon emerging between the first and second button on the right-hand side.

b. With a turned-down collar and day tie the first or only riband is worn inside the collar and over the tie, with the badge immediately below the knot of the tie. The second riband, if any, is worn on naval-type uniforms immediately below the first, the lower part of the badge resting on the cross of the lapel of the coat. Chaplains may wear neck decorations in a corresponding manner with the clerical collar. On military type uniforms the second riband emerges 19mm below the top button of the jacket, being suspended from a small eye stitched inside.

c. With winged collar and bow tie (only to be worn in the evening) one neck decoration only may be worn and the riband is worn the collar but under the tie, the badge hanging as close as possible below the bow.

d. With the white tunic the first or only badge is worn with the riband inside the tunic collar and the badge emerging to hang 19mm below the collar, and other badges, if any, are worn emerging between the buttons of the tunic, each 25mm below the badge above.

e. Until replaced by the new mess dress, women officers' dresses which include a cape or bolero the riband is made up into a bow and worn with the badge attached below it on the left side of the cape or bolero, immediately below the medals, which should be moved up as necessary to provide room. When two badges are worn the senior badge is placed above and overlapping the junior. If a star is worn additionally (e.g. by a Dame Commander of an Order) it is positioned below the other decorations.

4411. Medals (Including Badges of The 4th And 5th Classes of Orders and Decorations Worn as Medals)

a. Medals, suspended from their ribands, are to be worn on the left breast in one horizontal line, with the highest in seniority at the end furthest from the shoulder. Medals awarded by a society for bravery in saving human life, if specially authorised to be worn, are to be worn on the right breast, similarly to those on the left and on the same horizontal line. All medals are worn observe outwards, i.e. with the head of the Sovereign showing.

b. The ribands are to be suspended from a bar, which they must completely cover, without gaps. The bar should be disposed centrally in the space available, without projecting outward beyond the shoulder or inward beyond the opening of the coat, or beyond the centre of a tunic or coat without opening. When the medals are too many to be suspended from the bar so as to be fully seen, they are to overlap, the most senior showing in full. In the case of ratings and ranks below officer, medals should, however, overlap whenever three or more are worn, the length of the bar to be 95mm for three medals up to a maximum of 171mm for larger numbers.

c. The bar should be of the brooch type, with the pin inserted through beckets sewn to the garment. It may, if necessary, come over the lapel of the garment, except when a rifle is carried, when the bar should be under the lapel, as a protection for the medals.

d. The medal bar is worn immediately above the top row of medal ribbons sewn to the garment, or in the same position, and using the same beckets, as the top row of detachable ribbons. See Para 4413 sub para e.

(1) For RMBS ranks wearing No. 1 Full Dress Blues - Ceremonial Dress the medal bar is worn centrally on the left breast using beckets, the top of the medal bar being positioned horizontally, slightly above the second button down.

(2) For RMBS ranks wearing No. 1AW Dress – Tropical Full Ceremonial Dress the medal bar is worn centrally on the left breast and is pinned directly onto the fabric 6mm above the top seam of the pocket. Medal ribbons are not worn by band ranks in this uniform.

e. The length of medal riband for medals of normal size is to be 44mm. When two or more medals are worn, the length of ribands of medals of other than normal size should be adjusted so that the lowest points of the medals are all in line. A 44mm medal riband will accommodate four clasps: if more than four are worn the length of riband should be adjusted as necessary, leaving 13mm clear riband above the top clasp.

f. When medals are worn with garments on which medal ribbons are sewn, care must be taken that the ribbons are completely covered. If necessary a piece of material can be attached to the medal bar for this purpose.

g. Where more than one medal has been awarded, the ribands are to be suspended from a bar, which should be of the brooch type, with the pin inserted through beckets sewn to the garment. Medal ribands should be placed side by side up to and including a quantity of 6 medals unless the width of these 6 medals extends past the left shoulder seam of the uniform. In this instance, the 6 medals may be overlapped.

h. **Court Mounting.** Medals may also be worn court mounted. In this method the ribands are mounted on a frame of which the lower edge is in line with the centre of the medals. Commencing from the lower edge of the frame each riband runs over the upper edge and down to the ring of the medal. The medals are stitched down to the ribands. Court mounted medals may also be overlapped however, personnel with 7 or more court mounted medals should always wear them overlapped.

i. RN and RM personnel who have been awarded with 6 or more medals may have them court mounted at crown expense. (Personnel with 5 or fewer medals who wish to have them court mounted may do so, but at their own personal expense). See also sub-para 4412(e.) with regards to Miniature Medals.

j. The court mounting of medals (6 or more) at crown expense is included in the naval service tailoring contract, such that entitled individuals are able to request this service via their local (UK) and where applicable overseas unit tailors without having to pay for it themselves.

k. All RN and RM personnel (only) who are assigned to overseas/isolated commands and units where no MOD expense type clothing services exist, are to make early provision ahead of taking up their assignment for their medals and ribands to be bar or Court Mounted in good time. However, when medals are issued whilst deployed, such personnel with no access to a UK based MOD approved contract tailor are to submit a unit claim for reimbursement of the cost of Bar Mounting or, for those eligible only, the Court Mounting of six (6) or more medals and ribands via JPA, with itemised receipts retained for auditing purposes. The following information must be used:

(1) Type of Claim: select **Miscellaneous**.

(2) Authority: input **"RNTM 01-011/23 Court Mounting of Medals"**.

(3) Have you been told to use a UIN other than your own units?: select **No**. (should be auto populated).

(4) Do You Have the Authority of the Budget Holder?: select **Yes**.

(5) Click **Next**.

(6) Click **Details**.

(7) Expense Type: select Medical, Dental, Opticians, Prescription Fees.

(8) Date expense incurred: **input date of payment**.

(9) Receipt amount: **input the cost of purchase**[2].

(10) Justification: input "Bar Mounting xx medals or Court Mounting 6 or more Full Size Medals iaw RNTM 01-111/23, include the following details: your unit, location and state why there is no access to MOD Approved Contractor".

(11) Click **Return**.

(12) Tick **I accept the Terms and Conditions of the MOD's Travel and Expense Policies**.

(13) Click **Submit**.

l. Badges of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes of orders are not worn as medals (other than miniatures - see Para 3811).

4412. Miniature Medals

a. These are half the size of the insignia, which they represent and on ribands 29mm long, are worn in the same manner as full-sized medals.

b. With some exceptions, as detailed in JSP 761, miniatures of all badges of orders and decorations are worn with miniature medals.

c. Except as in sub para d, miniature medals are worn with number 2A/2B Mess Dress/Undress on the lapel of the mess jacket. They may extend over the lapel towards the shoulder but not beyond the lapel on the inner side. The position on RM officers' mess jackets is: Colonels and above, 102mm below the neck point of the shoulder seam; other officers 19mm below the Globe and laurel badge. Until replaced by the new mess dress the officers' capes should be level with the top of the rank badge.

d. Drum Majors wear miniature medals horizontally on the Drum Major's dress belt and centrally on the black band above the word "Gibraltar" so as not to obscure the battle honour.

e. RN and RM personnel may choose to have their Miniature Medals Court Mounted, however in all instances this is at the owners personal expense. The Court Mounting of Miniature Medals has not been included in the naval service tailoring contract, irrespective of the number of medals an individual has been awarded, and it is not covered under crown expense.

[2] At this point an error may show stating "Justification is required. The receipt amount exceeds the allowable daily limit for the number of days reported. Please include in your justification the reason for this expense". Accept the error and move on.

4413. Medal Ribbons

a. When ribbons are worn apart from the orders, decorations and medals themselves a ribbon is worn for each medal, etc except the Garter, Thistle and St Patrick. The ribbon is the same for all classes of an order. The ribbon is to be worn from the date of the official notification of the award.

b. Length of ribbons to be worn: RN, and personnel - 13mm, but with more than five rows ribbons 10mm long may be worn. Royal Marines - 10mm all cases.

c. The width of the ribbon is to be that of the riband attached to the order, decoration or medal itself. For orders, the width is that of the riband of the lowest class. The normal width in each case is 32mm.

d. The ribbons are to be sewn on the garments, except on whites, tropical khaki and stone-coloured garments for which a detachable, brooch-type bar similar to the medal bar is to be used, with the pin inserted through beckets sewn in the correct positions. The ribbons are to be arranged in one or more rows as required, without either gaps or overlapping, in order of seniority as for medals, starting at the inside end of the top or only row. The rows should be 6mm apart for officers and Royal Marines and 3mm for others, but officers and Royal Marines may reduce the distance apart if necessary to accommodate a large number. The ribbons of orders, decorations and medals for which only private permission to wear has been given are not to be sewn on the garments.

e. The ribbons are to be worn on the breast, as for medals, positioned as follows:

(1) **RN Officers.** Top or only row 25mm below point of shoulder. When additional rows are sewn to the garment the number of ribbons in each row should be such that all visible, while preserving as symmetrical an arrangement as possible. The detachable bar may also have more than one row if necessary, in which case no row should be longer than the one above.

(2) **Royal Marines.** First row centrally over the breast pocket, 6mm above the top seam of the pocket. Additional rows centrally over the first, with no row shorter than the one above. Not more than five ribbons to a row, and no row to extend nearer than 19mm from the shoulder seam, but each row to be completed to maximum width before another is started.

(a) For female band ranks wearing No. 1A Regimental Dress Blues first row to be sewn centrally on the left breast being positioned horizontally, between the first and second button down so that the medal(s) sit at an appropriate height above the bust point. Additional rows as described above.

(b) For band officers and WO1s wearing No. 1 Full Dress Blues - Ceremonial Dress (Frockcoat Order) medal ribbons are to be sewn between the centre seam and left breast buttons with the first row being positioned horizontally, slightly above the second button down. Additional rows as described above. Medals are not worn in this uniform.

(3) **Ratings.** Top or only row: on jackets: level with the point of lapel; on blue jumpers: 114mm below point of shoulder; on white uniform: 51mm below point of shoulder. In each case, when there is more than one row, no row is to be shorter than the one above, and the whole display should be as symmetrical as possible about the vertical.

(4) Ribbons must not project outward beyond the point of the shoulder, or inward beyond the centre of the garment or under the lapel, and they must all be visible.

4414. Miniature Medal Ribbons

Ribbons 10mm long and 19mm wide, are worn only with mess dresses. They are not sewn to garments but are worn on detachable, brooch-type bars, in the same positions as miniature medals. See Para 4411 sub para c. Miniature medal ribbons are not worn by Royal Marine and Naval Officers except, in the latter case, for safety reasons when acting as Duty Officer.

4415. Rosettes

Rosettes are worn on certain medal ribbons and miniature medal ribbons to denote clasps to the medals or some special distinction.

4416. Wearing of Foreign Medals

a. The rules governing the wearing of foreign medals are contained in Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) regulations. The MOD is required to seek and follow FCDO guidance if foreign medals are offered to Service or civilian personnel. The FCDO advises all foreign embassies of the British rule on a regular basis.

b. HM The King approves the receiving and wearing of all foreign medals, orders and decorations. In all cases, requests to receive or wear should be made through the Chain of Command to Naval Secretary for onward transmission, as necessary, to Defence Services Secretary. It will then be for DS Sec to staff the request formally to both the FCDO and the Ceremonial Branch of the Cabinet Office, whose agreement is required before His Majesty's permission is sought. There will inevitably be some delay during this process and it should be noted that permission to wear is given only rarely.

c. Individual foreign awards for gallantry or meritorious service follow the same staffing route. Both may be subject to scrutiny within the FCDO which must take account of the employment of Service personnel as State Servants, although it is usual that life-saving actions may be recognised by the appropriate Head of State.

d. No campaign medal for wearing, UK or foreign, may be claimed through concurrent service which gains another campaign medal.

e. Occasions may arise where foreign medals are presented to Service personnel abroad without prior warning. In such cases, individuals must exercise judgement as to whether refusal might give offence and the usual course of action is to accept the award. Thereafter, the Chain of Command is to be informed together with any request to wear and justification for it. Usually, the recipient will be allowed to keep the medal as a memento, not to be worn.

f. See JSP 761 'Honours and Awards in the Armed Forces', Chapter 12, Annex B for the official order of wear for foreign orders, decorations and medals which have been approved for wear.

4417. Wearing of Numerals or Bars Denoting Multiple Tours with UN, NATO or WEU

Rules for the wearing of numerals are derived from the instructions issued by the Secretaries of the UN, NATO or WEU, as amended by any bilateral agreement between the UK and the relevant organisation. The UN makes official provision for numerals, NATO and the WEU do not. In addition, some nations reward multiple tours by the wearing of a medal for each tour. However, the practice or customs of other nations in receipt of the same medals is NOT to be adopted by UK Service personnel unless explicitly authorised in DINs.

4418. Wearing of Unofficial Medals

a. Only those Honours, Decorations, Medals and Awards that have been formally approved by the Sovereign may be worn. This applies to the wearing in uniform and civilian clothing, and by retired members of the Armed Services. Commanding Officers are responsible for ensuring that individuals do not wear medals that are not approved or to which they are not entitled, as well as being responsible for ensuring individuals are in possession of medals to which they are entitled.

b. A number of private companies market unofficial commemorative medals and although there is no reason why individuals may not purchase these items they are still formally classified as unofficial and have not been given approval by the Sovereign, and thus may not been worn. The fact that an advertisement for such medals appears in "in house" Service magazines is not to be taken as an indication that a medal has been formally approved and may be worn.

c. Any queries on the status of any medal, or of an individual's entitlement to it, should, in the first instance, be made to single-Service medal offices.

4419. Wearing of Family Medals

Medals awarded to parents, grandparents, children, siblings or other family members, are not to be worn by serving personnel in uniform. Such 'family' medals may, however, be worn in civilian clothing on suits or blazers and female equivalent dress on the appropriate occasions, when they are customarily worn over the right breast.

SECTION 3

WEARING OF ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS WITH CIVILIAN DRESS

4420. General Conformity

The following instructions, which conform to those promulgated by the Lord Chamberlain's Office in the London Gazette for the guidance of all concerned, apply to both serving and retired personnel when the civilian dress.

4421. Evening Dress

a. The occasions on which the insignia of orders and miniature medals and badges are worn with evening dress are as follows:

(1) At parties and dinners when any of the following members of the Royal Family are present:

- His Majesty The King; and
- Her Majesty The Queen.

Their Royal Highnesses:

- The Prince and Princess of Wales;
- The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh;
- The Princess Royal;
- The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester;
- The Duke and Duchess of Kent;
- Prince and Princess Michael of Kent; and
- Princess Alexandra, the Honourable Mrs Angus Ogilvy.

(The host should notify their guests if any of these members of the Royal Family will be present.)

(2) At parties and dinners given in houses of Ambassadors and Ministers accredited to the Court, unless otherwise notified by the Ambassador or Minister concerned. (A decoration of the country concerned should be worn in preference to a British one, and if both are worn, the former should take precedence over the latter.)

(3) All official dinners and receptions, including Naval, Military and Air Force dinners, dinners of City Livery companies and public dinners. (The word 'Decorations' on the invitation card to be the intimation from the host that the entertainment is an official one.)

(4) On official occasions when entertained by:

- HM Lieutenant of a county within their county;
- The High Sheriff of a county within their county;
- Cabinet Ministers;
- Ex-cabinet Ministers;
- Knights of the Garter, Thistle and St Patrick;
- Great Officers of State and of The Kings Household;
- Lord Mayors and Mayors; and
- Lord Provosts and Provosts.

(The word 'Decorations' on the invitation card to be the intimation from the host that the entertainment is an official one.)

b. With Full Evening Dress the following may be worn:

- Broad riband;
- Up to 4 stars;
- Not more than 1 neck decoration; and
- Miniature medals.

c. With Dinner Jackets the following only may be worn:

- Not more than 1 star;
- Not more than 1 neck decoration; and
- Miniature medals.

d. On occasions when it is desired that decorations be worn, invitations should state either 'Evening Dress, Decorations' (for full evening dress) or 'Dinner Jacket', Decorations'. When 'Evening Dress, Decorations' is prescribed those not in possession of full evening dress may wear dinner jacket, with decorations, etc. as in Para 3819 sub para c.

e. With 'Dinner Jacket, Decorations' it is permissible to wear either a stiff evening collar or a soft collar

4422. Day Dress

The insignia of orders, decorations and medals (full size) may be worn with formal day dress on appropriate official occasions and at public functions. When decorations are worn with formal day dress on such occasions as a British Legion rally or ex-Servicemen's parade, it is customary to wear medals only, stars of orders and neck decorations not being worn.

4423. General

a. Nothing in the above shall affect in any way the practice of the Knights of the Orders of the Garter and Thistle, and Members of the Order of Merit, the Order of the Crown of India and the Order of the Companions of Honour with regard to wearing their insignia in accordance with previous custom.

b. Ladies in civilian dress may wear the orders, decorations and medals to which they are entitled under the same conditions as above, so far as appropriate.

c. The manner of wearing the insignia of orders, decorations and medals is the same as with corresponding items of uniform.