

THE CORPS STRUCTURE – UNIT LEVEL

COMBINED CADET FORCE

1. The Commandant Air Cadets, the RAF officer at the head of HQAC (an Air Commodore in rank) also has executive control of all Royal Air Force Sections of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). These cadets plus those of the ATC make up the organization generally known as the Air Cadet Organization (ACO).
2. The CCF is a voluntary, part-time force organized in schools which continue education to 17 years of age and above. It comprises Navy, Army and RAF Sections. Its broad function is to provide a disciplined organization through which boys and girls may develop qualities of endurance, resourcefulness, self-reliance, leadership and responsibility, as well as a sense of public service. At the time of writing there are some 8,900 cadets in 180 CCF(RAF) Sections.

FLYING AND GLIDING

3. The Royal Air Force provides 2 main types of flying for cadets of the ATC and cadets of the RAF Sections of the CCF. These are in:
 - a. **Air Experience Flights** (ACTI No 31). Air Experience Flights (AEFs) are established to provide air experience for cadets. They use Tutor aircraft and are located at Royal Air Force or civilian airfields up and down the country. There are 13 AEFs. Nos 1-12 are commanded by regular RAF officers and No 13 in Northern Ireland is commanded by an RAFVR(T) officer. The staff pilots who are on the establishment of the AEF to fly with cadets are RAFVR(T) officers, but some regular officers help out on an opportunity basis.
 - b. **Volunteer Gliding Schools** (ACTI No 32). The Air Cadets Gliding School (ACCGS) at Syerston, plus 28 Volunteer Gliding Schools (VGSs), teach air cadets over the age of 16 years to fly gliders up to the solo stage. This is called Gliding Scholarship (GS). Before that, cadets will normally have had some air gliding experience AEG and have completed Gliding Introductory Course (GIC). Cadets who do well at BGT will be recommended for Advanced Gliding Training (AGT). ACCGS is commanded by regular RAF officers and staffed by full-time officers of the RAF Reserve. The VGSs are staffed by RAFVR(T) officers and civilian gliding instructors.
4. Cadets have other opportunities to fly. The RAF offers flights in RAF aircraft when cadets are at camp or visiting Stations. The RAF also operates the Flying Scholarship Scheme through which cadets can learn to fly powered aircraft at Civilian Flying Clubs (ACTI No 34). A number of operators of private or commercial aircraft fly cadets under schemes known as 'Opportunity Flights', 'Passenger Flights', and 'European Flights' (ACTI 35). There is also a scheme whereby cadets are given overseas flights in RAF aircraft (ACTI No 33).

AIR CADETS TRAINING CENTRE (ACTI NO 92)

5. Because very many civilians join the Air Training Corps each year by volunteering to form the staffs of squadrons, air experience flights and gliding schools, a centre has been set up to which they go to learn the initial steps towards becoming officers and Adult SNCOs. Later, when they have more experience, they go again to be updated and prepared for promotion. This centre is called the Air Cadets Training Centre (ACTC), at RAFC Cranwell, and is part of HQAC organization.

PARENTING AND AFFILIATION

6. As well as being integrated with the Royal Air Force for control and command, the ATC and RAF Sections of the CCF have a very close liaison with the RAF for day to day parenting and affiliation. It is necessary to know the difference because the same RAF Station may not provide both facilities and with the reduction of RAF Stations, some of these duties may be undertaken by Army units.
7. **Parenting.** Parenting is the provision of services to help ATC squadrons to operate efficiently. The arrangements for each ATC squadron are made by Headquarters Air Cadets, and are listed in ACP 8 – List of ATC Units, under the heading ‘ATC Location and Parenting Statement’. ACP 8 is held at your wing headquarters and to find your own squadron’s Parent Station or Stations you need to ask your Squadron Adjutant as he or she holds a copy of your squadron parenting details taken from ACP 8.
For example, No 121 (Nuneaton) Squadron has the following entry:

PARENT STATION
RAFSEE COSFORD

PARENTING PROVIDED
A3, E, F, T8, T10, W, Z, Q1, Q2

E = Supply – All services

A3 = Accommodation – Technical

W = Works Services – Domestic and Technical

F = Fire Precautions

T8 = Technical – Ground Defence Weapons (storage and maintenance)

T10 = Explosives storage

Z = Security – All services

Q1 = Health & Safety Advice

Q2 = Health & Safety Environmental Protection Advice

8. **Affiliation.** Affiliation is a scheme to enable Royal Air Force Stations to provide direct and effective assistance to air cadet units in their vicinity (ACP 20A ACTI No5). Only wing headquarters are affiliated and all requests by squadrons are actioned by wing headquarters with the RAF Station. Each RAF Station Commander appoints a Station officer to co-ordinate the activities of the Station in respect of all affiliated units of ATC, CCF RAF Sections – and other approved organizations such as the Air Scouts. As many units may be affiliated to the same RAF Station, he has a busy time. He is known as the Air Cadet Liaison Officer and he is usually referred to as the ‘ACLO’, said as one word. In general, RAF Stations provide assistance

wherever they can:

- a. By accepting air cadets on day visits (Exceptionally, 2-day visits if long journeys are involved).
- b. By providing facilities for wing functions and courses.
- c. By providing RAF personnel (officers and airmen) to visit ATC squadrons to assist with the training programme.

CONCLUSION

9. It is important to know the unit structure of the Corps, shown diagrammatically in Fig 2 and detailed in this chapter so that you have a basic knowledge of the services and assistance available to your squadron. Remember:

- a. The flying and gliding structure and where to look to find the opportunities available to cadets.
- b. The difference between the parenting and affiliation schemes and the details affecting your own squadron.

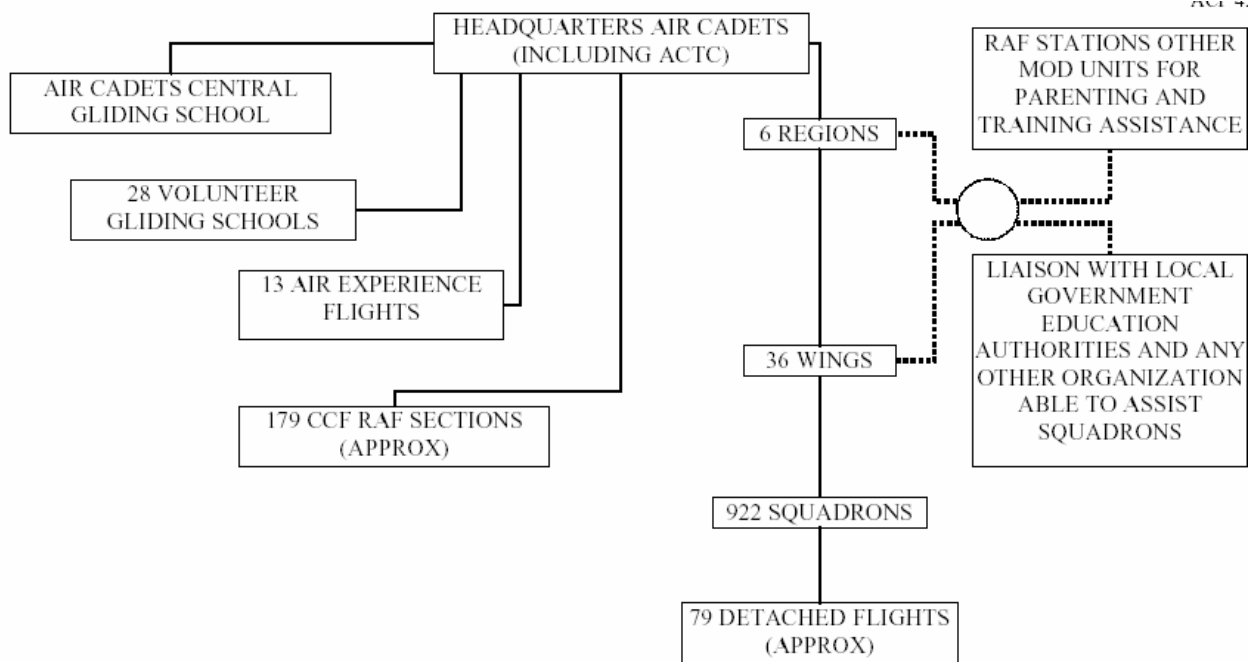


FIG 2 AIR CADETS UNIT STRUCTURE

All unit numbers are approximate