

HISTORY OF THE COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a youth organisation in the United Kingdom, sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), which operates in schools, and normally includes Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force sections. Its aim is to "provide a disciplined organisation in a school so that pupils may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance".

History

On 12 May 1859, the Secretary of State for War, Jonathan Peel, sent out a circular letter to the public schools and universities inviting them to form units of the Volunteer Corps. The first school cadet corps was established at **Rossall School in February 1860**, initially as an army contingent only.



The Secretary of State for War, Jonathan Peel

The first military unit formed by the University of Aberdeen was a Battery of the 1st Aberdeen Volunteer Royal Artillery, raised in December 1885. The Battery was officered by members of the University Staff and commanded by Captain William Stirling, then Professor of Physiology. In March 1895 the University Battery was absorbed by the 1st Heavy Battery.

In November 1897 an Aberdeen University detachment of the 1st Volunteer Battalion the Gordon Highlanders was recruited and in 1898 the detachment became University Company ("U" Coy). In 1912, the Aberdeen University contingent of the Officers' Training Corps was formally founded in response to the recommendations of the committee formed by Lord Haldane under the chairmanship of the then Principal Sir George Adam Smith.

The CCF was created in 1948 by the amalgamation of the Junior Training Corps (formerly the Junior Division of the Officers Training Corps) and the school contingents of the Sea Cadet Corps and Air Training Corps. CCFs are still occasionally referred to as "The Corps".

Felsted Prep School already had an armed drill contingent at the time of the War Office letter under the command of Sgt. Major Rogers RM; its claim on these grounds to be the oldest school corps was upheld by Field Marshal Earl Roberts in a letter to the Headmaster of 1904.

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"U" Coy had by this time become part of the 4th Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders and at the outbreak of the First World War was mobilised and sent to France; the only University contingent to go. The story of "U" Coy as a fighting unit is excellently told by Rule in his "Students Under Arms." Their record was magnificent but their casualties high. Their valour could not justify a policy which allowed so many highly educated young men to serve in the ranks of a combatant unit.

In February 1861 the Oxford City Rifle Cadet Corps was founded, with five companies, the first of which was composed of pupils of the Linden House School, a private school in Headington, and the second composed of pupils from Magdalen College School. In 1908, the units were re-titled the Officer Training Corps (OTC). A school contingent may have any combination of Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and sometimes Royal Marines sections, the army section is almost invariably the largest.

Independent and state schools

The CCF movement is dominated by the independent sector with 200 contingents still being based in independent schools with only around 60 in state schools. It was reported in 2008 that some independent school CCF detachments would be opened to pupils of local state schools. One case of a fee-charging school allowing state school pupils to join the cadet force was Aldenham School in Watford, Hertfordshire linking its Cadet Force with the nearby state school Queen's to form a joint Cadet force. UTC Heathrow originally formed in 2014 in a temporary school building as Heathrow Aviation Engineering UTC and was the first stand alone Royal Airforce Cadet unit. The then principle Flt Lt Brian Berry lead the unit until December 2015 when the running was handed over to SSI Tony Kelly later to become the commanding officer.

CCF Contingents are part of the CCF but are also part of their own school and as such are semi-autonomous organisations, run by internal school or school-related staff, supported by armed forces personnel. Army sections may wear their own capbadge, this might consist of the school or college logo or crest. However, Army headgear is worn with this capbadge. Royal Navy and Royal Air Force sections wear the appropriate RN/RAF other rank and officer capbadges.

Most Cadet ranks are standard non-commissioned ranks, prefixed by "Cadet", for day-to-day administration the "Cadet" prefix is often omitted. The highest rank depends on the size of the contingent, but are usually Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major, (Army and RM Sections) and Cadet Warrant Officer (RN and RAF Sections). Some contingents may have Junior (and sometimes Senior) Under Officers. Cadet Under Officers' rank badges are blue bands 12 mm wide across each shoulder slide, with the addition of the letters CCF underneath.

The "Cadet" prefix is omitted from all ranks during the day-to-day running of activities. Cadet Warrant Officers are to be addressed as "Warrant Officer" and all other cadets by their rank, "Flight Sergeant", "Sergeant" or "Corporal", as the case may be. In some contingents, it is a tradition for cadets to refer to Cadet Warrant Officers and Cadet Company or Regimental Sergeant Majors as "Sir or Ma'am" Cadets are promoted on their level of experience and their level of commitment to the cadet force. Also, cadets are promoted on excellence or merit. Senior cadet's duty is to help the running of parades etc and to help their Contingent Commander or another officer of their contingent.

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Training programme for Junior Cadets following Induction

Cadet Basic Training Part 1

Junior Cadet
THE COMBINED CADET FORCE

PASS LEVEL - MANDATORY TASKS

Learning Outcome 1: Know about the history Combined Cadet Force		Achieved Tick
Task P1	Describe the origins of the CCF.	
Task P2	Identify key developments in the history of the CCF.	
Task P3	Recognise cadet badges and ranks, RAF ensigns, CCF adult ranks and RAF ranks.	
Learning Outcome 2: Be able to wear an CCF uniform correctly		Achieved Tick
Task P4	Identify elements of the CCF uniform.	
Task P5	Demonstrate how to wear and maintain the uniform.	
Activity successfully completed		
Date	Signature	Name/Rank