



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS
PROFICIENCY LEVEL FOUR
INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE



SECTION 2

EO M420.02 – IDENTIFY ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE (RCAF) RANKS

Total Time: 30 min

PREPARATION

PRE-LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

Resources needed for the delivery of this lesson are listed in the lesson specification located in A-CR-CCP-804/PG-001, *Proficiency Level Four Qualification Standard and Plan*, Chapter 4. Specific uses for said resources are identified throughout the instructional guide within the TP for which they are required.

Review the lesson content and become familiar with the material prior to delivering the lesson.

Photocopy the rank worksheets located at Attachments A–C for each cadet.

Photocopy the RCAF–CF Rank Comparison Sheet located at Attachment D for each cadet.

PRE-LESSON ASSIGNMENT

Nil.

APPROACH

An interactive lecture was chosen for TPs 1 and 2 to clarify and emphasize the RCAF ranks.

An in-class activity was chosen for TP 3 as an interactive way to confirm the cadets' knowledge of RCAF ranks.

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

Nil.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson the cadet shall be expected to identify RCAF ranks.

IMPORTANCE

It is important for cadets to recognize the historical background of the RCAF ranks as they relate to the present air cadet and CF ranks.

Teaching Point 1**Identify RCAF non-commissioned ranks.**

Time: 10 min

Method: Interactive Lecture

The Royal Air Force (RAF) developed its rank insignias in 1918 moving from the British army ranks. With the formation of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) on April 1, 1924, the rank structure of its airmen and officers were similar to the ranks worn by the RAF and other Commonwealth countries. The rank insignias closely resembling the air cadet ranks were used from 1939 until unification on February 1, 1968, at which time the Canadian Forces (CF) amalgamated the rank structure to its present design. In 1988, the air force returned to traditional uniform colour but retained the present rank insignias.



Distribute the RCAF Non-Commissioned Ranks Worksheet located at Attachment A to each cadet. Have the cadets label the rank badges as presented.

NON-COMMISSIONED RANKS

The non-commissioned rank insignia was worn centred on the upper sleeve on all orders of dress except the Warrant Officer's (WO) insignia which was worn on the cuff.

The RCAF rank of Aircraftman 2nd class (AC2) had no insignia. The present CF rank insignia of Private (Pte) also has no insignia.

The RCAF rank of Aircraftman 1st class (AC1) had no insignia. The present CF rank insignia of Private Trained (Pte [T]) is a single inverted chevron.



The RCAF ranks of AC2 and AC1 had no distinguishing badges.

The RCAF rank of Leading Aircraftman (LAC) was a propeller. The present CF rank insignia of Corporal (Cpl) is two inverted chevrons.

The RCAF rank of Cpl had two inverted chevrons and was equal to the present CF rank of Master Corporal (MCpl). The MCpl insignia has a maple leaf above the two inverted chevrons.

An RCAF Sergeant (Sgt) had three inverted chevrons and is equal to the present CF rank of Sgt except the present insignia has a maple leaf above the three inverted chevrons.

The RCAF rank of Flight Sergeant (F/Sgt) had a brass or cloth crown worn above three inverted chevrons. The design of the crown changed from the King's Crown to the Queen's Crown with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952. The present CF rank insignia of WO is the St. Edward's crown.

The RCAF rank of Warrant Officer 2nd Class (WO2) was the King's or Queen's Crown. The present CF rank insignia of Master Warrant Officer (MWO) has the St. Edward's crown inside a laurel wreath.

The senior RCAF non-commissioned rank was Warrant Officer 1st Class (WO1) had the British Coat of Arms. The present CF rank insignia of Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) has a larger sized Coat of Arms of Canada.



With the introduction of the Air Cadet Flight Corporal (FCpl) rank, the ranks for LAC and Cpl within the air cadet program have moved to parallel the Navy and Army cadet ranks of Able Cadet (AB) / Pte and Leading Seaman (LS) / Cpl.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 1

QUESTIONS:

- Q1. The RCAF ranks were similar to what air force ranks?
- Q2. When did the RCAF ranks change to the present rank structure?
- Q3. What two crowns were used on the WO2 insignia?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS:

- A1. RAF.
- A2. At unification on February 1, 1968.
- A3. King's or Queen's Crown.

Teaching Point 2

Identify RCAF officer ranks.

Time: 10 min

Method: Interactive Lecture

The RCAF officer ranks were divided into two categories: officers and air ranks (officers).



Distribute the RCAF Officer Ranks Worksheet located at Attachment B to each cadet. Have the cadets label the rank badges as presented.

OFFICER RANKS

Officer ranks were based on flying appointments. Officer ranks were organized into three levels similar to today's organization, to include:

- subordinate officers,
- junior officers, and
- senior officers.



Officer rank insignias were shown by different widths of ribbon. The RCAF ribbons included two shades of blue in thin, medium and thick widths. Each band included a strip of a lighter shade of blue between two strips of a darker shade of blue. The CF ribbons have the same widths but are a single colour of gold or blue, depending on the uniform.

Subordinate Officers

The RCAF rank for an Officer Cadet (O/C) had no insignia. The present CF rank for Officer Cadet (OCdt) has a single thin gold band.

Junior Officers

The RCAF rank for Pilot Officer (P/O) had a single thin blue band. The CF rank equivalent is Second Lieutenant (2Lt), which has a medium gold band.

The RCAF rank for Flying Officer (F/O) had a single medium blue band. The CF rank equivalent is Lieutenant (Lt), which has a medium and thin gold band.

The RCAF rank for Flight Lieutenant (F/L) had two medium blue bands. The CF rank equivalent is Captain (Capt), which has two medium gold bands.

Senior Officers

The RCAF rank for Squadron Leader (S/L) had a thin blue band between two medium blue bands. The CF rank equivalent is Major (Maj), which has a single thin gold band between two medium gold bands.

The RCAF rank for Wing Commander (W/C) had three medium blue bands. The CF rank equivalent is Lieutenant Colonel (LCol), which has three medium gold bands.

The RCAF rank for Group Captain (G/C) had four medium blue bands. The CF rank equivalent is Colonel (Col), which has four medium gold bands.



Similar to today's appointments, a W/C would command a Squadron and a G/C would command a wing. An Air Commodore would command an air group.

Air Ranks (Officers)



The first blue band used on the RCAF air rank insignia was a thick band of light coloured blue between two medium bands of dark coloured blue. To show the difference in the ranks, blue medium bands were added on the RCAF officer rank insignia. Today's general officers have a wide gold band on their tunic cuff and the rank insignia worn on their shoulders has the St. Edward's crown above a crossed sabre and baton. Below are various numbers of gold maple leaves which identify the rank.

Similar to flag officers within the navy structure for admirals and general officers within the army structures, the air ranks or officers categorized the most senior air force ranks similar to today's generals.



Distribute the Air Ranks (Officers) Rank Worksheet located at Attachment C to each cadet. Have the cadets label the rank badges as presented.

The RCAF rank for Air Commodore (A/C) has no additional ribbon above the thick blue band. The CF rank equivalent is Brigadier-General (BGen), which has one gold Maple leaf.

The RCAF rank for Air Vice Marshal (A/V/M) has a medium thin blue band above the thick blue band. The CF rank equivalent is Major-General (MGen), which has two gold Maple leaves.

The RCAF rank for Air Marshal (A/M) has two medium blue bands above the thick blue band. The CF rank equivalent is Lieutenant-General (LGen), which has three gold Maple leaves.

The RCAF rank for Air Chief Marshal (A/C/M) has three medium blue bands above the thick blue band. The CF rank equivalent is General (Gen), which has four gold Maple leaves.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 2**QUESTIONS:**

- Q1. Name the three levels of officer ranks.
- Q2. What CF rank is equal to Flight Lieutenant?
- Q3. What are air ranks within the RCAF officer structure?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS:

- A1. Officer ranks included:
- subordinate officers,
 - junior officers, and
 - senior officers.
- A2. Captain.
- A3. The most senior air force ranks similar to today's generals.

Teaching Point 3

Conduct an activity matching RCAF ranks with present Canadian air force ranks.

Time: 5 min

Method: In-Class Activity

ACTIVITY**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this activity is to have the cadets identify RCAF ranks.

RESOURCES

- RCAF–CF Rank Comparison Sheet located at Attachment D,
- RCAF–CF Rank Comparison Answer Sheet located at Attachment E, and
- Pen / pencil.

ACTIVITY LAYOUT

Nil.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute a copy of the RCAF–CF Rank Comparison Sheet located at Attachment D to each cadet.
2. Allow the cadets three minutes to complete the RCAF–CF Rank Comparison Sheet.
3. Review answers using the RCAF–CF Rank Comparison Answer Sheet located at Attachment E.

SAFETY

Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 3

The cadets' participation in the activity will serve as the confirmation of this TP.

END OF LESSON CONFIRMATION

The cadets' completion of the RCAF–CF Rank Comparison Sheet will serve as the confirmation of this lesson.

CONCLUSION

HOMEWORK / READING / PRACTICE

Nil.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Nil.

CLOSING STATEMENT

The air cadet ranks except for flight corporal are based on the RCAF non-commissioned ranks. To understand and recognize the historical background of ranks develops pride in our aviation traditions. Cadets who have the opportunity to participate in an Air Cadet International Exchange to the United Kingdom will better understand and recognize the RAF ranks.

INSTRUCTOR NOTES / REMARKS

Nil.

REFERENCES

C3-326 Air Force Association of Canada. (2006). *CF & RCAF officer ranks*. Retrieved February 10, 2009, from http://www.airforce.qc.ca/gallery2_e.htm.

C3-328 Air Force Association of Canada. (2006). *CF & RCAF non-commissioned ranks*. Retrieved February 10, 2009, from http://www.airforce.qc.ca/gallery1_e.htm.