

AIR CADET SQUADRON FLAG PARTY GUIDANCE

1. Flag use within the Cadet Organization is based on military tradition. While there are parallels between the use of flags within cadets and the CF, there are also clear distinctions that must be made. Colours are a very special class of flags, bestowed only to military fighting units, in recognition of the service to their country. Cadets do not hold colours, and cadet flags and flag parties must never be referred to as colours or colour parties. The following table indicates the parallels between CF Air Force flags and Colours, and Air Cadet flags:

CF Flags	Air Cadet Flags
Flag of the Canadian Forces	Royal Banner of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets
Flag of the Canadian Air Force	Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Banner
Canadian Flag	Canadian Flag

2. A second distinction that must be made is that between a Cdt Squadron Flag Party, and a non-cadet flag party in which some cadets participate. A Cdt Squadron Flag Party is a core element of a Squadron, and parades the unit's cadet flag(s). The flags represent the Squadron's identity as distinct from every other unit, and are both an embodiment of, and focal point for, the pride, dedication, esprit de corps and honour Squadron members have for their unit. As such, there are important protocols that must be closely followed out of respect for these Squadron symbols. From time to time, at events such as municipal parades, Legion parades, etc., cadets may be asked to participate by carrying flags in a non-cadet Squadron flag party. These non-cadet flag parties have different significance and do not necessarily share the same protocols. This document deals specifically with Cadet Squadron Flag Party protocols.

3. The only flags authorized for Air Cadet Squadron Flag parties are:

- a. National Flag of Canada;
- b. Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Banner.
- c. Royal Banner of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets

4. Provincial/Territorial flags shall not be paraded (carried on parade) by CF or Cadet units, except as a complete set of 13 for specific, appropriate occasions such as ceremony of the flags (Navy/Sea Cadet Tradition). Provincial/Territorial flags may be flown from fixed flag staffs along the perimeter of a parade square as a display, but only as a complete set of 13, and must be displayed in proper sequence (based on date of entry into Confederation).

5. Municipal and other flags (i.e. school board, service club, Legion, etc) shall not be carried as part of a Cdt Squadron Flag Party, nor flown from fixed staffs at cadet parades.

6. Foreign flags are only flown to recognise the attendance of a foreign dignitary at a parade or event. Foreign flags shall not be carried in a cadet Flag Party, but

may be flown from a staff in an appropriate position junior to the Canadian Flag, but senior to provincial/territorial flags.

7. The Royal Canadian Air Cadet Banner shall only be paraded as part of a Squadron Flag Party, it must never be carried separately from the cadet unit whose presence it marks. Commanding officers are responsible for ensuring that their banners are never paraded with or by another unit. In general, therefore, whenever a Squadron or a major portion of a Corps is paraded on a ceremonial occasion, the Squadron Banner may also be paraded. Except for the special case of guards, including escorts and guards of honour, when small portions of a Squadron are paraded separately they are regarded as detachments rather than the unit itself. In these cases the Squadron Banner remains with the main unit, and is not paraded with the detachment. Flag parties from different formations or units are never combined into a single massed Flag party except immediately prior to joining their units at the beginning of a joint parade.

8. The Squadron Flag Party on parade marks and identifies the unit concerned; it is normally positioned in the centre or at the fore of the body of cadets it represents; see A-PD-201-000/PT-000, CF Manual of Drill and Ceremonial.

9. In the event small Detachments of multiple Squadrons parade together as a single formation, no Squadron Banners will be paraded. In such instances, the appropriate Flag Party composition is the National Flag. When multiple Squadrons parade together as distinct formations, each Squadron shall have its own flag party integral to its own Squadron formation. These flag parties may carry their Squadron banner.

10. It is a distinct honour to be selected as a flag bearer in a Squadron flag party, one that is to be reserved for senior cadets (equivalent in seniority to a parade appointment of Flight Commander). The flag bearers are always senior to the escorts assigned to them. Similarly, the seniority of the bearer shall recognise the relative seniority of the flags carried: the senior flag is carried by the senior bearer, who is then, by definition, the flag party commander. The individual carrying the senior flag is the one who gives the words of command, takes responsibility for the flags, and directs the separate movements of the flag party. Annex A depicts the standard formations for cadet Squadron Flag Parties.

11. Cadet flags are never lowered or dipped as means of salute, nor is the National Flag of Canada; this is an honour reserved for Consecrated Colours.

12. Flag party members do not fall-out to receive awards or presentations. It is not appropriate for a flag bearer to pass the flag to another, and it is equally inappropriate for an escort to desert his/her post. Awards to flag party members should be announced on parade, but the presentation made after. Alternatively, cadets selected for prestigious awards that must be presented on parade, such as medals, should not be assigned duty in the flag party.

13. While it is authorised for Air cadets to parade an armed escort, the following protocol should be observed:

- a. The National Flag of Canada is not afforded an armed escort, though the escort may be armed if all cadets are parading under arms (guard of honour, Freedom of the City, etc.);
- b. A Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Banner may be afforded an armed escort where equipment and facilities exist.
- c. The Royal Canadian Air Cadet League Banner may be afforded an armed escort where equipment and facilities exist.

ANNEX A

In an operational CF unit the colour(s) is/are always carried by a junior Officer, the standard 2-colour formation is depicted as:

o..#..O
X.....X

Where:

O is the Queen's Colour carried by the senior of two junior officers, armed with a sword o is the Regimental Colour carried by the junior of the two junior officers, armed with a sword; # is the senior escort, usually a Sgt or WO (normally armed with pistol or rifle and bayonet); and, X are the escorts, usually Ptes or Cpls (armed with rifle and bayonet). O, as the most senior member of the colour party is the Commander, **NOT** #. It is O who calls the commands. While officers do not parade in cadet unit flag parties, because: a. they are not colours, so don't require an officer, and b. officers often don't fall-in for cadet parades, the seniority and roles of the positions are the same for both CF and cadet flag parties.

The following illustrate the correct formation for flag parties consisting of 1 or 2 flags. In the following diagrams, 1 is always the commander and is the most senior cadet in the flag party, 2 is next in seniority, then 3 and so on. Standard two-flag formation:

2..3..1
5.....4

1 = commander = most senior cadet flag party member carrying senior flag
2 = next senior cadet carrying junior flag
3 = carries nothing, responsible for the two escorts
4 = escort to 1, may be armed with rifle or unarmed
5 = most junior cadet flag party member, escort to 2, armed/unarmed same as 4

If you parade only a single flag, the formation would be:

3..1..2

1 = commander = most senior cadet flag party member, carries the flag
2 & 3 = escorts (both armed or both unarmed)

Three flags is **not** a CF convention and is not covered in the 201. If one absolutely insists on the aberration of parading three flags, the following would be most correct:

3..1..2
5.....4

1 = commander = most senior cadet flag party member, carrying senior flag
2 = next senior cadet carrying next senior flag
3 = next senior cadet carrying least senior flag
4 & 5 = escorts, either both armed or both unarmed