



## 1475 (DULWICH) SQUADRON ATC

High Wood Cadet Centre  
Lordship Lane  
London  
SE22 8LG

Web: [www.1475.org](http://www.1475.org)  
Tel: 020 8693 1475 (Wed & Fri)  
Email: [oc.1475@aircadets.org](mailto:oc.1475@aircadets.org)  
Twitter: [@OC1475Sqn](https://twitter.com/OC1475Sqn)

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### MULTI-TERRAIN PATTERN (MTP) COMBAT CLOTHING

When authorised to do so, members of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) are a permitted and encouraged to wear British military issue Multi-Terrain Pattern (MTP) 'combat clothing'. For many Air Cadet activities, such as shooting and leadership training, it is often deemed more appropriate than wearing the normal, issued 'blue uniform'. However, MTP clothing is NOT scaled, nor issued to Air Cadets but may be privately purchased instead. This letter seeks to detail how best to buy items of MTP uniform and the rules around the wearing of it.

*There are 3 basic rules:*

1. You must **NOT** mix and match the MTP clothing with the older Disruptive Pattern Material (DPM) pattern, ie. The full 'Personal Clothing System (PCS)' (shirt, trousers and smock) is required to be worn, and can not be worn alongside the older DPM 'Soldier 95' (S95) clothing items.
2. Only genuine British issue MTP clothing is to be worn. These are the items of clothing issued and worn by members of the British Armed Forces. American MTP clothing, produced by US companies such like "Muticam" and "Crye Precision", though similar in look are NOT to be worn.
3. RAF dress regulations state that the MTP shirt is to be worn tucked-in to the trousers. Therefore, an issue trouser belt is always required to be worn also. This is to be either an Olive Green (OG) 'Working Belt' or the RAF Stable Belt (Squadron NCO's only)

There are numerous places where you are able to purchase MTP clothing, among them popular cadet orientated websites like 'Cadet Direct'. However, in my opinion, by far the best and cheapest I have found is to buy from eBay. On eBay it is very easy to find brand new, unworn, MTP clothing, and relatively cheaply too. However, care must be taken to ensure you are buying the genuine UK issue clothing and not the 'Multicam' or 'Crye' systems. Some eBay listings do include terms like 'multicam' in order to attract wider viewings, so the important term to look for is 'Genuine Issue'. Search using the terms like "MTP", "PCS" and "Genuine Issue"

*Tip:* Issue clothing will feature a NATO Stock Number (NSN) which is printed on the items label (look at your blue shirt or trousers and you will find the number printed there too!). This is often included in the eBay descriptions or photos to show that it is a genuine issue item and not a 'copy'.

Do please remember that this form of clothing is **STILL** uniform; it is designed to look smart, and must therefore fit you just like your blue uniform does. You will not be allowed to wear items of clothing that are far too big for you, so ensure that you purchase the correct size and NOT just *any* size you can get your hands on!

If you need any help with regard to sizing, please do not hesitate to ask. The sizing system works in much the same way to the 'blue uniform' you have been issued as a cadet, so use those sizes as a guide and also refer to the sizing guide at the bottom of this letter this letter.

RICHARD WASH BA(Hons) RAFAC  
Flight Lieutenant  
Commanding Officer

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### **PCS SIZING GUIDE**

#### ***MTP Trousers:***

Just like your blue uniform trousers the MTP trousers have a set of 3 numbers, which are measurements in centimetres (cm) eg. 80/92/108

The first number is the inside leg measurement – This comes in usually 3 sizes: 75, 80 or 85 The second number is the waist measurement – The smallest size is around 76 and it increases by 4cm, ie. 76, 80, 84, 88, 92, 96 etc

The third number is the hip or seat measurement – This number increases in direct relation to the waist measurement.

#### ***Shirt and Smock (Combat Jacket):***

Two numbers are shown to size these items eg 180/104

The first number is the height measurement – This comes in 4 sizes: 160, 170, 180, 190 The second number is the chest measurement – This comes in a range just like your blue jumper, the smallest of which is 92 and increases by 4cm each time ie. 92, 96, 100, 104, 108, 112

Do remember, if you would like any further help, just ask!