



RULES

of the

The Royal Military Police Association

(Revised July 2013)

Registered Charity Number 261630

RULES OF
THE ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION
(An Unincorporated Association)

(Revised July 2013)

TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Association shall be:

Ex - Officio:

- (1) The Chairman of the Association;
- (2) The Vice-Chairman of the Association; and
- (3) A representative of the Provost Marshal (Army).

Nominated. 1 member drawn from the Branches in the following parts of the United Kingdom: Scotland; Northern Ireland; and Wales.

Elected. 6 members drawn from Life Members of the Association elected at a general meeting,

provided they agree to undertake the legal requirements of Trustees required by the various Charities Acts or any subsequent Act or Acts. They are to be elected for an initial term not to exceed three years. Trustees thereafter may be invited to continue to act as Trustees annually up to a maximum of a further 5 years. A Trustee may stand-down at any time during his or her term by submitting their resignation in writing to the Chairman of the Trustee's Committee (The National Chairman), Where Regions have more than one Branch the Regional Trustee is to be nominated by those Branches in rotation.

Rule 1: OBJECTS

1. The Objects of the Association are:

1.1 To promote the efficiency of the Army by:

- (1) Maintaining contact between past and present members of the Royal Military Police, fostering mutual friendship between them and providing for social gatherings for them; and
- (2) Fostering *esprit de corps*, comradeship and the welfare of the Royal Military Police and preserving its traditions.

1.2 In furtherance of these Objects the Association shall have the following powers:

- (1) To take all necessary action for publicising and disseminating information and concerning the histories, deeds and traditions of the Royal Military Police and for the encouragement of recruiting;
- (2) To execute and administer exclusively charitable trusts;

- (3) To receive, take and accept any gifts of property whether subject to any special trusts or not;
- (4) To receive and accept contributions by way of subscriptions, donations and otherwise, and to raise funds for the said Objects provided that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable Objects;
- (5) Subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law to purchase, take, lease or exchange any property required for the purposes of the Association and lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of the same;
- (6) Subject to such consents as may from time terms and such security as may be thought fit;
- (7) To invest funds of the Association in such investments as may from time to time be authorised by Law;
- (8) To accumulate funds of the Association for such period as may from time to time be authorised by law; and
- (9) To do all such other things as shall further the said Objects.

Rule 2: MEMBERSHIP

2. The following are eligible for membership on signing the Prescribed Form of Application:

- 2.1 All who are serving or have served in the Royal Military Police ('RMP').**
- 2.2 All who have served in the Corps of Royal Military Police, or the Corps of Military Police.**
- 2.3 All who have held appointments as Provost Officers, Warrant Officers & Non-Commissioned Officers, or have been seconded as Officers to the Corps of Royal Military Police.**
- 2.4 All who have served as Officers or Other Ranks in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (Provost) or Women's Royal Army Corps (Provost).**
- 2.5 Life Membership only is permitted on payment of the appropriate subscription. On enrolment members will receive at no cost to themselves a RMP Tie and RMPA Lapel Badge, if male, or a RMP Crest Brooch if female.
- 2.6 All members of the CMP Old Comrades Association (1927) and air members of the Old Comrades without further payment or formality.
- 2.7 Any Person may be elected an Honorary Member as follows:
 - (1) Honorary Branch Member by unanimous vote of the Branch Committee; and
 - (2) Honorary Association Member by unanimous vote of the Central Committee.

2.8 Honorary Membership may also be extended on the unanimous vote of the Central Committee to any Association established in the British Commonwealth or in a Foreign State, which has comparable Objects to those of this Association and is composed of serving and/or ex-serving members of organisations analogous to the United Kingdom's Military Police. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights to attend any meeting or take part in the control of the Association.

2.9 Honorary Membership may also be extended on the unanimous vote of the Central Committee to any serving or ex-member of an allied Military Police Force which has comparable standards to our own. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights to attend any meeting or take part in the control of the Association.

Rule 3: OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

3. The following Officers are appointed:

3.1 Ex-Officio:

(1) Honorary President. The Honorary President shall be the General Officer holding the appointment of Deputy- Colonel Commandant Adjutant General's Corps (Provost Branch) or equivalent;

(2) The President. The President shall be the Officer holding the appointment of Provost Marshal (Army);

(3) Vice-President. The Vice-President shall be the Officer designated as the Deputy-Provost Marshal (Army);

(4) Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be the Regimental Secretary Royal Military Police.

3.2 Elected. The following officers are to be elected, by a majority vote, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

(1) The National Chairman. The National Chairman is to be elected by a General Meeting for a period of 6 years. However should he or she wish to step down at any time during their term of office then he or she may do so on giving 6 month's notice. In exceptional circumstances the Chairman may be invited to extend his or her term of office, which should be reviewed annually. The Chairman is to chair both the Trustees and the Central Committees; and

(2) The Vice-Chairman. The National Vice-Chairman is to be elected by a General Meeting for a period of 6 years which may be extended. Where possible the appointment to fall either two years before, or two years after, the appointment of the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman is to chair both the Trustees and Central Committees in the absence of the Chairman.

3.3 Additional Vice-Presidents. Additional Vice-Presidents may be elected by majority vote of a General Meeting, from members who have performed outstanding service to the Association.

3.4 National Events Co-ordinator. A National Events Co-ordinator shall be appointed by the Trustees to assist the Association Secretary and such honoraria as may be agreed by the Trustees Committee be awarded annually.

Rule 4: METHOD OF CONTROL

4. The Association is controlled as follows:

4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM will:

- (1) Be chaired by the Association President or in his or her absence by the Vice-President. If both are absent the Association Chairman will preside;
- (2) Be held during either the Annual Reunion Weekend or the Annual National Remembrance Weekend; and
- (3) A quorum shall be 21 members.

4.2 Other General Meetings. Other General Meetings may be called for specific purposes. They are to be called by the President, Vice-President or the Chairman of the Association. 28 Days notice of the Meeting will be circulated to all members of the Central Committee together with the Motion to be discussed and 28-days notice given to members through the National Press. A simple 2/3rds majority of voting members is required to adopt any motion tabled.

4.3 The Trustees Committee. The Trustees Committee will comprise the Trustees of the Association. The Association Secretary/ Treasurer shall be in attendance to provide, through RHQ RMP, the Secretariat for the Committee. The NEC shall also be in attendance. Each Trustee shall, on appointment, receive for personal use The Charity Commission publication CCS: 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees', or its equivalent.

4.3.1 The Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Association is run in accordance with extant Charity Law. It is also responsible, through the Secretariat, for the day-to-day management of the Association.

4.3.2 It will meet as necessary to conduct its business, but not less than once during each Financial Year. It will normally meet between the General Meetings and Central Committee Meetings.

4.4 The Central Committee (CENCO). C E N C O shall comprise:

- (1) Ex-Officio:
 - (a) The members of the Trustees' Committee;
 - (b) The National Events Co-ordinator (NEC); and
 - (c) The Regimental Secretary who shall be Association Secretary and Treasurer.

(2) Elected: 1 member elected by each Branch of the Association.

4.5 Voting. All matters will be decided by a simple majority. The Chairman having a casting vote in cases of a tied vote irrespective of whether or not he or she has voted previously on the same issue.

4.6 Meeting. CENCO shall hold at least one meeting a year in September/October and as many other meetings as required, 28 days notice being given to all Committee Members. Meetings may follow Trustees Meetings and precede the AGM if those events are held on the same day.

4.7 Quorum. 15 members shall constitute a quorum.

4.8 Function. The CENCOM is the main forum for the dissemination of policy and information to and from individuals and Branches. It will:

(1) Consider any proposed changes to Association policy and make recommendations of:

(a) A financial nature to the Trustees for consideration;

(b) a non-financial nature to the AGM for adoption;

(2) Approve the formation of new Branches and Sub-Branches of the Association;

(3) Consider forfeiture of right to membership of the Association and make recommendations to the AGM;

(4) Consider and make recommendations to the AGM of all cases of refusal of Membership of the Association;

(5) Approve the award of Certificates of Merit to individual members;

(6) Consider applications from Branches to host the Annual Reunion and make recommendations to the Trustees;

(7) Consider Motions from members and Branches and recommend solutions to either the AGM or the Trustees; and

(8) Recommend any changes in policy to the AGM.

Rule 5: ADMINISTRATION

5. The RMP Association is a Registered Charity [Registration Number 261630]. As such the conduct of its affairs is governed by the various Charities Acts of: 1993 (as amended); 2006; and 2011. These Statutes lay down legally binding standards of governance, administration, regularity, to the Charity Commission as such.

5.4 Payment of all expenses considered necessary for the proper administration of the Association is delegated to the Treasurer.

5.5 The Treasurer is to prepare annual accounts as at 31 December which are to

be audited by an auditor appointed by AGM.

5.6 The Secretary is to prepare an Annual Report to be approved by AGM for onward transmission to the Charity Commission, following the Audit of Accounts.

Rule 6: BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

6. The following applies:

6.1 Branches. Branches of the Association may be formed at the discretion of the CENCO, which shall satisfy itself that suitable Members of the Association are available to form a Branch Committee, consisting of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and not less than three other Members, all of whom must be Life Members of the Association. The CENCO shall approve all Branch Titles. All Regions with more than one Branch are to have Branch Titles (and Standards), which state 'RMPA' followed by 'Region' followed in brackets by the 'unique title' chosen by the Branch e.g. RMPA N1 (Lisburn). Any conflict is to be resolved by the CENCO.

6.2 Overseas Branches. The National Vice-Chairman is to represent all Overseas Branches at all RMPA Committee Meetings where Overseas Branches are otherwise un-represented. Agenda points concerning Overseas Branches are to be passed to the National Vice Chairman.

6.3 Sub-Branches. Branches shall be at liberty to form sub-Branches provided the formation of a sub-Branch be first placed before the CENCO for its approval.

6.4 Administration. A Branch Committee shall be responsible for the proper administration of its affairs and shall forward as at 31 December annually an internally audited statement of account and a report of their activities for the information of the Trustees by 30 April annually. At no time shall a Branch Committee, Sub-Branch Committee, or any person connected with the administration or affairs of the Association or being a member of the Association, pledge the credit of the Association in any form. Branches are to send to RHQ as soon as possible after 31 December, a statement of the Branch Cash and Bank holdings.

6.5 Standards.

(1) Parading. Branch Standards are only to be paraded with the authority of the Branch Committee; and

(2) Manufacture. The approved manufacturer for all Branch Standards is: Premier Badges Limited, Unit 8, Little Hyde Farm, Little Hyde Lane, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 ODU. Telephone 01277 355078.

6.6 Branch Rules. Branches shall frame their own Rules to reflect the Rules of the Association.

6.7 Disbandment. Branches will disband when the Branch membership falls to less than 6 Life Members (vide paragraph 6.1) or if the Branch members at an

Annual General or Special General Meeting convened to consider disbandment, vote by a simple majority to disband. Once the decision to disband has been taken the Branch Secretary is to:

- (1) Inform RHQ RMP of the decision;
- (2) Arrange for an audit of the Branch Funds, close bank accounts and send a copy of the audited accounts and balance of Branch Funds to RHQ RMP for deposit in the 'Disbanded Branch' Specific Purpose Account in the Association Central Fund;
- (3) Send all Branch Standards to RHQ RMP where arrangements will be made to 'lay-up' the Standard in the RMP Memorial Church or arrange, with the approval of the Association, for the Standard to be laid up in a local church or chapel; and
- (4) Send Branch memorabilia to the RMP Museum or with Association approval, lodge it in a local Museum or Service Mess.

Rule 7: INDEMNITY

7. Every Trustee, other Committee members and every Officer and Servant of the Association, shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the RMP Association against all losses and liabilities incurred by him or her or in relation to the execution of their Office provided that nothing in this clause shall entitle them to any indemnity against liability arising through negligence or fraud or similar actions on their part.

Rule 8: ANNUAL REUNIONS

8. Association Reunions are:

8.1 Association Annual Reunion. There shall be an Annual Reunion of the Association held once in a 5-year period at the designated 'Home of the RMP' (currently Southwick Park) and in the intervening years hosted by a Branch of the Association elsewhere. The CENCO will consider bids and agree the venue. The CENCO should wherever possible agree the venue for a 5-year cycle in order to enable the 'Depot' to place it in any programme of events.

8.2 Branch Reunions. Branches may arrange their own Annual Reunion Dinner provided no call is made on Central Funds for assistance.

Rule 9: RULES

9. Alteration of these Rules require the assent of 2/3rds of the members present at either an Annual General or Special General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Association at least 28 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be tabled. At least 21 days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration is made to Rules 1 and 12, and this Rule, shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commission shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made, which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be a Charity in Law.

Rule 10: FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP

10. Where it is believed that a member of the RMP Association acts in a manner that is likely to bring discredit upon the Association, the matter is to be referred to The CENCO with a view to forfeiture of membership. Details of alleged misconduct are to be forwarded to the Secretary so that the matter may be placed on the Agenda of the next CENCO meeting. A copy of the allegation is to be passed to the person concerned by the Secretary to enable them to submit information in either their defence or in mitigation. Additionally:

Rule 11: REFUSAL OF MEMBERSHIP

11. The CENCO is empowered to refuse Membership to any person even though otherwise qualified, who is considered by a 2/3rds majority vote to be unsuitable for Membership. Appeals against refusal of Membership may be represented to the AGM by a member of the CENCO, who may call the individual to speak on his or her own behalf. Any decision taken by the AGM by a simple 2/3rds majority vote is final.

Rule 12: DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

12. The Association may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a 2/3rds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting for the purpose of which 28 days notice shall have been given to Members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association, provided that if any property remains after the settlement of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the Members of the Association, but shall be given to the Royal Military Police Central Benevolent Fund ('RMP CBF') or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having Objects similar to some or all of the Objects of the Association as the Association may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision, then to some other charitable purpose.

Rule 13: PARADE DRESS

13. The following Rules applies:

- (1) General. As former and serving Members of the Royal Military Police it is beholden upon all
- (2) Dress. Wherever possible Members of the Association should wear either a Regimental Blazer or dark suit, a RMP or RMPA tie, Scarlet Beret with appropriate cap badge. Cloth cap badges may be worn by retired Officers and former Warrant Officers Class 1; and
- (3) Medals. Association Members are entitled to wear full-sized Court-mounted medals when on parade. Medals awarded to a deceased close relative may be worn on the right breast. Miniature medals may be worn for evening social events when Mess Kit, a Dinner Suit (either White or Black Tie) or Evening Dress are the suggested forms of apparel. Commemorative medals (i.e., those purchased at private expense that are neither awarded by the State nor graciously approved for wear by HM The Queen) are not to be worn on any parade.