

The 1 Military Police Brigade Formation Flash



The 1 Military Police Brigade Formation Flash was approved in June 2014, by the Garter King of Arms, the Principal King of Arms at the College of Arms, in his capacity as 'Inspector of Regimental Colours'.

The design is based on an earlier cloth shield worn by members of the then Corps of Military Police (CMP) from 1940 until the late 1960's on their upper arms when serving in the United Kingdom's Southern Command.

Originally, the background colours adopted for the Military Police insignia were red and black, but the new Formation Flash consists of the shades of red and blue authorised for use by both the Royal Military Police (RMP) and the Military Provost Staff (MPS) in their regimental heraldry and associated embellishments, together with a stylised version of the five major stars that form the Southern Cross (the Crux) constellation that may be observed in the night sky of the Southern Hemisphere. The colours also reflect those used in the stable belt and of the blue beret worn by the members of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) whose antecedence includes the Vulnerable Points (VP) Branch of the Military Police.

There would have been no fewer than eighteen differently coloured types of Flash with the Southern Cross worn by members of Southern Command identifying to an observer members of the Headquarters' Staff and all of the Command's supporting Arms and Services. However, there does not appear to have been a similar Flash to signify the Military Provost Staff Corps (MPSC).

Established in 1905 from the Second Army Corps, with its Headquarters based at Tidworth until 1949 when it moved to Erskine Barracks near Fugglestone St Peter in Wiltshire, Southern Command's span at times covered not only Southern England, (including Cornwall), but also East Anglia, the southern portion of the Midlands, parts of Wales and the Channel Islands.

The histories of both the RMP and the MPS are rooted deeply in the south of England: the Military Mounted Police (MMP) was raised in Aldershot in Hampshire in 1855; that Cantonment's first Military Prison opened in 1856; and the renowned 'Glasshouse' was built there in 1870. Additionally, all of the principal Depot and Training Establishments of the Military Police have been located in the south of the country, as have been all the various Headquarters' of Provost Marshal (Army) with the first being based at Aldershot for over sixty years.

The modern British Army has two formations of Divisional size: the 1st and 3rd and in 1939, Southern Command included two Formations of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF): the 1st Armoured Division, which was based in Andover and the 3rd Infantry Division garrisoned at Bulford. The Command was merged with other Army regional commands to form United Kingdom Land Forces (UKLF) in 1972.

The 1 Military Police Brigade Formation Flash design (using Pantone Colours: Red 485CP; and Blue 289CP) was endorsed by Decision 4307 of the 351st Army Dress Committee (ADC) on 26th March 2014. The ADC stressed that until public funding is provided for Formation and Tactical Recognition Flashes the flash must be purchased and tailored at private expense so it was decided by the Regimental secretary Royal Military Police, Colonel J T Green OBE that a free initial issue of two badges would be made to all serving members of the brigade and paid for by the Regimental Funds of RMP and MPS to which the majority contribute to via the Service Day's Pay Giving Scheme with the surplus will held for sale at the Regimental Fund Shop.

On the 19th September 2014, the Provost Sergeant-Major N T Summerhayes AGC (RMP) informed the Provost Chain of Command that the new insignia would be distributed via Unit G4 chains. He further directed that the badge is to be worn horizontally on the left arm, red part of the badge facing forward.

Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army) staff wore the Flash from 1st October 2014, while those attending the 27th November 'Provost Concentration' at Southwick Park did so from that date. The remainder of the Brigade started to wear the Flash from the 1st of December when the new Brigade joined the Army's Order of Battle (ORBAT).

Regimental Secretary