

**THE MERCIAN REGIMENT**  
**REGIMENTAL INSTRUCTION NO A5**

Issued by

The Colonel of the Regiment

**THE RULES OF THE MERCIAN REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION**

Rules Version 1.7  
Dated: 1 Nov 2016

**GENERAL**

1. The Association shall be called The Mercian Regimental Association abbreviated to MRA, here after referred to as the Association or MRA.
2. The Association is administered from Regimental Headquarters, The Mercian Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9PY (Tel: 01543 434358, Email: [inf\\_hq-pow-merc-regtadj@mod.uk](mailto:inf_hq-pow-merc-regtadj@mod.uk) - Regimental Adjutant)
3. MRA branches can be formed nationally, where there is interest and there are sufficient members to fill the required roles (see rule 15 a & b). Branch committees are to be formed and must be able to organise and manage branch events and representation. Antecedent association branch committees can request to become a MRA branches whilst retaining links, heritage and traditions from antecedent associations. For branches' transferring from previous Antecedent associations once their request has been approved by the MRA committee the Branch will become a full branch of the MRA and be administered by the MRA committee.
4. The MRA will support The Cheshire Regiment Association (CRA), The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment Association (WFRA), the Staffordshire Regiment Association (SRA), and The Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association (MVRA) referred to in this document as the antecedent Associations. They will be recognised as independent corporate bodies and their constitution, control and funds remain autonomous. Likewise the MRA is a fully autonomous association responsible to its Committee and branches.

**ELIGIBILITY**

5. All Officers, Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, Junior Non-Commissioned Officers, and Soldiers (Regular, Territorial, Reserve and National Service) who have served in or are currently serving with<sup>1</sup>:
  - a. The Mercian Regiment
  - b. The Cheshire Regiment
  - c. The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment

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<sup>1</sup> This list includes members of the West Midlands Regiment and East of England Regiment, cap badged to The Cheshire Regiment, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, and The Staffordshire Regiment.

- d. The Staffordshire Regiment
- e. The Worcestershire Regiment
- f. The South Staffordshire Regiment
- g. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)
- h. The North Staffordshire Regiment
- i. The Mercian Volunteers<sup>2</sup>

Or who are members of The Cheshire Regiment Association, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment Association, The Staffordshire Regiment Association or The Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association. Those who fall into one of these categories can become a member of the MRA by joining an MRA branch.

## **OBJECTIVES**

6. The objectives of the Association are:
- a. To promote the proficiency of the Mercian Regiment by:
    - (1) Maintaining contact and building network links between past and present members of the Regiment and the Antecedent Regiments.
    - (2) Fostering mutual friendships between all members and providing social (and commemorative) gatherings for them.
  - b. Keeping alive the esprit de corps of the regiment by promoting comradeship among its members, especially after they have transitioned to civilian life by supporting regimental events which incorporate antecedent association events.
  - c. Supporting and promoting regimental traditions and preserving those of our Antecedent regiments where appropriate.
  - d. To identify and assist members of the association and their families who are in circumstances of need, hardship or distress with a view to arranging regimental benevolence or charitable financial support from other such organisations as may be appropriate.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

7. There shall be three categories of MRA Membership, to be an individual member you must be registered with an MRA branch:
- a. General Membership. Any serving or past member of the Regiment or Antecedent Regiments who qualified as a soldier or as an officer and is a member of a recognised

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<sup>2</sup> The Mercian Volunteers were formed in 1967 from the Territorial Army infantry battalions of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. In 1988 they were disbanded and its sub-units incorporated in the Territorial Army battalions of The Cheshire Regiment, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the Staffordshire Regiment.

MRA Branch is a general member and shall receive a membership card. General Members shall pay a levy to their branch in order to support Branch and MRA activities.

b. Honorary Membership. Branch committees can vote to give an individual honorary status as a means of acknowledging that individuals loyal service or an instances of extremely generous commitment of finance or time.

c. Associate Membership. Associate Membership of the MRA will be reserved for any person who was an associate member of one of the Antecedent associations. Any person who served or are serving with other Arms or Services outside The Mercian Regiment. Any war widow or NOK of an MRA member or serving MERCIAN. An associate member will pay the branch levy but cannot serve as a branch committee member.

## ORGANISATION

8. The President of the Association is the Colonel of the Mercian Regiment.

9. The Chairman of the Association is appointed by the President and must be a general member of the MRA.

10. Committee Structure. The Association shall be managed at 3 levels: See Fig 1 for detailed hierarchy relationships.

a. The Mercian Regimental Association Committee.

b. The Committees of the Antecedent associations still have an obligation to honour the paying of any monies, through support over time or as one off payment to the MRA account, so that the MRA committee can support branch activities with money that the Branch has paid to the Antecedent association over the financial year during which the MRA committee formed.

c. Association Branch Committees. Governed by their own rules but with an informal link to the MRA.

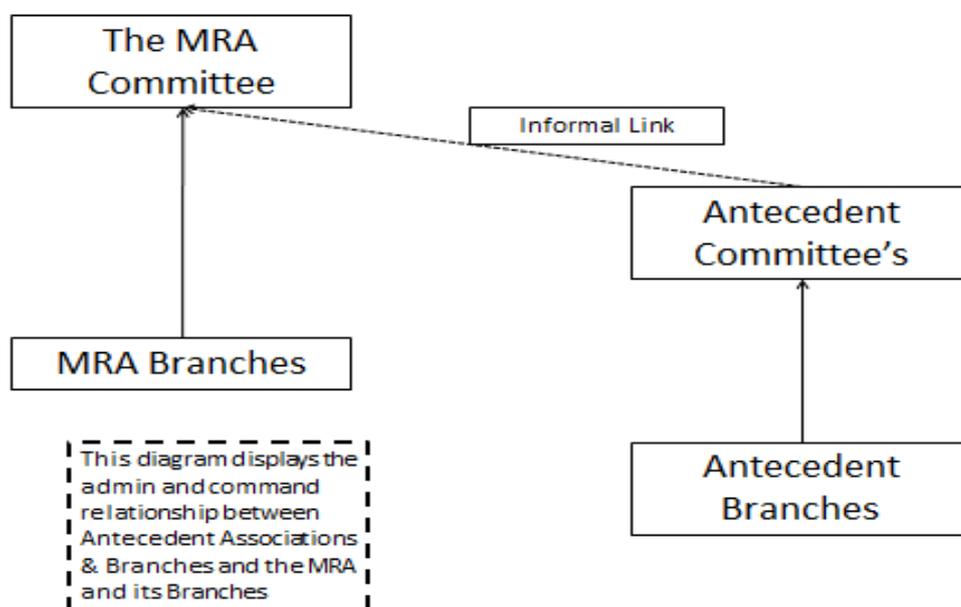


Figure 1. The Mercian Regimental Association Hierarchy Links.

11. The Mercian Regimental Association Committee.
  - a. Voting Members. The Mercian Regimental Association Committee shall consist of:
    - (1) Chairman. Appointed by the President.
    - (2) Two vice Chairmen. Appointed by the committee with approval from the President.
    - (3) Elected by the current committee.
      - (a) A named representative from each antecedent Association.
      - (b) The Treasurer will be responsible for financial compliance, keeping accounting records, and presenting financial briefs to the MRA committee and the AGM.
    - (4) Ex Officio:
      - (a) Association Secretary. Regimental Adjutant.
      - (b) Nominated. Regimental Sergeant Majors of the three Battalions.
    - (5) Co-opted. Non-voting members invited at the discretion of the Chairman.
  - b. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of the Chairman or a deputy, the Secretary and 5 voting members. The Chairman shall have a deciding vote.
12. Responsibilities. The Mercian Regimental Association Committee shall be responsible for:
  - a. Association policy and co-ordination of activities. The MRA committee is empowered to issue such instructions consistent with these Rules as shall be necessary for the good and efficient administration of the Association and the furtherance of its Objectives. The Committee will meet twice a year; ideally in February and June.
  - b. MRA Events. Mercian Regiment Assistant Regimental Secretaries are required to manage and administrate the planning and execution of MRA events that are agreed upon by the Mercian Regimental Secretary. The MRA Committee will ensure that MRA events are organised and initiation is granted in liaison with the relevant Assistant Regimental Secretary and RHQ Mercian, and events are supported by Branch members. When members are supporting or present at an MRA event they are encouraged to wear a Mercian County Tie in Regimental colours and Eagle Lapel pin.
  - c. Benevolence. When requested by the Benevolence Committee of the Mercian Regiment, the MRA committee will represent the views of the Association or make proposals where necessary with regard to the disbursement of Benevolence assistance.
  - d. Funds. Manage and appropriate allocate MRA funds.
  - e. Discipline. Exercise disciplinary powers in accordance with Rule 16.

f. Appointment of Chairman. On the retirement or resignation of the Chairman, make a recommendation to the President for the appointment of a new Chairman who need not be an existing member of the MRA committee.

g. Merit Awards. Decide and award MRA Merits to individuals who have been nominated by the MRA Branches. The Merit award will take the form of a certificate and will be presented at a suitable occasion.

13. The MRA Secretary. The Secretary shall:

a. Organise and maintain the records of decisions of all committee meetings and AGMs.

b. Appoint suitable auditors to audit the association accounts and arrange approval by the committee for expenditure in excess of £500.

c. Maintain a Register of all Branches and their appointed committee officers.

d. Maintain a register of all individual members.

e. Notify branches of meetings and other Association events.

14. The Committees of the Antecedent associations are to be maintained in accordance with their own respective rules and bye-Laws, as appropriate and are required to submit copies of rules and bye-laws to the MRA secretary, giving notification of any amendments.

15. Branches. Branches are the mainstay of the MRA. They exist to support and promote the MRA objectives as defined in Rule 6, in their respective areas.

a. Establishment. Branches may be established anywhere the MRA committee believes demand justifies their establishment, MERCIAN Veterans are encouraged to create their own branches if an MRA branch is not within practicable distance. Branches will be autonomous but are to operate within MRA Rules. New Branches are to be approved by the MRA Committee, will be on a 12month probation period and be mentored by an older branch.

b. Branch naming Conventions.

(1) On Standards: The Mercian Regimental Association, '*Location*' Branch.

(2) On official stationary and publications: '*Location*' Branch, '*Abbreviated antecedent connection*', The Mercian Regimental Association.

(a) Example: Worcester Branch WFRA The Mercian Regimental Association. For new branches with no connection to an antecedent Regt no abbreviation will be used.

b. Management. Branches are to form committees which shall each have a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and as many other members as deemed necessary by the individual Branch. The Rules approved for the general management of The MRA shall, apply in so far as they are appropriate to the management of branches and no rules shall be made by branches that conflict with the Rules of the MRA. Branch committees are to:

- (1) Organise activities for members, administer the Branch, maintain a Membership Roll, collect subscriptions and donations and account for all Branch Funds.
- (2) Decide Branch Membership and Subscriptions; Branch Honorary Members may be accepted in accordance with Rule 7. If the branches wishes to it can Issue Membership Cards to all new members. Membership cards MUST be in the format held by the MRA Secretary and must not include antecedent regiment cap badges or colours.
- (3) Encourage a financial contribution to be made to The Mercian Regimental Benevolence Charity, if and when funds permit.
- (4) Be prepared to assist the MRA or other Branch committees in the organisation of major MRA Events. When members are supporting or present at an MRA event ensure they are encouraged to wear a Mercian County Tie in Regimental colours and Eagle Lapel pin.
- (5) If a historic connection exists to a parochial Antecedent association, an MRA branch should provide event forecasts and Branch updates to the committees of the Antecedent associations as requested and as appropriate.
- (6) Inform the MRA Secretary of any ex-member of the Mercian Regiment or former Regiments who may be in need of Regimental Benevolence or welfare assistance.
- (7) Parade their Branch Standard on Remembrance Day and at other appropriate occasions. Any ratified MRA branch is entitled to carry the MRA standard. Branchs from Antecedent Associations may also carry the MRA standard.
- (8) Hold an AGM at which Branch Accounts shall be circulated and approved. A copy of the Branch Chairman's report together with the Branch AGM minutes and audited accounts is to be forwarded to the MRA Secretary by 2 weeks before the MRA AGM.
- (9) Notify their members of events and encourage and facilitate attendance.

## **DISCIPLINE**

16. Branch Committees are empowered to expel, suspend or censor any member whose conduct is unbecoming and would discredit the MRA. A member shall have the right to receive a written copy of any complaint and to make representations in response, either in writing or in person to the Branch Committee. The Branch Committee may also refuse membership to any applicant, if it is considered to be in the best interests of the MRA.

## **FUNDS**

17. The Central Fund of the MRA is to be managed by the Treasurer and audited by the auditors appointed by the MRA secretary in accordance with Rules 13b. The purpose of the fund is to defray the general running and management costs of the MRA, such as printing, stationery and postage and to subsidise recognised Mercian Regiment and MRA events, which required the involvement of members of the Association. The Central Funds draws its income from the Mercian Regimental Council as set for the financial year and membership levies.

18. Funds of Antecedent associations are to be managed in accordance with their rules and by-laws. Any funds donated to the MRA from the Antecedent Associations should be transferred to the Mercian Regimental Charity account and will be ring fenced for use solely by the MRA.

19. Branch Funds. Branch Funds are to be administered in accordance with the Rules at 15 b above.

a. An annual financial levy is to be paid to the MRA committee by Branches; the levy is set at £0 per member, this may rise to meet MRA financial needs in the future.

b. Branches can decide what Branch subscription they require from their members but it is suggested that an annual payment should not exceed £15.

c. Members of the MRA are required to pay branches the Branch subscription fee plus the £0 MRA levy by direct debit annually to their branch. Branches are then responsible for transferring the MRA Levy to the central MRA fund. The MRA levy will be reviewed periodically by the MRA committee as and when appropriate.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

20. An Annual General Meeting shall be held after notification of the date, venue and provisional agenda, has been published, with at least six weeks' notice given to all branches for dissemination to members. Normally the AGM is to be held in October. Only general members and MRA committee members are entitled to vote. In the event of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a deciding vote.

21. The AGM is to receive the Annual Report of the MRA committee; the Annual Accounts and conduct any business tabled by members.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES**

22. Amendment(s) to the rules must receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present, who hold voting rights and voting at an AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). A resolution for the amendment(s) to the Rules must be received by the MRA Secretary at least 3 months prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be raised. At this meeting the MRA committee will make a recommendation and ask for a vote, for or against, the recommendation. At least 6 weeks' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the amendment(s) proposed.

## **DISSOLUTION**

23. The Association may be dissolved by a resolution which is passed by two-thirds majority of those present, with voting rights and voting at an EGM convened for the purpose of which at least six weeks' notice shall have been given to MRA Branches. Such a resolution must give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the MRA, provided that, if any property remains after the settlement of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the MRA, but shall be given or transferred to such other Regimental Institutions as agreed by a two-thirds majority of members present.

Capt D Maddock  
MRA Secretary  
Regimental Adjutant