Part VII sets out certain Rules with reference to air-force establishments which must be observed, not only by airmen under sentence, but also by the public by virtue of sections 39–42 of the Prisons Act, 1952, as modified to apply in relation to air-force establishments.

Part VIII contains special rules which apply to air-force corrective training centres which are air-force establishments where airmen who can benefit from it are given air-force and other training which will assist them to become better airmen.

Part IX contains special rules which apply to service detention rooms.

Part X provides for the appointment of visiting officers and defines their duties, which include weekly visits to all air-force prisons, detention barracks and corrective training centres so that airmen under sentence shall have an opportunity to make complaints.

Part XI contains Rules to be observed by commandants and staffs of air-force establishments.

These Rules replace the Rules for Military Detention Barracks and Military Prisons, 1947 (S.R. & O. 1947/1744 (Rev. II, p. 914)) as made applicable to air-force prisons, detention barracks and corrective establishments by an Order of the Secretary of State for Air under section 132 of the Air Force Act, and the Rules for the management of service detention rooms for airmen and airwomen, all of which cease to have effect on the coming into operation of the Air Force Act, 1955. These Rules do not make any substantial changes in the system of administering air-force establishments or the treatment, discipline and control of airmen under sentence.

1956 No. 560

The Field Punishment (Air Force) Rules, 1956

Made - - - -	11*th April*, 1956
Laid before Parliament	19*th April*, 1956
Coming into Operation	1*st January*, 1957

The Secretary of State for Air, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 73 of the Air Force Act, 1955(**a**), and of all other powers him enabling, hereby makes the following Rules:—

Citation and Commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Field Punishment (Air Force) Rules, 1956, and shall come into operation on the first day of January, 1957.

Interpretation

2.—(1) The Interpretation Act, 1889(**b**) shall apply for the interpretation of these Rules as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(2) In these Rules, except where the context otherwise requires, "offender" means a person subject to air force law who has been awarded field punishment by sentence of a court-martial or by a commanding officer under Part II of the Air Force Act, 1955; "personal restraint" means restraint by handcuffs; and other expressions have the same meanings as they have in the Air Force Act, 1955.

(**a**) 3 & 4 Eliz. 2. c. 19. (**b**) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

Places where field punishment may be carried out

3. An offender shall undergo field punishment with the unit to which he belongs or to which he is for the time being attached:

Provided that where the officer commanding any formation or body of the air force, or any command or other area, (not being below the rank of air commodore or corresponding rank) has appointed an officer to supervise the carrying out of field punishment, the offender may be required to undergo the whole or any part of his punishment elsewhere under the supervision of that officer.

Nature of field punishment

4. The punishments which an offender shall be liable to undergo are as follows:—

(*a*) such duties or drills, in addition to those which he might be required to perform if he were not undergoing punishment, and such loss of privileges as may be directed by the commanding officer or the officer appointed to supervise the carrying out of field punishment, as the case may be;

(*b*) confinement in such place and such manner as may be directed by the commanding officer or any such officer as aforesaid, as the case may be,

but so that an offender shall not be subjected to any treatment to which he could not be subjected if he were undergoing a sentence of air force detention.

Personal Restraint

5.—(1) An offender may not be placed under personal restraint except—

(*a*) to prevent his escape; or

(*b*) to protect himself or others from injury.

(2) No offender shall be placed under personal restraint except in accordance with the following conditions, namely:—

(*a*) the period for which an offender may be kept continuously under personal restraint shall not exceed 24 hours; and

(*b*) handcuffs shall not be placed with the hands of the offender behind his body unless it is necessary by reason of his violence.

Nigel Birch,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Air Ministry,
11*th April*, 1956.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This Note does not form part of the Rules, but is intended to indicate their general purport.*)

1. These Rules are made by the Secretary of State for Air under section 73 of the Air Force Act, 1955.

2. Rule 3 provides for the places where field punishment may be carried out.

3. Rule 4 makes provision for the kinds of punishment which a person awarded field punishment may be required to undergo and provides that he shall not be subjected to any treatment to which he could not be subjected if he were undergoing a sentence of air force detention.

4. Rule 5 prescribes in which circumstances and upon what conditions such a person may be placed under personal restraint.