

District of Columbia Supplement

Sir Knight Robb Mitchell

Right Eminent Grand Commander

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Perceptions

Go to any recruiter station, for any armed service, of anywhere in the world. The recruiter will invariably be one who has served with distinction, is immaculately dressed in their Class A, full dress uniform, shoes spit polished and medals mirror shined. Everything in its place, and in correct order - they represent the best of their services and it is no accident that they are there, attired in that manner. Crisp and sharp, they instantly send a message of pride and elite standards. You instantly want to be a part of it, and the message is thereby successfully served.

From John Steed (The Avengers) to all the James Bonds, and now, even the Kingsman; clothes maketh the man. Gunnery Sergeant Tom Highway (Heartbreak Ridge) When you start looking like Marines, you start feeling like Marines, and pretty soon, you start acting like Marines - the exact same message, uniquely served.

Now, substitute Knights Templar; for any one of those movie references. By the time you get to the Officer level in your Commanderies, you should have been building your full sets of uniforms (Class A and Summer). And, as Gunny Highway points out, from looking the part, you begin to feel the part and eventually be the part.

Furthermore, you set the tone and tenor for those you mean to lead, by your example. That's the very definition of leadership. This is the core of thinking on the subject since the beginning of recorded history - unit cohesion. Train together, grow together, wear the same uniform and work as a

unit, together. You instantly recognize and understand the function and distinction of ANY uniformed service, from the police to the military, to firemen. But it is so expensive!

Be creative. You can go to any US Military surplus store and find a full CPO uniform for less than \$100.00 (I paid \$60.00 for a brand new one and another \$30.00 to a tailor to fit it). I bought my swords online in an auction - less than \$200.00 for 3 named swords. We have been able to purchase swords, shoes, and other paraphernalia, inexpensively.

Over a reasonably short period of time, most of you can easily build your uniform sets, inexpensively. As you advance in rank, the insignias and designations can be handed down to your successors - you won't need them. As with the jewels of the office, which can belong to the Commanderies, rank insignia can also be passed on. Simply use Velcro to attach them to your uniforms until you achieve a point where you wish to make it permanent. In a normal rotation, you serve an office for one year and ideally advance to another level, with different insignia and jewels of office.

Be creative and innovative while, at the same time serving as an example for your Companions and Junior Officers, as well as to those looking in. Create that Unit Cohesion that marks us as an elite service unit and body, as any uniformed body is. Clothes DO make the man and never doubt that it influences, inspires and invites others to be a part of it.

In the Service of Christ,

JK Douglas N. Cohen

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander

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Templar of the District of Columbia

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