

STARFLEET MARINE
CORPS

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**DRESS MESS
MANUAL**

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Revision 2010

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STARFLEET MARINE CORPS

Dress Mess Manual

2010 EDITION



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Sources

Material in this manual was taken or adapted from the following sources:

Bartlett, Col. M., Hdqtrs USMC, A Marine Corps Mess Night (http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/Historical/Customes_Traditions/Mess_Night.htm)

United States Military Academy, Guide to Military Dining-In

USAREC Pamphlet 600-15, Dining-In and Dining-Out Handbook, United States Army Recruiting Command

www.wikipedia.org

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SECTION 1 - Introduction

Greetings and welcome to the SFMC Mess Night Manual. This manual is intended to provide you with the guidelines and expectations to be found when hosting or attending a Mess Night hosted by the SFMC or its subordinate units.

This manual is written so as to place the Mess within the frame of the 24th Century SFMC and not the present day. However, certain changes have been made from the traditional Mess Night scripts in an effort to meet the constraints placed upon us in attempting to host this type of event without full access to a kitchen and service staff under our control (i.e., the beef is not paraded, the courses are not traditional, nor are they served separately with the proper introductions).

This manual is intended to honor those who have gone before us and who have served in the militaries of the world. Just because we are unable to properly carry out the original and traditional Mess Nights of the USMC or the British Regiments, does not mean that we intend to belittle their traditions or their sacrifices. We are simply operating in the reality of the resources and options available to us.

1.1 Origin

The SFMC Mess Night has its roots buried deep in the traditions of the 20th Century militaries of Earth. Specifically the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom and the United States Marine Corps, although other militaries of the world used a similar concept. Details on the origins of the Mess Night for the Royal Navy and the United States Marine Corps as well as the history of the SFMC Mess Night (from 2100 to 2261) can be found in Appendix A of this manual.

1.2 Concept

The Mess Night or dining-in is a formal dinner for members of a military organization or unit. It provides an occasion for officers to meet socially at a formal military function. The purpose of a Mess Night or dining-in is to recognize individual and/or unit achievements or any events that are effective in building and maintaining esprit de corps to include saying farewell to departing officers and welcoming new ones. A Mess Night or dining-in may also be held to honor one or more distinguished visitors. It is important to emphasize that a Mess Night or dining-in should be viewed as a manifestation of association rather than a mandatory formation for all parties.

SECTION 2 - Considerations and Procedures For Hosting A Mess Night

2.1 Overall Planning Considerations

The Mess Night should have some distinct purpose. This might be a spring or fall social event or for any other appropriate reason. The purpose will have a definite impact on determining the conduct of the Mess Night. If, for example, the purpose is to honor a foreign dignitary, the sequence of the Mess Night would be substantially different from a Mess Night that involves the presentation of unit or individual awards. Whatever the purpose, the presiding officer of the Mess, usually the commander or his deputy, has a great deal of latitude as to how the proceedings are conducted. Contained herein are general guidelines for various types of Mess Night with specific points of protocol given as applicable. After reviewing the following planning considerations it is anticipated that one will obtain a more complete insight as to committee functions and corresponding organization.

2.1.1 Organization

The first and foremost key to successful execution is organization. While one man could conceivably accomplish all preparations for a Mess Night, normal duties may hinder him from doing his best. For this reason, it is recommended that a committee be formed and tasked with organizing and executing the Mess Night. If duties permit, the committee will vary depending on the purpose of the affair, the extent of formality sought, and the number of individuals available to serve on the committee.

2.1.2 Date and Place

Before listing specifics, it must be determined, in conjunction with/by the presiding officer, exactly when and where the Mess Night will take place. Though some general guidance may have been given earlier (i.e., spring or fall), a specific date and place must be found before planning can continue. The best time is often a Friday or Saturday night. Special care should be taken to ensure that the Mess Night is not scheduled too close to some other social event that might detract from its effectiveness.

2.2 Specific Considerations

2.2.1 Invitations

The Mess Night is always a formal affair for all officers and enlisted, male and female, in the unit and invitations are extended accordingly. All unit personnel invited are expected to attend unless cogent reasons prohibit. Spouses are usually invited to attend a Mess Night. Though there is no definitive rule for or against spouses attending, it must be recognized that some of the military formality may be lost. Inviting spouses, however, to a Mess Night is an effective way to provide the spouses greater understanding and appreciation for the SFMC and unit customs and traditions.

It is proper to extend invitations to key civilians, of the unit, should the presiding officer desire. Depending on the purpose of the Mess Night, invitations might be extended to other persons outside the unit. If an important guest lecturer or foreign dignitary is going to be present, it may be advisable to invite his counterpart, Unit associate, or person(s) who speaks his language. A guest invited as a lecturer should receive an invitation from the presiding officer which includes a fairly precise idea of what he can expect and what is required of him, i.e., a 20-minute speech on the history of the unit. Invitations should be formally extended in sufficient time to elicit a response but not too far in advance as to preclude the guest/member from knowing if he can attend. This time will vary depending on location, but normally two months preceding the event is sufficient. The RSVP date of the invitation should be at least one week prior to the Mess Night. Guests should respond to the invitation within 72 hours of its receipt.

2.2.2 Menu

The food served at Mess Night should be of the best quality, be expertly prepared and be served in an efficient and timely manner. The dinner may consist of three to seven courses depending on the number of people involved, facilities, and expense deemed appropriate.

2.2.3 Table Arrangements and Seating

The number of people attending, coupled with the facility in which the Mess Night is being conducted, will largely determine the table arrangement. The number of tables, as well as seating at the tables, may require adjustments as the Mess Night nears. While the Unit strength plus the number of invited guests will suffice for an early planning figure, persons who regret must be considered.

Tables may be round, square, or rectangular and be in any formation, for example, a "T" or "Horseshoe." Regardless of the configuration, the tables at each of the cardinal points are of primary importance, and the proper seating at those points is a primary concern and a proper consideration must be given to avoid embarrassment.

Neat, easily understood, properly oriented, seating diagrams are required and should be prominently displayed in the cocktail area or foyer of the dining room. Seating diagrams should be constructed to indicate assignment to a specific table or to a designated place at a specific table. One or more copies of the seating diagram may be required based on the number of attendees, entrances to the dining area, etc. Place cards are used as manner of convenience in seating guests and should always be placed at the head table. Use of place cards at other tables is desirable but not required if there is no particular protocol precedence.

Generally, there should not be vacant seats at a formal dinner. In the event of last minute cancellations the entire place setting should be removed from the table.

2.2.4 Toasts

Toasts are considered a mandatory part of any Mess Night. The format of toasts will vary depending primarily on the purpose of the dining-in. It is important to make the proper toast in terms of both proposing the toast and responding to it, particularly if foreign dignitaries, and hence diplomatic protocol, are involved.

2.2.5 Program Planning

The Mess Night is generally divided into formal and informal sessions. Pre- and post-dinner activities are usually informal and optional. While actually not a mandatory portion of the Mess Night, pre- and post-dinner activities are certainly a consideration, as a need exists for a smooth, yet distinct, transition between the informal and formal sessions.

The pre-dinner activity is a means of providing flexibility to the Mess Night as it gives the presiding officer the opportunity to circulate among the guests, enables the Mess Night committee to pass on any last-minute changes, and generally lends to a more congenial atmosphere among all participants. The pre-dinner activity is often a cocktail period and is conducted in an area separate from the dining room. The length of the period varies, but is seldom longer than 30 minutes.

The formal portion of the Mess Night, in addition to the dinner, usually consists of remarks by the presiding officer and one event such as an awards convocation for members or guests, a hail and farewell, remarks highlighting the importance of a special occasion, or a lecture by a distinguished visitor. This event should be meaningful, well organized, and be the "highlight" of the evening's formal activity. Particular care should be taken to insure that only one event is stressed. If it is an awards ceremony, it should be rehearsed so that all participants know what is expected of them. If it is a lecture, it should be relevant and the proper equipment (rostrum and amplification systems) should be provided as appropriate.

It is essential that the key participants in the program (i.e., the color guard, chaplain, presiding officer and guest speaker) are knowledgeable of the role they will play and are aware of the exact sequence of events.

Once the dinner is adjourned the Mess Night may revert to some informal session. Customarily, the presiding officer invites the attendees to join him for an informal drink at the bar. Attendees might also be invited to participate in other on-going entertainment as appropriate.

2.2.6 Limericks

In certain messes, the tradition of chiding or poking good-natured fun at fellow members of the mess through limericks and ditties is practiced. This is a form of self-generated entertainment during the dinner hour and serves to enhance camaraderie and unit or section esprit while remembering the formality of the occasion. The procedure normally followed by a member who wishes to propose a limerick is to first receive permission by Mr. Vice, then present the limerick to the assembled mess. If the humor of the limerick or ditty is not readily apparent to all members and guests of the mess, a brief explanation should be offered so all present can share in the wit. The group or person referenced in the limerick is bound by honor to refute the remark prior to the close of the dinner hour, least all present believe the remark to be true.

An example of a limerick to a recruiting station that lost a sporting challenge to another station might be, "Your ability to shoot baskets is worse than someone in a casket."

Limericks or ditties can be posed by a member of the mess to another regardless of rank. Items of personal or unit sensitivity, those which might cause embarrassment, and, of course, those detrimental to the junior's career are never proposed. It is imperative all members of the mess remember the formality of the evening and the purpose behind limericks. Personal vendettas, attacks upon notable or sacred institutions, politics, and matters of the heart are never in good taste. Remember, a limerick should be witty to all, elicit a response from the "attackee," be in good fun and taste, and not cause the proper or recipient undue embarrassment.

SECTION 3 - Requirements

3.1 Who can Host an SFMC Mess Night?

Any unit of the SFMC, from Marine Strike Group up to the Corps itself can host an SFMC Mess Night following the basic guidelines set forth in this Manual. Although this manual is written as if the SFMC were the host unit, it can be scaled down and adapted for any size subdivision of the SFMC.

3.2 Attire

Attire is important in this situation, as the Mess Night is a formal event meant to honor those who have gone before and to celebrate the SFMC and its predecessor services.

Attire for SFMC Mess Nights is Full Dress Uniform (Dress Black, Mess Black or Mess White), with all accoutrements as authorized by the current Marine Force Manual, or the Starfleet equivalent. While there will be no formal inspection of uniforms at the event, insignia and accoutrements worn incorrectly may result in a violation of the Mess. If an attendee at the Mess Night does not have the proper uniform, they should wear proper and equivalent civilian attire (jacket and tie for the gentlemen and dresses for the ladies).

3.3 Guest(s) of Honor

Every Mess Night includes a(n) Guest(s) of Honor. This Guest can be anyone the host unit cares to invite to their Mess Night and is afforded a place of honor at the Head Table, seated to the right of the President of the Mess.

Suggestions for possible Guests of Honor could be: Brigade OIC (if host unit a Battalion or lower); a member of the SFMC General Staff; the Regional Coordinator or regional Staff member for the host Region; a Marine or STARFLEET member of particular distinction; or a notable civilian dignitary. The Guest of Honor is left entirely to the discretion of the host Unit and the President of the Mess. It is of utmost importance that any and all past Commandants of the SFMC be recognized as Guest(s) of Honor at any Mess Night they attend and be seated appropriately at one of the cardinal tables. (This includes any Commandants still eligible for active duty, regardless of their current standing with the organization).

SECTION 4 - Rules and Protocols

4.1 Cardinal Tables

The persons seated at the Cardinal Table, including their spouses, in order of seniority for the SFMC Mess Night consist of the following:

North	West	East	South
President	Ambassador	Oracle	Ensign (Goat)
Commandant	FORCECOM	TRACOM	Deputy
Honored Guest	Honored Guest	Honored Guest	Commandant
Past Commandant	Past Commandant	Past Commandant	INFOCOM
Ranking Enlisted	Host MSG OIC	Host Battalion OIC	Past Commandant
			Host Brigade OIC

4.1.1 Seating

The remaining attendees of the SFMC Mess Night are seated at tables between the cardinal tables and the Center - Sword Table, before the Head Table. Remaining attendees are seated (with spouses) by rank (highest to lowest) moving from the (stage) right to the (stage) left of the North table. SFMC Officers and Enlisted are seated ahead of any Starfleet officers and enlisted as the SFMC is the Host for this event.

4.1.2 President and Ensign of the Mess

The President of the Mess is the Officer in Charge (Commanding Officer) of the host unit for the mess night. In the case of the Mess Night hosted at the International Muster/International Conference, the host unit is the SFMC. Therefore the President of the Mess for that event is the Commandant of the SFMC. The President of the Mess is charged with serving as Presiding Officer over the evening and to make sure the mess is conducted properly. The President of the Mess is also responsible for giving permission, when requested, to leave the Mess for any reason.

The Ensign of the Mess is, usually, the junior most officer present. However, the President of the Mess may appoint anyone (officer or enlisted) to serve as the Ensign of the Mess. The Ensign of the Mess (Mr. Ensign (or Goat)) is charged with acting as Master of ceremonies and Sergeant at Arms for enforcement of the Mess Rules and Protocol.

4.1.3 Conduct During the Mess

Persons attending the mess should be aware that their conduct and appearance is of the utmost importance. Violations of the Mess (violations of protocol) are punishable by Mr. Ensign by the assigning of "Hacks" as designated below.

Violations of the formal etiquette of the dining in are "punished", generally with "Hacks". The following are considered "Violations of the Mess" and punishable by Mr. Ensign:

1. Untimely arrival at proceedings.
2. Smoking at the table before the lighting of the smoking lamp, where smoking might be permitted.
3. Bringing in (or causing to have) any outside food or beverages.
4. Haggling over date of rank.
5. Wearing improper uniform (incorrect ribbons, devices, accoutrements, incorrect uniform for the event, etc...)-May be hacked for each violation, at the discretion of Mr. Ensign.
6. Loud and obtrusive remarks in a foreign language.
7. Improper toasting procedure.
8. Leaving the dining room without permission from the President of the Mess.
9. Foul or excessively loud language.
10. Toasting with an uncharged glass.
11. Wearing a clip-on tie that is obviously worn incorrectly.
12. Rising to applaud particularly witty, succinct, sarcastic, or relevant toasts, unless following the example of the President.
13. Haggling over penalties or fines imposed.

Fines for Violations Etiquette during a Mess Night will range from one to five Hacks.

At the end of the night, the Marine with the most Hacks will become the new Goat. This can and should carry with it one of the following consequences, announced by the President of the Mess before the night begins. The President of the Mess is also free to choose another consequence which is APPROPRIATE to the event and environment, upon their authority as the presiding officer of that Mess.

1. To serve as the Ensign of the Mess' personal assistant for the rest of the Event (convention, conference, etc.).
2. To serve as the Ensign of the Mess for the next year's Mess.
3. To re-enact the tale of the Midshipman's shoe in detail.
4. Other consequences as detailed by the President of the Mess.

SECTION 5 - Sample Mess Night Script

Scenario: a Mess Night arranged by Headquarters, held at the International Muster, Unit guidons (if present) line the wall of the dining hall, while the colors of the Corps and all present Brigade guidons are arranged behind the head table along with the flags of the United Federation of Planets and STARFLEET. The anteroom is decorated with enlarged photographs of the colorful history of the Corps (if available), as well as the Wall of Honor, and with captured weaponry (where available) brought home from Operations around the Galaxy.

1800: The guests are all in the anteroom, and those desiring refreshments have them in hand.

1805: The commanding officer of the host Brigade arrives.

1810: The guests of the mess arrive; sponsors greet them and see to their liquid refreshments.

1815: The guest(s) of honor arrives, to be greeted by both the President of the Mess (Highest Commanding Officer) and the Ensign of the Mess. The Ensign of the Mess sees to the liquid refreshments for both the guest of honor and the President of the Mess.

1850: A steward sounds "six bells." Those attendees and guests desiring to avail themselves of the bathroom facilities do so before the beginning of the dinner.

1900: A bugler sounds "adjutants' call" and the band plays "Main/Title Theme from Star Trek: The Original Series." The members of the mess and guests, less those seated at the head table, proceed into the dining room, find their seats and stand behind their chairs. The band strikes up "Enterprise Clears Moorings" from the Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan Soundtrack and those seated at the head table proceed into the dining room and position themselves behind their assigned chair.

Seating is as described in Section 4.

Ensign of the Mess: "Sir, all officers present."

President of the Mess: "Mr. Ambassador, you shall introduce our Honored Guests."

Ambassador of the Mess: "Thank you Mr. President, it is my great honor to introduce our Guests this Evening."

Then in order the Ambassador will introduce the Honored Guests, as this is a Corps level Mess, he will begin with the Past Commandant's not currently serving on the General Staff, with their Spouses, in order of Precedent of Service. Followed will be any other Honored Guest, and their spouses, followed by the Host Brigade OIC, the Host Battalion OIC, the Host MSG OIC (as appropriate), and finally by the Ranking Enlisted Present.

President of the Mess: "Mr. Oracle, you shall give the first Chosen Word" Oracle of the Mess: "Thank you Mr. President, the Chosen Word for this meal is "Under the watchful eye of the Great Bird of the Galaxy, we accept this repast to prepare us for Battle"

President of the Mess: "Seats."

The Salad/Appetizer is served to all present.

Upon completion, Salad/Appetizer plates are removed and before Main Course is served: The "Sword" is paraded. The "Sword" shall be a representation of the Host Units battles defending the Federation. It can be anything from a Battleth, to a Model of a Starship to a Book of Wisdom.

President of the Mess: "Mr. Ensign, parade the "Sword"

Ensign of the Mess: "Escorts, collect the "Sword"

The junior most Marine Officer present, and the junior most Marine Enlisted present, will retire to the anteroom, and collect the "Sword" and parade it into the Dining Room, proceeding FIRST to the President, then once around to the right to the Ambassador, then around to the right to the Oracle, then around to the left to the Ensign. At each point, they will stop, present the "Sword" and await the officer at that point,

to Salute (uncovered) the Sword. After the Ensign of the mess has saluted the "Sword", the escorts will take same to the center table, placing it appropriately upon the table, and then pouring each other a drink of water.

The President of the Mess rises and takes his glass of Water, and all active duty members follow.

President of the Mess: "Mr. Oracle, you shall give as our first toast, the second Chosen Word."

Oracle of the Mess: "Thank you Mr. President, the Chosen Word for this toast is "Remember those who went before us, and those who did not return"

The Main course is then served.

Upon completion, Main Course plates are removed and Dessert is served.

Upon completion, Dessert plates are removed.

Upon a signal from the Ensign of the Mess (taping silver against glass, etc...) everyone charges their glass with their drink of choice.

Toasts are made as follows:

The President of the Mess fills his second glass from the Flagon of the Green

President of the Mess: "Mister Ensign, (Honor the Honored Guest(s))."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, (Honored Guest(s))."

Mess Attendees and guests stand (and remain standing for all toasts)

Mess Attendees: "(Honored Guest(s))" Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

The Ambassador of the Mess fills his second glass from the Flagon of the Red

Ambassador: "Mister President, The United Federation of Planets."

President of the Mess: "Mister Ensign, The United Federation of Planets."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, The United Federation of Planets."

Band: plays "UFP Anthem."

Mess Attendees: "The United Federation of Planets." Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

The Oracle of the Mess fills his second glass from the Flagon of the Blue.

Oracle: "Mister President, the Commander, STARFLEET."

President of the Mess: "Mister Ensign, the Commander, STARFLEET."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commander, STARFLEET."

Mess Attendees: "The Commander, STARFLEET." Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

The Ensign of the Mess fills his second glass from the Flagon of the Gold

Ensign: "Mister President, the STARFLEET Marine Corps."

President of the Mess: "Mister Ensign, the STARFLEET Marine Corps."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the STARFLEET Marine Corps."

Mess Attendees: "The STARFLEET Marine Corps" Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

President of the Mess: "Be seated."

At this juncture, toasts must be rendered to each branch of the UFP Armed Forces (Spec Ops, Rangers, etc..., if a member of that branch is present.

Decanters of Fortitudine Punch and non-alcoholic substitute (recipe for this drink may be found in Appendix B of this manual) and glasses are passed out and everyone charges their glass. The President of the Mess pours for the Guest(s) of Honor, and then passes the decanters to the left. At the other tables, decanters of Punch (and non-alcoholic substitute) are passed counterclockwise.

COFORCECOM: "Sir, permission to address the mess."

President of the Mess: "Granted."

COFORCECOM: "In 2347, the 24th Brigade deployed to Setlik III and became one of the Infantry Brigades in the 8th Division, STARFLEET Marines, assigned to retake that planet from the Cardassians. In the next year and a half, it participated in numerous campaigns. Members of the Brigade earned three Gold Nebulas and 8 Silver Nebulas; one out of every two Marines suffered wounds. Their sacrifice, and all sacrifices made by Marines, should be remembered."

[NOTE]: This is the standard Toast to be used when the SFMC is the Mess Night Host. This toast could be modified for individual Brigades if they so chose as long as the intent of the toast remains intact.]

President of the Mess: "Mister Ensign, the Brigade."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the 24th Brigade."

Mess Attendees: "The 24th Brigade" followed by a sip of punch.

1950: President of the Mess: "I would like to take this opportunity to announce the recipients of this year's SFMC Honor Award recipients (or the STARFLEET Cross recipients, depending which is decided to announce). The recipients are: List the award recipients here. Certificates will be presented tomorrow morning (or whenever the STARFLEET Awards are to be presented) (Or may be picked up this evening or anytime this weekend, if the SF Cross awards are announced)."

President of the Mess: " Ensign, the SFMC Honor Awardees (or STARFLEET Cross Honorees)."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the SFMC Honor Awardees (or STARFLEET Cross Honorees)."

Mess Attendees and guests stand

Mess Attendees: "The SFMC Honor Awardees (or STARFLEET Cross Honorees)." Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

1955: President of the Mess: "Mr. Ensign, you are directed to announce the New Goat of the Mess, so I may direct their Consequence."

The Ensign of the Mess will then tabulate the Hacks for the evening and turn to the President of the mess.

Ensign of the Mess: "Mr. President, after careful consideration, the new Goat of the Mess is _____

Named member will then stand and turn to the President of the Mess

President of the Mess: "Mr/Ms _____, you have been determined after consideration to be the New Goat of the Mess, your consequence will be _____."

2000: President of the Mess: "Thank you all for coming, I hope you have enjoyed yourselves. This Mess is adjourned, please join me for the Opening Ceremonies of the STARFLEET 20_____ International Conference (or whatever conference this Mess Night is conducted at) and then at the bar."

SECTION 6 - Field Mess

There comes a time when a celebration is called for, but your unit is on deployment or otherwise unable to set up a formal event such as that outlined for the SFMC Dress Mess as outlined in this manual. When that situation presents itself, there is this alternative, the Field Mess. The Field Mess is a less formal, less protocol oriented version of the Dress Mess, specially adapted for use in the field by Marines and units on deployment. The Field Mess is also much shorter than the Dress Mess, due in large part to the fact that the unit may need to repel attacks or other urgent matters may need to be addressed.

In order to host or attend a Field Mess, observe the following changes to the protocols and requirements for the Dress Mess, if no changes are listed, then the requirements and protocols for a Dress Mess will still apply:

6.1 Attire

Obviously, the Field Mess will not be a formal event. With that in mind, attire for a Field Mess should be appropriate to the setting. This usually means that Class B and/or Class C uniforms are appropriate. Comparable civilian attire is also appropriate, if approved by the Hosting unit and President of the Mess.

6.2 Guest(s) of Honor

A Field Mess should still have a Guest of Honor. Suggestions include a Marine recently honored for bravery or some other action related to the unit's deployment, the Commander of the Host unit's higher headquarters or others in the Chain of Command, or even a member of the Unit who may be retiring from the Corps in the near future.

6.3 Menu

Depending upon your unit's current deployment and location, the menu will vary for any Field Mess you host or attend. The food should be as good as possible, but nothing that would jeopardize the unit or the attendees in a combat or field environment.

6.4 Table Arrangements and Seating

Obviously, in a field setting, tables may not be available to be set up in a formation that allows the seating of guests by rank as in a formal Dress Mess. However, every effort should be made to provide a head table and seating for the senior guests and the Guest of Honor.

6.5 Conduct During the Mess

In a less formal setting like the Field Mess, hacks and other protocol violations are less likely, but can still be given and accrued as directed by the President of the Mess.

6.6 Sample Field Mess Script

Scenario: A Field Mess arranged by a Brigade on Maneuvers, Unit guidons (if present) line the area of the Mess, while the colors of the Corps and all present Brigade guidons are arranged behind the head table along with the flags of the United Federation of Planets and STARFLEET.

1800: The commanding officer of the host Brigade arrives.

1805: The guests of the mess arrive; sponsors greet them and see to their liquid refreshments.

1810: The guest(s) of honor arrives, to be greeted by both the President of the Mess (Highest Commanding Officer) and the Ensign of the Mess. The Ensign of the Mess sees to the liquid refreshments for both the guest of honor and the President of the Mess.

1850: A steward sounds "six bells." Those attendees and guests desiring to avail themselves of the bathroom facilities do so before the beginning of the dinner.

1900: A bugler sounds "adjutants' call." The members of the mess and guests, less those seated at the head table, proceed into the dining area, find their seats and stand behind their chairs. The bugler sounds "Officer's Call" and those seated at the head table proceed into the dining area and position themselves behind their assigned chair.

Seating is as described in Section 4.

Ensign of the Mess: "Sir, all guests present."

President of the Mess: "Thank you Ensign, it is my great honor to introduce our Guests this Evening."

Then in order the President will introduce the Honored Guests, in order of Precedent of Service. Followed by the Host Brigade OIC, the Host Battalion OIC, the Host MSG OIC (as appropriate), and finally by the Ranking Enlisted Present.

President of the Mess: "The Chosen Word for this meal is "Under the watchful eye of the Great Bird of the Galaxy, we accept this repast to prepare us for Battle"

President of the Mess: "Seats."

The Meal is served to all present. Upon completion of the meal:

President of the Mess: A toast "Remember those who went before us, and those who did not return"

Dessert is served. Upon completion, Dessert plates are removed.

Upon a signal from the Ensign of the Mess (taping silver against glass, etc...) everyone charges their glass with their drink of choice.

Toasts are made as follows:

President of the Mess: "Mister Ensign, the toasts."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, (Honored Guest(s))."

Mess Attendees and guests stand (and remain standing for all toasts)

Mess Attendees: "(Honored Guest(s))" Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, The United Federation of Planets."

Mess Attendees: "The United Federation of Planets." Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

Ensign of the Mess: "Mister President, the Commander, STARFLEET."

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commander, STARFLEET."

Mess Attendees: "The Commander, STARFLEET." Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

Ensign of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the STARFLEET Marine Corps."

Mess Attendees: "The STARFLEET Marine Corps" Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

President of the Mess: "Be seated."

Decanters of Fortitudine Punch and non-alcoholic substitute (recipe for this drink may be found in Appendix B of this manual) and glasses are passed out and everyone charges their glass. The President of the Mess pours for the Guest(s) of Honor, and then passes the decanters to the left. At the other tables, decanters of Punch (and non-alcoholic substitute) are passed counterclockwise.

Host Brigade OIC: "Mr. President, Permission to speak?"

President of the Mess: "Granted."

Host Brigade OIC: "In 2347, the 24th Brigade deployed to Setlik III and became one of the Infantry Brigades in the 8th Division, STARFLEET Marines, assigned to retake that planet from the Cardassians. In the next year and a half, it participated in numerous campaigns. Members of the Brigade earned three Gold Nebulas and 8 Silver Nebulas; one out of every two Marines suffered wounds. Their sacrifice, and all sacrifices made by Marines, should be remembered."

[NOTE: This is the standard Toast to be used when the SFMC is the Mess Night Host. This toast could be modified for individual Brigades if they so chose as long as the intent of the toast remains intact.]

President of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the 24th Brigade."

Mess Attendees: "The 24th Brigade" followed by a sip of punch.

1950: President of the Mess: "I would like to take this opportunity to honor the recipients of this year's [Insert Host Brigade number here] Brigade Valor Award recipients. The recipients are: [List the award recipients here]."

President of the Mess: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the [Insert Host Brigade number here] Brigade Valor Awardees."

Mess Attendees and guests stand

Mess Attendees: "The [Insert Host Brigade number here] Brigade Valor Awardees." Everyone takes a sip of their drink.

1955: President of the Mess: **[If Hacks have been tracked.]** "Mr. Ensign, you are directed to announce the New Goat of the Mess, so I may direct their Consequence."

The Ensign of the Mess will then tabulate the Hacks for the evening and turn to the President of the mess.

Ensign of the Mess: "Mr. President, after careful consideration, the new Goat of the Mess is _____"

Named member will then stand and turn to the President of the Mess

President of the Mess: "Mr/Ms _____, you have been determined after consideration to be the New Goat of the Mess, your consequence will be _____."

2000: President of the Mess: "Thank you all for coming, I hope you have enjoyed yourselves. This Mess is adjourned, please join me at the bar."

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APPENDICES



APPENDIX A - Origins of the Mess Night

A.1 The Customs And Traditions Of The British Army Regimental Mess

To understand the evolution of the Dining-In, one must examine the origin and procedures of the British regimental mess system. It developed and established several lasting customs and traditions that British and American military units still practice today in their formal dining programs.

In the early eighteenth century, there were no barracks for the British soldiers. Upon entering a town, the officers and men were quartered wherever lodging was available. They posted the unit colors at the officers' billet, which became the central meeting place for all officers awaiting orders from their commanders. The fraternal atmosphere that developed from these meetings fostered esprit de corps and camaraderie. The billet became known as the officers' mess.

During the later decades of the eighteenth century, some regiments did not have their own mess. Consequently, many British Officers turned to taverns as their source of communal life. It was not until the nineteenth century that the mess proper became an established part of the British Army.

The regimental mess served many important functions. It was not only a practical method of dining in large units, but it provided an opportunity for the officers to become better acquainted, and it developed a sense of cohesion among the officers of the command. It was also an educational experience for the younger officers. They received training that enabled them to serve as hosts of formal gatherings when they became senior officers. Besides entertaining guests, the formal mess nights served to impress upon the officers the luxuries of life and gentlemanly behavior.

Not all the advice given to the junior officers, however, recommended civil, gentlemanly conduct. Francis Grose, an adjutant of the militia, provides a recommendation for different behavior in his Advice to Officers of the British Army, written in 1782:

If you belong to a mess, eat with it as seldom as possible, to let folks see you want neither money nor credit. And when you do, in order to show that you are used to good living, find fault with every dish that is set on the table, damn the wine, and throw the plates at the mess-man's head ... if you have pewter plates, spin them on the point of your fork, or do some other mischief, to punish the fellow for making you wait.

Subsequent events occurring in the regimental messes indicated that many British officers heeded Grose's advice.

Despite its official purposes, the mess was a constant source of satire and upheaval among the officers of the regiment. Jealousy and bickering often animated the mess. This volatile environment led to practical jokes, horseplay, and on occasions, duels.

An incident that occurred in the 85th Light Infantry mess in the early nineteenth century demonstrates just how turbulent affairs could be among the British officers. The atmosphere among the officers of the regiment became so charged with jealousy and bickering that bitter quarrels, challenges, and fights erupted. Court-martials became the order of the day. To alleviate what soon became an uncontrollable situation, all the regiment's officers were reassigned to other units. The new officers assigned to the 85th Light Infantry became known as the "elegant extracts," a title that later became the regiment's nickname.

Duelling, the ultimate arbitration among gentlemen, was perpetuated by the mess. There were several instances whereby otherwise mild-mannered officers were impelled into a duel by their fellow officers of the mess. Although the regimental commander tried to keep duelling down, he could not police every incident. Occasionally, even he was forced into this gentlemanly code of chivalry. One such incident, involving the 10th Hussars, occurred in 1824. The regiment's colonel, the marquis of Londonderry, ordered a young officer, Cornet Battier, out of the mess for behavior unbecoming an officer. A heated altercation ensued, and the colonel met Battier with pistols. Battier's pistol misfired, and his opponent offered him another chance. Battier declined and left the field of honor. He was later horsewhipped by Sir Henry Hardinge, the marquis's second.

With the repression of dueling in the 1850s, a period of practical joking and horseplay evolved in the British Army. This new form of entertainment soon became an integral part of the regimental mess

system. Because cohesion and brotherhood were considered virtues in the British officers corps, the misfit or nonconformist was quickly identified and became the target of practical jokes. Officers felt duty bound to torment this unfortunate soul with every kind of practical joke imaginable. Common practices included forcing open the door to the victim's quarters, breaking his windows, damaging his furniture, and placing all kinds of strange objects in his bed. In the field, his tent cords were loosened in stormy weather. The poor chap was either driven into conformity or out of the regiment.

At Sandhurst similar practices were believed to be an educational process necessary for developing an iron will in the timorous officer. The "curriculum," administered by noble classmates, included shoveling, a process highlighted by placing the student on a table and striking him with shovels; "ventilating," a procedure, whereby the victim was tied to a ventilator and struck with forks; and blanket-tossing. Another instructional technique included kidnapping the student, stripping him naked, and leaving him on the parade field. It was believed that the educational value of this latter practice would reap great benefits later life. The theory was that anyone who could walk naked into a guardhouse was certainly unlikely to be embarrassed by any future social mishap.

The Sandhurst graduates carried their levity and buffoonery with them into the British Army. Of course, it found its way into the regimental mess. To maintain a certain degree of propriety, yet still allow for some fun, most regiments set aside certain nights for joking, horseplay, and general mayhem. The activities included cockfighting, where two officers were tied together and had to overthrow each other; high cockalorum, where one set of players leaped astride the arched backs of another set in an attempt to overthrow them; wrestling; wall-scaling; and roof-climbing. Other notable events on the mess night agenda included such feats of derring-do as drinking a glass of water while standing on one's head and a version of "Simon Says" where the penalty for failing to follow instructions was the immediate consumption of a glass of liquor. As a matter of honor, the senior officers present felt compelled to join in the revelry.

Although the behavior of the officers in the British regimental mess seems wild enough, it was exceedingly tame when compared with the acts practiced by the Czar's officers in St. Petersburg. There, two officers with loaded pistols were locked away in a dark room. As the officers roamed cautiously about the room, they took turns crying out "Coo Coo," while the other fired in the direction of the sound. It is not known how many Russian pigeons were bagged playing this dangerous game.

Not all events surrounding the regimental mess were lighthearted or dangerous. There were occasions of solemn formality when all officers were expected to act in a highly mature and dignified manner. A breach of such behavior could result in rebuke, challenge, and even court-martial. An example of the severe consequences of inappropriate behavior is an incident that occurred in the regimental mess of the 11th Light Dragoons, later Hussars, in 1840. The inspector-general of cavalry visited the regiment and was invited, along with other foreign guests, to dine in the mess. Although the occasion called for champagne, Capt. John Reynolds, at the request of a guest, ordered a bottle of Moselle and placed it corked on the table. The regimental commander, believing the bottle contained ale, was outraged. To him, such an act was an unpardonable sin. Captain Reynolds was reminded by the regimental commander that "the mess should be conducted like a gentleman's table and not like a tavern or pothouse." Eventually, Reynolds was ordered out of the regiment. His banishment, however, did not terminate the issue. The officers of the regiment received an official reprimand from the commander in chief of the British Army which stated in part that "the rules and regulations of the service require strictly from all officers that they should conduct themselves as ought gentlemen in every situation in which they may be placed."

Although the preceding, incidents and events are amusing, the real legacy of the British regimental mess was its perpetuation of customs and traditions. Many of them are still very much a part of the formal mess procedures in the British and American Armies. Several incidents involving the proposing and drinking of toasts are worthy of a short explanation.

Some British regiments do not drink a toast to the king. This custom arose because "they so distinguished themselves in battle that the king excused them from the symbolic proof of loyalty represented by drinking to his health." In short, they are "above suspicion."

The Royal Navy is allowed to remain seated while toasting the king. This unorthodox procedure resulted from the excruciating pain experienced by the Prince of Wales when he struck his head on the low beam of a ship while standing for a toast. Reportedly, he remarked, "When I'm king, there'll be no such foolishness." When he became king, he made good his promise.

Another interesting British tradition stems from the exploits of the 14th Light Dragoons, later the 14th Hussars. After defeating the French at Vittoria in the Peninsular War, the regiment captured Joseph Bonaparte's personal coach. The most prized treasure taken from the vehicle was the emperor's silver chamber pot, which is still in the regiment's mess. On special occasions, the "unholy grail" is filled with champagne and passed around the dinner table.

In conclusion, the rich tradition of the regimental mess is still alive in the British Army. All regiments hold a mess night regularly; it is comparable to our Dining-In. The Queen's Regulations require all bachelor and unaccompanied officers to attend, unless duly authorized to be absent. Although the regimental commander may specify the dress for the occasion, it is usually the formal dress uniform. The president of the mess committee presides over the mess with the colors, standards, and guidons displayed behind him. Regimental trophies, reliefs, and souvenirs are displayed on a table nearby. Although events are somewhat more civil than those in the past, the evening is still a combination of solemn formality and light-hearted camaraderie.

It is recognized that some of the hazing and games may have been counter productive in the installation of good leadership principles and respect for individual dignity and thus have been mitigated. The gathering of the officers for exchange of banter, professional discussion with guest speakers, and a bonding of the unit leadership should be retained.

A.2 Origins Of The United States Marine Corps Mess Night

The Marine Corps officers' introduction to anything resembling today's mess night came through service at sea. Until 1914, wine messes were part of the wardrooms of the ships of the fleet. When that great prohibitionist moralizer, Josephus Daniels, took up the portfolio of Secretary of the Navy in 1913, he argued that officers should not be granted a privilege denied enlisted Sailors and Marines. While the rum ration, which was later changed to whiskey in 1806, had been a tradition of the Age of Sail, the practice ended in the American Navy in 1862. During the tenure of Secretary John D. Long (1897-1902), the Department of the Navy even prohibited the sale of alcohol to enlisted men at stations ashore. But alcohol continued to be available to officers in their wardroom messes, a privilege that affronted Daniels' egalitarian principles. When no one took the indefatigable and determined Daniels seriously on the matter, he suggested that alcohol and drunkenness prevailed among the officers of the fleet and seriously impaired its efficiency. Daniels grew fond of relating the tale of a young officer who never drank before entering the Navy, where his messmates taught him a fondness for the loathsome habit. Predictably, the young man became a drunkard, and Daniels vowed to end what a later generation would surely call substance abuse.

Now, the specious argument of the Secretary of the Navy found acceptance and received Presidential approval. Thus, the infamous General Order No. 99 prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages aboard the ships of the U.S. Navy came into being and remains in effect to this day. Throughout the fleet in 1914, however, officers expressed outrage. On the battleship Washington, Captain Edward W. Eberle hosted a riotous dinner for his officers, each course of which came doused heavy with some form of an alcoholic beverage. Wardrooms throughout the fleet in 1914 witnessed a variety of "going dry" commemorations, liberally punctuated with witty soliloquies that demeaned the character of the pompous Secretary of the Navy. Sailors and enlisted Marines alike expressed umbrage upon learning that alcoholic beverages were no longer available to them at canteens ashore. Daniels had become increasingly convinced that most disciplinary problems in the naval services resulted from excessive consumption of alcohol.

Prior to Daniels's meddling, formal dinners—probably resembling something like a mess night—occurred infrequently in various wardrooms. Major General George Barnett recalled such an affair while serving in San Francisco in 1897. Barnett had just reported aboard, having caught up with the cruiser in the harbor of Smyrna, and found the evening's entertainment most enjoyable. Perhaps concluding that the new commanding officer of the ship's Marine Detachment thought the elaborate dinner a regular occurrence, a Navy officer admonished Barnett: "We don't do this every night, you know!" Colonel Heinl remembered something like a mess night (but without alcoholic beverages) while serving on the Battleship Idaho as a midshipman in 1936; a fife and drum section marched through "officers' country" playing "The Roast Beef of Old England" to summon the officers to dinner.

Ashore, Marine Corps officers came together in formal dinners at times. 2nd Lt Earl H. "Pete" Ellis recalled a farewell dinner for a group of officers departing Cavite during his first tour in the Philippines in 1902. He estimated that more than 50 officers from both the sea services attended, captured Chinese banners taken during the Boxer Rebellion decorated the dining room and a Filipino orchestra played a mixture of

Spanish love songs and American ragtime melodies. The gathering extended long into the evening as Ellis and the other officers toasted the Marine Corps, the departing officers, and the gallant dead of Samar and Tientsin. Following a similar, celebratory dinner a couple of years before in the islands, Smedley D. Butler—obviously in his cups—serenaded the nearby jungle foliage for the remainder of the night; a future CMC, Ben H. Fuller, thought the spectacle so outrageous that he recorded the incident for his personal papers, labeling it “Butler’s Bawl.”

Even after four decades, General Holland M. Smith remembered the conduct of the officers’ mess in nearby Olongapo and Colonel Lincoln Karmany’s strict compliance to the social niceties of the mess. Senior captains ruled the mess in that halcyon era of tropical campaigning and “a captain in those days was only one step removed from a king,” Smith recalled. “The only time lieutenants were allowed to open their mouths [at dinner] was to put food in.” No stranger in the quest for hedonistic pleasures—he discarded his first wife for a younger model, an act that affronted genteel naval circles of the era—it was Karmany who supposedly muttered, “There may be a few good men who don’t drink, but they’ve got to prove it!”

Formal dinners, or anything resembling today’s mess night might have disappeared altogether given the egalitarian moralizing of Secretary Daniels and the tide of temperance that followed in the 1920s. The Secretary of the Navy extended his unpopular dictum to stations ashore, even into the quarters of the officers.

Shocked and dismayed by the ukase, the socialite wife of the CMC outmaneuvered Daniels with authorization to use liquor in cooking. At the historic home of the Commandants, Mrs. George Barnett—a doyenne of Washington society, well known for her sparkling “repartees spirituelles” at the expense of pretentious politicians—served the Secretary of the Navy and the other guests a dinner they would not likely forget. Grapefruit came first, laced with at least the alcohol content of two cocktails. Soup consisted mostly of sherry, while the terrapin arrived floating in Madeira. Traditional roast beef was followed by rum sherbet, and a salad of champagne frappe. Brandy peaches ended the repast. As Mrs. Barnett recalled the evening in her memoirs, the Senator on her left declined a second helping of dessert with a grave response: “Madam, I just couldn’t eat another drop!”

Formal dinners, consisting of several courses and accompanied by a variety of alcoholic beverages, all but disappeared from Marine Corps circles in the 1920s. John A. Lejeune refused to emulate the lavish social scene of his predecessor, and formal dinners at “Eighth and Eye” became somewhat infrequent and subdued affairs. One disappointed observer, the daughter of Major General Wendell C. Neville, noted tartly that: “The Lejeunes, you know, they never entertained.” By that era, Lejeune had become a teetotaler and his good friend, Smedley D. Butler, a military prohibitionist. The latter officer once served on detached service with the City of Philadelphia as its Commissioner of Public Safety, and undertook a determined program to rid the municipality of vice and demon rum. Later, while at Quantico, Butler threatened to put the tiny municipality adjoining the base “off-limits” unless the city fathers eliminated the bootleggers selling alcohol to his troops. The combination of these temperance attitudes served to dampen any enthusiasm for formal dinners as most observers, like Mrs. Barrett a decade before, could not imagine formal dining without aperitifs and wines.

The introduction to a formal dinner, faintly resembling anything like the Marine Corps mess night, came about through association with British officers in China. While serving as the adjutant of the 4th Marines in Shanghai in 1927, Captain Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., coached the regiment’s swimming team. His counterpart in the Second Battalion Scots Guards invited young Shepherd and his commanding officer, Colonel Henry C. Davis, to a guest night hosted by the officers’ mess of this famous regiment.

General Shepherd remembered an impressive evening. The mess silver sparkled in the light of the handsome candelabra arraigned on a polished table laden with fine crystal and china. During the dinner, the battalion’s pipe major played several traditional highland ballads to the tune of his own wailing on the bagpipes, and a guardsman danced. Although the attending officers drank to the health of King George V with a glass of fine Port, the battalion commander—the President of the Mess—invited the pipe major to join him in a glass of whiskey after the performance. The final toast of the evening was to their famous regiment and its raising by King Charles II in 1662. Both Marines left visibly impressed. The following morning, Colonel Davis summoned his adjutant and instructed him to arrange a similar gathering hosted by the 4th Marines, and to invite the officers of the Scots Guards.

Exchanges such as recalled by General Shepherd continued as the 4th Marines served in China. The

Marines received the musical instruments to accompany a successful mess night, a gift from the American Troop and American Company of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. Sterling Fessenden, the chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, apparently orchestrated the donation in 1927, and the grateful Marines dubbed their new musical group "The Fessenden Fifes." The bandsman of the Green Howards, another British Army regiment in Shanghai, taught the Marine musicians to play the instruments (one base drum, eight side drums, ten fifes and two piccolos). Doubtless the new martial music added an appropriate and enjoyable accompaniment to any mess night hosted by the Marines. But apparently the tradition waned for a while during the 1930s, at least as hosted by the 4th Marines.

Both Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak and Brigadier General Robert H. Williams attended guest nights in the officers' messes of British battalions during their tours in China. General Williams retained images of memorable evenings as guests of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, but failed to mention any such gathering hosted by the 4th Marines. He recalled that while the other officers of the regiment and their guests drank a fine Port after dinner, the colonel and pipe major drank glasses of Scotch whisky—which they downed with a gulp after exchanging a personal toast to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. General Krulak remembered a guest night hosted by the Royal Ulster Rifles:

It was severely formal—marching in by twos, printed menus, three wines, great formality in the areas of introduction of the meat, toasts, recognition of guests, cook, etc.; prohibition against leaving the table or smoking until after the toasts. Once they had left the table, however, the group came completely apart—rough games, furniture destruction, mayhem.

Although the exigencies of World War II set aside further participation with our British cousins, General Shepherd and other "China Marines" never forgot the comradeship and pride fostered by the institution of the mess night. While commanding the 6th Marine Division in training for the invasion of Okinawa, General Shepherd held several mess nights. Following the war, Marine Corps officers serving in the United Kingdom brought home warm memories of the institution fostered by the British officers' mess. Then-Colonel Williams attended the Joint Services Staff College, Chesham and several subsequently as an instructor at the School of Combined Operation, Framington. He returned home an unabashed Anglophile, earning the sobriquet "British Bob" among friends and fellow officers. Colonel Robert D. Heinl, Jr., shared William's love for fostering history and tradition in the British military style. In the fall of 1953, General Shepherd visited the 3rd Marines at their camp at Mount Fuji, Japan. Colonel Williams commanded the regiment, and he entertained the CMC with a mess night conducted in strict compliance with the British tradition. A mess night as a traditional social gathering became codified during the commandancy of General Shepherd (1952-1956).

When General Shepherd asked Colonel Heinl to write a guide for Marine Corps officers, he suggested a section be included on the tradition of the mess night. Probably the first mess night in the form we know today occurred at "Eighth and Eye" in the late summer of 1954. The commanding officer of the barracks, then-Colonel Williams, served as the president of the mess; General Shepherd was the guest of honor. The new tradition flourished and gained in popularity thereafter. In the fall of 1955, General Shepherd held a CMC's mess night in his quarters to formally introduce General Randolph McPate to the officers of the barracks. Then, just before he left office, a group of general officers honored General Shepherd at a mess night at Quantico. The Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and personal friends of General Shepherd attended as well. Colonel Heinl supervised the memorable event, held at Harry Lee Hall.

Brigadier General Williams' essay, "Mess Night," appeared in the pages of the Marine Corps Gazette. Except for minor variations, however, the format for this exceptional event remains wedded to a scenario gleaned from our British cousins. Even the popular tradition of the parading of the beef or main course for approval by the President of the Mess is found in the rich martial traditions of British military lore. The band of the Royal Berkshires always paraded the main course to the thumping of a Russian drum captured during the Crimean War. In more modern times, every young officer received instructions on how to "tell meat." As orderly officer, suitably attired in patrol dress and wearing a sword, he inspected the cookhouse to ensure the meat served to enlisted messes was not spoiled. Thus, the tradition of the Vice President of the Mess as orderly officer, wearing his sword at dinner, emerged as a tradition in some officers' messes in the British Army.

A.3 Mess Night in the SFMC

THIS SECTION TO BE WRITTEN BY THE SFMC HISTORIAN.

APPENDIX B - Drinks

Fortitudine Punch

Fortitudine was the motto of the United States Marine Corps during the early 19th Century; it means strength, fortitude, or even guts. Early Marines received rations of rum, at sea or ashore, but often the amount doled out was diluted with water to avoid drunkenness. Marines of the era preferred instead to dilute the distilled spirit with sugar and fruit as a rum punch.

one-half gallon of dark rum
one pint of peach brandy
two twelve-ounce cans of frozen lemonade concentrate
two quart bottles of club soda
two quart bottles of ginger ale
pour over cracked ice in a glass punch bowl; garnished with
the slices of one orange, one lemon, and two limes

The non-alcoholic equivalent of this drink would be simple fruit punch.

The Flagon of the Clear: Water
The Flagon of the Green: Apple Juice or Terran Whiskey
The Flagon of the Red: Strawberry Juice or Tellarite Tequila
The Flagon of the Blue: Grape Juice or Andorian Ale
The Flagon of the Gold: Pineapple Juice or Saurian Brandy

APPENDIX C

President of the Mess

Sits at the North table.

Presides over the Mess and gives authority to the other three officers of the Mess to conduct their duties. Grants leave to exit the Mess, Gives the Second Toast, and the Fifth Toast.

Vice-President of the Mess

Also known as the Ensign of the Mess (the Goat) and sits at the South table.

Master of Ceremonies of the Mess, Keeps tracks of Hacks (Demerits) acting as Sergeant at Arms of the Mess, Gives the Fourth Toast.

Ambassador of the Mess

Sits at the West table.

Introduces all Guests, Gives the Third Toast

Chaplain of the Mess

Also known as the Oracle of the Mess and sits at the East table.

Gives the Chosen Word and the First Toast.

Before Food "Under the watchful eye of the Great Bird of the Galaxy, we accept this repast to prepare us for Duty"

Before Drinks "Remember those who went before us and those who did not return"

The Beef Center

The Sword

Behind the President is the Flag of the Federation, before him the Flag of Earth, on his table a Flagon of the Green Toast of the Land

Behind the Ambassador is the Flag of the Corps, before him the Flag of Tellar, on his table a Flagon of the Red Toast of Fire

Behind the Oracle is the Flag of the Fleet, before him the Flag of Andor, on his table a Flagon of the Blue Toast of Water

Behind the Ensign, the Ensign of the Host Unit, before him the Flag of Alpha Centauri, on his table a Flagon of the Gold Toast of the Stars.

On the center table, the banner of Vulcan, and the "Beef" some symbol of the Host Unit's Prowess in Battle over the enemies of the Federation, on that table is a Flagon of Pure Water Toast of Peace.

About the SFMC Academy

The Starfleet Marine Corps Academy was established by Commander Starfleet in 2164 when it was determined that Starfleet Academy could no longer adequately meet the needs of both services. The historical home of the United States' Navy and Marine Corps academies, Annapolis, was selected as the new home of the SFMCA. The head of the Academy, known as DCO-Academy, TRACOM, is still headquartered at the main campus in Annapolis. The motto of the SFMCA is "Facta Non Verba" or, in Federation Standard, "Deeds not Words." This is reflected in the more informal academy slogan, "We lead by example... whether we mean to or not." The DCO-Academy, TRACOM reports to the Commanding Officer of the Training Command (COTRACOM) who, in addition to the SFMCA, oversees branch schools, enlisted personnel training, advanced technical schools, and periodic skill re-fresher courses. Most of these courses are held either at one of the SFMCA facilities, or at one of the many training facilities in the New Valley Forge system which is home to TRACOM. These facilities, together with an Oberth-class spacedock serving as TRACOM headquarters, comprise Station Valley Forge. Today, the SFMCA consists of 5 campuses, 8 training worlds, and 42 ranges and field courses throughout the UFP. Together with Station Valley Forge, the SFMCA comprises one of the largest and most advanced military training organizations in the known universe.

