

ELECTION OF NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapters usually nominate new officers in either November or December of every other year depending upon a particular chapter's individual constitution and by-laws. The process usually begins with the selection of a nomination committee by the current commander in the third quarter of the year, prior to the beginning of the next term of office.

The nominating committee should have a good knowledge of the current chapter membership. As you would expect, the officers to be nominated should possess the skills and attributes noted in good leaders. Attention should be paid to special skills and resources of the individual in asking him to serve. It is not required, however, that certain officer positions must be filled with those in that particular profession. For example, the chaplain's position does not require a minister, priest or a rabbi to fill the position.

After a slate of officers has been selected and they have agreed to run for election, the candidates are announced to the membership. During the process of seeking candidates, the general membership should be strongly encouraged to seek office and to run for the position for which they feel most qualified to serve. Each individual running for office, particularly when there is more than one seeking the same office, will be given an opportunity prior to the vote to address the membership stating why he is seeking the office and why he thinks he is the best candidate for the position.

The election is normally held in November or December using Robert's Rules of Order procedures and the formal installation of the new officers is conducted the following January. It is recommended that a Society, Army or National level Officer conduct the Swearing in Ceremony. Once the new officers have been installed, a report must be made to all echelons above the chapter level.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter Officers should be installed in a dignified ceremony that impresses upon them and the members of the importance of their responsibilities. All Chapters are encouraged to possess a Chapter Holy Bible for use in ceremonies and rituals.

The person installing the new Chapter Officers may install the Commander, Lieutenant Commander and Adjutant separately or as a group. Other Chapter Officers shall be installed as a group. The Installing Officer shall ask all to raise their right hand and place their left hand over the Chapter's Holy Bible and repeat after him:

"I, (full name), pledge to support and uphold the Constitution, Bylaws and principles of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars; to carry the responsibility of my office with honor, and to defend the right to Free speech and the heritage we have."

Installing Officer continues:

"By the powers vested in me as (MOS&B title of Installing Officer), I declare you duly installed as (Commander, Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant or Officers of the Order.) We welcome you to your leadership role in the (state Chapter name) Chapter and pledge to you our support."

The Installing Officer will then lead the applause for the newly installed officers.

Note that at all MOS&B functions it is traditional to refer to members by Officer Title or by Compatriot.