



GRAND PUP TENT  
Fertile Hunting Grounds of New Mexico



## MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE Of the United States



*"The Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars"*

General Order Number 1 (2023-2024 Series)

February 12, 2024

1. **ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND:** Under the provisions of Article IV Section 408 of the By-Laws of the Military Order of the Cootie, as amended by the 104<sup>th</sup> Supreme Scratch and dated July 29, 2023; and, having been duly elected at the Grand Scratch on the 1st of June 2023, I, Don Frias, have assumed command of the Grand of New Mexico effective June 2, 2023 for the year 2023-2024.
2. **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:** Grand Officers will wear the white tassels unless he or she has authority to wear a higher rank/grade tassel for the remainder of this year or on a permanent basis. All previously elected and appointed Grand Officers for 2022-2023 are hereby relieved of those duties, those Officers are reminded to ensure they are now wearing the proper tassels on their caps.
3. **GRAND ROSTER:** Any Grand Officer that has an email address not listed on the Grand Roster PLEASE contact the Grand Commander, or Hungry Cootie so the Roster can be updated and to ensure you are included on any email traffic.
4. **PUP TENT INSPECTIONS:** All Pup Tents have been inspected at this time. Lousy job Grand Inspector Eloy Howard.
5. **RENEW AND CHECK:** As we renew the annual memberships of the MOC, make sure the member is either a LIFE VFW member or that they have paid their dues for the year you are renewing them for MOC. Veterans who are not current in their VFW dues are not covered by the no-cost VFW insurance and they are not eligible for full VFW military honors at their funeral.
6. **HELP VFW MEMBERSHIP NOW:** Membership in the VFW is supreme and is the first priority of every Cootie. The more VFW members in a Post who are active workers, the more the Pup Tent has to choose from to invite to be a Cootie. Pup Tents need 9 members to remain viable. Any VFW member who is an *active worker* may, *by invitation*, become a prospective MOC member.
7. **EIN and FILE IRS FORM:** Pup Tents must have a current EIN and file IRS form 990 regardless on the amount of income. No EIN or filing your 990 means you are no longer a Charitable Unit and cannot accept donations.
8. **REPORTS:** Do not wait until the last minute to submit your Hospital Reports. It makes it very frustrating for the Chairmen's to constantly race just before the deadlines to get these reports in to the Supreme Chairmen. Give yourselves just credit for the work you do.
9. **PUP TENT REQUIREMENTS:** Pup Tents are reminded that: reports of audits should be forwarded as soon as the audit is complete; when a Cootie dies, immediately notify the Grand Chaplain and the Grand Quartermaster; bonding of the CCDB is required; and the mail box for membership transmittals is always open, don't delay reports until a special event.

10. **WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:** MOC Grand of New Mexico is part of the VFW Department of New Mexico. We must be VFW first, then MOC. Work with the VFW at Post District and Department to accomplish all VFW goals. We also have a co-organization we work with. The MOCA Grand of New Mexico is here to help us in our programs and work. But we must be there to help them also. Work hand in hand with the MOCA at Pup Tent and Grand level to accomplish all of our goals. If you have trouble or disputes with any of these organizations, bring them up to either the Grand Commander or the Grand Hungry Cootie right away. We will try to see what is the problem and come to a resolution about the problem.
11. **SUPREME COMMANDER'S BOOK:** The MOC Supreme Commander's "Program Book 2023-2024" is included in the *Cootie Courier*. If the Pup Tent Seam Squirrel does not have a copy, call or email Mark Decker, Supreme Adjutant, at [madecker19020@yahoo.com](mailto:madecker19020@yahoo.com) and one will be sent to you, which can be reproduced locally as required.
12. **HELP GRAND OF NEW MEXICO:** Only with your help can we accomplish all the requirements of the Grand. We all need to work hard to preserve the integrity and reputation of the Grand of New Mexico that so many people before us, and with us now, have worked so very hard to earn.
13. **RECRUITING NEW MEMBERES AND RETAINING EXISTING MEMBERS:** You saw the email from Grand Adjutant, Mark Decker, dated February 2, 2024. We need more members in our Pup Tents and the Grand overall. We can and will increase our numbers this year. Our goal is 91 members in the Grand by Grand Convention. Please submit your transmittals as soon as you get them.

**Yours in L.O.T.C.S.**

**Don Frias**

**Grand Commander  
Grand of New Mexico**