

03



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMANDING OFFICERS AND THOSE SERVING UNDER THEM

The Officers handbook 1990 (Third edition) states the following:

There are 4 main classes of officers: -

1. *General Officers*, who are the officers of the army as a whole and may give orders as their duty demands to all regimental officers, they have a duty to the Sealed Knot to control any misbehaviour in public of members of either army;
2. *Field Officers*, (Colonels, Lt Colonels and Majors) whose authority is primarily over their own regiment;
3. *Company or Troop Officers*, (Captains, Lieutenants, Ensigns, Cornets, Guidons and Quartermasters) whose authority is primarily over a particular company or troop of a regiment;
4. *Non-Commissioned Officers*, (Elder Sergeants, Sergeants and Corporals) whose duty is to assist their company or troop officer.

DUTIES REQUIRED OF AN OFFICER:

- Loyalty to the Sealed Knot;
- Obedience to all lawful commands, the rules of the Society and the law of the land;
- Proficiency in drill, weapon training and administration;
- Responsibility for the performance and conduct of the unit or units under his command at all times;
- Consideration for the welfare of his men and the reputation of the Sealed Knot before that of himself at all times;

QUALITIES REQUIRED OF AN OFFICER:

- In appearance, punctuality and the performance of his duty, he will stand as an example to his men.
- Calmness, strictness, geniality, fairness, courtesy, courage and honour are some of the marks of a good officer.

Guidelines to Armie of Parliament

Ranks and explanations:

These are the numbers and types of officers that the Army would expect to see in a unit of 60 combatants (non-combatants not included in this total). This historically is the size of a company, but more commonly represents a Regiment in this Society. It should be noted that although this document describes all of the ranks available and correct within the Armie of Parliament, that a regiment does not need an officer of every rank. Normally rank and

subsequent promotion is given after an individual has proven their ability as a recognition and reward, not before proving their ability to do the job.

Non-commissioned officers

These should be job specific as they work within their speciality:

- File leaders - These form the front rank of a division/block
- Bringers up - These form the rear rank of the division/block
- Half file leaders - These form the midpoint in the file

These positions should be left either as appointments for the relevant battle or as part of a management system that delivers files to the battlefield and a training system to the unit.

Corporal

Stands as the right hand file leader or the left hand bringer up (Historically two to each block). In the Armie of Parliament one Corporal for each division is sufficient.

Sergeant

One per division, so if there is a division of pike and musket then the number needed is two. Some units place the Sergeant inside the block, particularly in pike divisions.

Elder Sergeant

A senior sergeant, recognised as 'top soldier'. An individual who is an exemplary model in knowledge, conduct, attitude, dress and deportment. Similar to the modern CSM. This position need not be used, but if so then only one per Regiment is acceptable.

Commissioned Officers

The established Commissioned ranks acceptable in the Army are as follows:

Ensign

The most junior of regimental officer's equivalent to a 2nd Lieutenant, or a naval rank. Historically this officer should carry the colour into battle. In practice this is the entry level rank for newly commissioned Officers before proving themselves on the road to further achievement. As the first level for a Commission it is normally for an Officer in command of a small Company or assisting an Officer in Command of a much larger body. It is perfectly acceptable for an Officer to Command whilst carrying a Colour. Or for an Officer of Ensign not to be carrying it. There would be an ensign per company historically. The term standard bearer should not be confused with a rank and should be avoided. It can be used as an appointment or as a temporary position at an event.

Lieutenant

Normally in Command of a Company or an unproven Regimental Commander beginning the role and learning the trade.

Captain-Lieutenant

Normally in Command of a large Company or a Regimental Commander in the first years of the role proving their quality.

Captain

Normally of proven ability and in command of a small Regiment or a large Company.

Major

Normally an experienced officer who has delivered numerous large events and in command of a large Regiment or a medium sized one that punches above its weight in event delivery, turnout and performance.

Lieutenant-Colonel

Normally a highly experienced officer with a full proven track record, including Major musters and in Command of a very large Regiment of over 120 or more, that puts a significant and consistent body of troops into the field.

Colonel

Normally an Association Commander in command of numerous successful Regiments or an exceptionally experienced Officer acting as second to a proven Association Commander of Colonel General rank.

Colonel-General

A rank restricted to an Association Commander with a proven track record who has risen through all the preceding ranks with distinction.

Lieutenant-General

A rank that no longer exists in the Armie of Parliament – both previous holders of this rank, as an honour, are accorded Reformado status.

Sergeant Major General

This rank restricted to the second in command of the army. This exceptional individual should be capable of the highest of Command. There is only one SMG in the army at any time, all previous holders of this rank are Reformado.

General

Only previous holders of the Command position of Lord General of the Armie of Parliament can achieve this rank. Former Lord General's upon retirement continue to keep this rank. The rank should never interfere with the current command hierarchy of the Army. They may be called upon by the Lord Protector in extreme circumstances. Currently there are only 5 holders of this rank – LG's; Merchant, Turner, Davies, Stinson & Boyce.

Lord General

The General Officer Commanding the Armie of Parliament. Elected by the Army and appointed by the Board of Directors of the Sealed Knot. This Rank never refers to an individual who happens to be the senior officer commanding 'on the day' of battle.

This Standing Order is issued for the Citty of London Brigade, this daye 22nd February 2016.
By Order.

Jon Courtney-Thompson

Colonel & Officer Commanding Citty of London Brigade

Notes:

- *Lord Protector: The Lord Protector, General A Merchant, is responsible for activating the Committee of Safety in times of emergency. The Lord Protector is the senior surviving ex-LG from the Armie of Parliament. The members of the Committee of Safety include all ex-LG's of the Armie of Parliament.*
- *Gentleman of the Armes: An honour that can be accorded to Officers who have served with distinction in the Army.*
- *Reformado Status: This applies when through re-deployment, or loss of numbers, an officer is left without a command or duties, such officers will be employed as their commander thinks fit and may be required to serve in the ranks if necessary. Similar to a promotion this has to be authorised by the appropriate senior command.*
- *Gentleman Volunteer: This appointment was abolished from the Army during the tenure of LG Turner.*
- *Acting rank normally an individual is made acting, until they prove their ability.*
- *Drummers - historically held the rank of Corporal- unless the Regiment uses drummers in an appropriate Command & Control role then this should be left as an appointment with no rank attached.*
- *Adjutants and other staff officers- are not Command but are Control functions. As such rank should be lower than those in direct Command of troops. Rank is not required or necessary.*