



**Maeng Das Pup Tent 6  
Grand of the Pacific Areas  
Military Order of the Cootie  
Revised August 2021**

“General Guidelines of Policies and Procedures”

## **INTRODUCTION**

The duties and responsibilities for Pup Tent Shavetails are generally defined in Sections 310 thru **325** of the Supreme By-Laws. Secret Signs and Passwords are in the Supreme Ritual. Most Pup Tents have their own “General Guide of Policies and Procedures” of special requirements for conducting Scratches, forbidden activities, uniforms, fines and etc., which may not be found in the “Supreme By-Laws and Rituals” but have been accepted as “Standard Operating Procedures” or “Law” similar to Maeng Das Pup Tent 6.

As Cooties depart and new Cooties join, Policies and Procedures may not get properly passed on resulting in some Shavetails not being sure of their exact responsibilities and new Cooties, in general, not being sure about how they should conduct themselves during Scratches.

This “General Guide of Policies and Procedures” has been accepted, used and updated over a number of years, and therefore considered the “Law” for Pup Tent 6.

## **OBJECTIVES**

A) “The Military Order of the Cootie of the United States was primarily organized as a fun organization, with no valid reason to duplicate the solemn work of our parent organization.” (Ritual Manual)

B) “Clean Fun, harmless frolic, good comradeship and a desire to increase our circle of friends in the V.F.W. and the M.O.C. service to the V.F.W., the **widows** and orphans in our National Home, the hospital program of “Keep ‘Em Smilin’ in Beds of White.” At all times, neat appearance, conduct becoming a Cootie and **Gentleman/Lady**, while in public and at V.F.W. and M.O.C. activities.” “Stay on the beam, heed good advice, keep our organization clean” (Ritual Manual)

## FEES and DUES

- A) Annual Dues for Continuous and Reinstated Members is \$45.00.
- B) Initiation Fee for New Members is \$35.65 (as adopted at our Scratch 15 October 2020). The fee will cover the Cootie Shag, bag, tassels and Pup Tent 6 Cootie Coin (coin will be given once 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree is complete)

## UNIFORMS

- A) The official Cootie Shag with two green tassels, provided as part of the initial ceremony.
- B) The Official Cootie Bug, Official PT6 insignia and a copy of the "Ritual of the Military Order of the Cootie of the United States", as amended by the 91<sup>st</sup> Supreme Scratch, August 25, 2010 is given to each new Cootie upon completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Upon completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, all Cooties present will present a Pin or other Emblem to put on the hat of each new Cootie.

Thereafter the Cootie Uniform as described below should be worn at all official Scratches:

- A) Official Cootie Hat with proper color and Tassels.

(Tassels come in many colors, Section 701 B of the M.O.C. By-Laws. Each indicating present or past positions in the organization) as shown below:

- Cootie – Green.
- District or Area P.T. Officers - Green & White.
- Grand Officers - White.
- P.T. Officer – Black.
- Past District or Area P.T. Officers - Green & White with Black Knob.
- Past Grand Commander - Purple.
- Past Grand Line Officer - White with Black Knob.
- Past P.T. Officers - Green with Black Knob.
- Past S.S - Black & White.
- Past Supreme Commander - Red, White, Gold with Red Knob.
- Past Supreme Council Members - Red with Gold Knob.
- Past Supreme Officers - Red With Black Knob.
- Supreme Appointed Officers - Gold with Black Knob.
- Supreme Commander - Red, White & Gold.
- Supreme Council of Administration Member - Gold.

- B) Official Cootie Shirt with the proper Patches and Eyes. (May be purchased from the C.C.D.B., or tailor made)
- C) Red Socks. Red Socks are required to be worn (in some fashion to display) by all Nits, Graybacks and Cooties at all Official Scratches.
- D) Red under wear (may be worn or in pocket)
- [E] Wearing a Cootie tie, vest, and uniform accessories is optional. (May be purchased from the Cootie Catalog or Custom Made)

**“Cootie Bug”:** A Cootie wearing the uniform need not wear the official “Bug” on the left collar since the shirt has embroidered Cooties. However, since the Cootie Bug is the official issued Membership Emblem, it must be worn at all Scratches, either on the Hat, the Collar or else where on the Uniform. Some Pup Tents require it be worn on the left collar, uniform or not. Before visiting another Pup Tent, check their policy beforehand.

#### **SCRATCHES:**

- A) Regular Scratches are held Quarterly in conjunction with District V quarterly meetings, at a time and place determined by the Pup Tent. The S.S. may call special Scratches of **six** members, in good standing, by letter or e-mail, with a minimum 48 hours notice to all members of subject, time and place.
- B) **Due to Cooties of Pup Tent 6 being located worldwide, Scratches maybe held using online venues (i.e Zoom or Google Meet), Cooties will be given no less than 10 days notice of scheduled Scratches, pending notification of District 5 meetings**
- C) All Scratches are normally opened and conducted in the First Degree.
- D) If there is to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Initiation during the Scratch, the S.S. will place the Scratch in that Degree at the appropriate time.
- E) 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree: All 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scratches are conducted as a Special Scratch called by the S.S.
- F) Social Scratches. From time to time the Pup Tent may vote to hold a Social Scratch. These are normally open to Guests of Cooties. Such Scratches will be officially opened by the S.S. The Order of Business will be dispensed with and no business, secret work, signs or passwords will be used except if the Social is to “Install Officers” in which case the “Original Installation Ceremony” will be used. The Uniform for Social Scratches will be prescribed by the S.S. (Note: “except for the Installation of Officers, no portion of this Ritual, including any Initiation or degree work, shall be conducted in public” Ritual Manual.)
- G) Rights of Nits and Graybacks. Nits and Graybacks in good standing are entitled to second and make motions, discuss motions and vote in the same manner as Cooties but shall not be entitled to hold office in the Pup Tent.

#### **FINES:**

- A) Why the fines? Cooties is a fun organization and as such the operating funds for the Pup Tent are raised primarily at the quarterly Scratches by these fines. They are used to maintain some semblance of decorum but also part of the fun of the Scratches. The levying of fines should be kept to a minimum during the official reading of reports and during ritual parts of initiations. An exception would be “Private Scratches” when a Shavetail is giving an official report. (A few 20'S in your pocket will always come in handy at a Scratch)
- B) Only the Provost Marshall, S.S.and B.B. may levy fines on Cooties for various infractions of Standard Rules or the Rules established by Pup Tent 6 with the following exceptions: If an infraction occurs and is not fined by the Provost Marshall or if the S.S. or B.B. commits an infraction and doesn't fine **themselves** the following is authorized:

B.1) The S.S or B.B. will request to be recognized and then may levy the fine: or

B.2) Any Cootie may request recognition and request permission to speak to the S.S. or B.B. When recognized the Cootie may advise the S.S or B.B. of the infraction and they may then levy an appropriate fine.

C) Without recognition, any Cootie, Nit or Grayback may call the following infractions:

- Killing Cooties. (Foot or Feet flat on the Floor)
- Legs or Feet Crossed
- Tassel at Rest. (Tassel not straight down)

D) The P.M, S.S. and/or B.B.. will levy appropriate fines for the following:

### **Common Offences.**

Don't know the Password.

Don't know the Supreme Third Degree Password

Failure to display the PT Charter properly during the Scratch

Failure to display the proper sign for the Degree or Scratch.

Failure to give a proper salute to the S.S.

Failure to give each new 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Cootie a Pin or other Emblem to put on his hat immediately after the initiation ceremony.

Failure to Have a copy of the Ritual Manual with him.

Failure to Identify himself by his Cootie Number to the S.S.

Improper Tassel Colors on Hat.

Killing Cooties. (Foot or Feet flat on the Floor)

Legs or Feet Crossed

Late for a Scratch.

Leaving the Inner Seams of a Scratch without removing the Degree Sign.

No Cootie Challenge coin (see page 6)

No V.F.W. and or M.O.C. Membership Card.

No V.F.W. or M.O.C. Application Forms with him.

Out of Uniform. (No Official Hat, Red Socks or Cootie Bug or red underwear).

Private Scratch. (Speaking without being recognized by the S.S.).

Roll Call Errors.

Tassel at Rest. (Tassel not straight down)

Telephone rings during Scratch

### **PROPERTY:**

A) No item from a Cootie Uniform or Attachments thereto or Personal Property of a Cootie shall be subject to appropriation by another Cootie.

B) No Records, Money or Other Property of the Pup Tent in custody of any Cootie shall be subject to appropriation except one: The S.S. is responsible for their Gavel at all times during the Scratch and during recesses in a Scratch. If left unattended during the Scratch or recess it may be taken by any Cootie and offered back to the S.S. for a fine deemed appropriate. If the S.S. leaves their station and officially hands the gavel to the B.B., the B.B. then assumes the same responsibility for the Gavel until returned back to the S.S. or the Scratch is officially closed. The Gavel shall not be subject to appropriation prior to the original convening of a Scratch or after the official closing of the Scratch.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

All Cooties should have:

- A) Telephone. Home and/or Mobile.
- B) Complete Home Mailing Address.
- C) E-Mail address.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

CCDB is the designated Membership Chairman.

- A) All Members, Transfers and Applicants must present all documents, in original condition, requested by letter or email, to the CCDB as soon as possible prior to Scratch (Copies are normally acceptable, Originals only upon request)
- B) Members transferring into Maeng Das Pup Tent 6 must provide the Name and Address of their Original Pup Tent for Verification of Degree work in addition to the Name and Number of their VFW Post at that time.
- C) Qualifications for a Cootie. "At all times, neat appearance, conduct becoming a Cootie and **Gentleman/Lady** while in Public and at V.F.W. and M.O.C. activities" (Ritual Manual.)
  - C.1) Intoxication, vulgar language and conduct un-becoming a Cootie and **Gentleman/Lady**, while in Public, or at V.F.W. and M.O.C. activities as well as activities supported by these groups, will result in strong disciplinary action, not excluding expulsion.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

- A) Cooties, Graybacks and Nits in good standing from any Pup Tent may attend Regular and Special Scratches conducted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.
- B) Nits and Graybacks may attend all Scratches except a Scratch, which is conducted in a higher Degree than they have attained, except for their initiation into that degree.
- C) All Cooties are reminded that when they received their 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Initiation they took an obligation to faithfully attend all Scratches held within their district.
- D) **While attending a regular VFW meeting, Cooties should wear the Cootie bug on the back of your shirt collar. To be caught without can be a fine (levied at the next Scratch or a cold libation of the Cootie noticing the violation.**

### **INITIATION**

"It is believed that greater emphasis should be placed on the Humanitarian Principles of the Organization rather than upon the humiliating aspects of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree work and Initiations carried on by some Pup Tents" (Ritual Manual). Pup Tent 6 will not humiliate anyone during Initiations.

- A) The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees are normally given on the same day.
- B) After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Initiation, the Graybacks upon whom that degree was confirmed are responsible for providing refreshments for all Cooties present **and will be known as "Soup" until a new Cootie has completed 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree**

## Cootie Challenge Coin Rules

1. Rules of the coin game must be given to all new coin holders
2. The coin **MUST** be carried at all times. You can be challenged for it anywhere, at any time. You must produce the coin without taking more than 4 steps to produce it.
3. When challenging, the challenger must state whether it is for (single drink or a round of drinks) or a fine not to exceed 100 Baht
4. Failure to produce a coin, for whatever reason, results in a bought round or single drinks (whatever the challenger stated). This type of transaction could be expensive, so hold on to your coin. Once the offender has settled their challenge obligation, they can't be challenged again.
5. During the Scratch a group challenge can be initiated only once. Anyone can initiate the challenge by tapping his/her coin repeatedly on the table until recognized by the Seamy.
6. If all that are challenged produce their coins, the challenger loses and must buy a round of drinks.
7. Under no circumstances can a coin be handed to another in response to a challenge.
8. If a coin is lost, replacement is up to the individual. **A new coin should be acquired at the earliest opportunity from the CCDB at a cost of \$10.00.** Losing a coin does not relieve a Cootie of his or her responsibilities. This is especially true if your fellow SHAVETAIL's know that you traditionally carry a coin.
9. The Cootie Challenge Coin should be controlled at all times. Giving a coin to just anyone is like opening a fraternity to just anyone. It is an honor to be given a coin, let's keep it that way. A given or awarded coin is of more personal value than a purchased coin.
10. The Pup Tent 6 challenge coins will be controlled by the CCDB.
11. NO HOLES WILL BE DRILLED IN A COIN.

The above rules apply to anyone who is worthy to be given/awarded a coin, or has a purchased coin. Visitors and distinguished guests present at the Scratch who do not have a Cootie Challenge Coin are not bound by these rules.

## Titles - Pup Tent 6

Atom - Applicant  
Blanket Bum [B.B.] - Senior Vice Commander  
Cootie - 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree  
Custodian of Crummy Duffle Bag (CCDB) - Quartermaster/Membership  
Delousing Crew [D.C.] - Degree Team  
Grayback - 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree  
Great Blue Louse [G.B.L.]  
Hide Gimlet [H.G.] - Junior Vice Commander  
Hungry Cootie [H.C.] - Adjutant  
Jimmy Legs [J.L.] - Officer of the Guard  
Keeper of the Crummy Records [K.C.R.] - Historian  
Newshound [N.H.] - Publicity  
Nit - 1<sup>st</sup> Degree  
Pill Pusher [P.P.] - Surgeon

Provost Marshall [P.M.] - Officer of the Day  
Seam Squirrel [S.S.] - Commander  
Shirt Reader [S.R.] - Master of Ceremonies  
Shyster [S.] - Judge Advocate  
Sky Pilot [S.P.] – Chaplain  
Tightwad 1 year [T.W. 1] - Trustee First Year  
Tightwad 2 year [T.W. 2] - Trustee Second Year  
Tightwad 3 year [T.W. 3] - Trustee Third Year  
V.F.W. Booster Chairman [B.C.]  
Windjammer [W.J.] - Bugler





***Grand of Pacific***  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**  
**Military Order of the Cooties**

*Pup Tent 6, Maeng Das, District 5, Pacific Areas*

The name Cootie originated during World War I when the different armies were massed together on the battlefields of France. Each country represented in WWI contributed to what is known as the Cootie, by amalgamation of lice. The common American Grey-Back, the Black Algerian Schinnels, the great Blue Louse from India, the British Blue Bloods, the Belgian Gold-Striped Henekchers, the French Grey and the Gold Parisian Cooties were all thrown together in the trenches and at once began to increase and multiply so that by the end of the war we had the most intelligent Cooties that could be produced. They were known to bite the soldiers at just the right time to save the soldier's lives; for often when a shell left the German trenches the Cooties would bite the soldiers, causing them to stoop and scratch at just the exact time that the shell would pass over the place where the soldier's head had been.

Many soldiers, lying in their fox holes, were saved from death when the highly intelligent Cooties, knowing that a shell was coming in their direction, would bite the soldiers, causing such agony that they were forced to retreat to the trenches of other places of safety for "shirt reading" and "seam running" while the shell burst harmlessly in the places they had just vacated. The Cootie Organization of today carries on in the same degree of usefulness. The Military Order of the Cootie members work for their parent organization, The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and continuing to do good for all whom they come in contact with. They are always ready to help their Comrades, the Comrades widows and orphans, and contribute generously to the maintenance of the Orphanage at Eaton Rapids, Michigan. At this orphanage a swimming pool and playground known as Cootie Field, and a complete and modern fire department has been built and financed by the Cooties.

The spirit of Comradeship and good will that exists in the Cooties is beyond comparison in other organizations, for in the Cooties, Fun is King and the willingness to help in any cause for the betterment of humanity is their goal.



Hence the Cootie slogan, "Busier than a Bee", and "Closer than a Brother".

"Keep them Smiling in Beds of White"

### **1919 - Founding Brothers of the Military Order of the Cootie**

Just as members of the United Spanish American War Veterans had much to do with the foundation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, they also had a prime part in the start of the Military Order of the Cootie. In late 1919 several Spanish American War Veterans, members of the Imperial Order of the Dragon (a higher degree of the USAWV) conceived the idea of a similar order for the VFW. Another Past Grand Viceroy, F. L. Gransbury and several other I.O.D. members assisted Fred C. Madden, a Past Grand Viceroy of the Dragons.

The VFW was nearly as old as the United Spanish American War Veterans and was due for the influx of members from World War I, which they thought could be helped with the formation of an Honor Degree with fun as one of its objectives.

The rolls were opened for membership at the Oxford Hotel in Washington, D.C., September 17, 1920, and nearly 300 VFW members signed up. Fred C. Madden became the first Supreme Seam Squirrel; and a complete list of Officers was ratified at a special meeting held in the Calvary Baptist Church in New York City. Madden developed the constitution and by-laws. F. L. Gransbury authored the rituals and became editor of the "*Cootie Tickle*", six issues of which were printed prior to the VFW encampment in Detroit. There a committee was formed consisting of Commander-in-Chief Woodside, Past Commander-in-Chief Hartund and VFW Council Members Allen of New York, Jones of Oregon and Jones of Washington. They met with Supreme Cooties Gransbury #3 and E. S. Davis #12, to make the MOC a part of the VFW. The favorable report of this committee was accepted by the VFW National Encampment about 9:00 PM, Saturday, 24 September 1921, making the MOC a part of the VFW.

At midnight that same day, acting Assistant Supreme Seam Squirrel Davis called the first Supreme Scratch to order, reported the result of the committee conference and VFW endorsement and conducted the first Supreme Election. William E. Eighmey was the first Supreme Seam Squirrel to be elected.

In 1922, William Kime was elected Supreme Commander at Seattle, Washington and re-elected in 1923, at Norfolk, Virginia. During his term of office, the first Cootie Uniform was approved and became the official uniform of the Order. A committee was appointed to prepare By-Laws for the Order and to re-write the Ritual covering the Third Degree. The new By-Laws and change in Rituals were adopted at the Supreme Scratch in 1923.

In 1923 at Norfolk, Virginia, the Military Order of the Cootie *proposed* the idea of a National Home (This can be verified by the Newspaper Special Edition of Norfolk, Virginia, issued during the National Encampment). A Copy of said edition was presented to the National Home several years after the founding of the Home. In Atlantic City, in 1924, the VFW Organization decided to approve of the National Home although it was a "Brain Child" of the Military Order of the Cootie.

In 1924 the official Cootie uniform as announced, according to records provided by Kalamazoo, Michigan as well as the Original Drafts of Ritual and By-Laws.

Tomb Trek to the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, was first inaugurated in 1934 by TNT Pulp Tent. This annual observance has continued each year since and the members attending has increased each year.

Supreme Commander Victor B. Gallaway requested permission to build an athletic field at the National Home, which was granted by the VFW C of A in New Orleans in 1933. Incoming Supreme Commander William J. Crehan appointed PSC Tommy Ryan as Chairman, and the Cootie Field fund was started in 1936. Construction started in 1937 and continued until dedication in the term of Supreme Commander Ashley Beck, August 1941, with Otto C. Steinberger as Chairman. Total cost was \$15,000.00.

In 1941 Supreme Scratch at Philadelphia authorized the Swimming Pool fund, which grew slowly to \$16,000.00 in 1948 under the chairmanship of Joseph Stalarum, appointed by Supreme Commander Tommy Wheaton. Dedication took place 2 September 1950, with Wheaton and Stalarum as co-chairmen, immediately after the Supreme Scratch at Chicago. Total cost was approximately \$40,000.00 and donations equaled \$48,836.39.

With the outbreak of World War II the MOC visualized the need for Hospital visitations and presentation of entertainment for hospitalized veterans. A program of "Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White" was inaugurated and soon Cooties were regularly visiting the patients in the VA Hospitals, *and other* Hospitals, through out the United States. The Hospital visitation program is one of the outstanding programs of the MOC.

Prior to 1948, the VFW Booster Program was first adopted. This program has been a continuing dedicated effort each year by Cooties, and Auxiliary members as well to assist the parent organization in their membership drives.

"Operation Fire Department" for the National Home was the brainchild of two members of Buckeye Pup Tent #2 of Ohio, Collin Small and Charles Millard in 1950. The drive was brought to fruition in the term of Supreme Commander Ernie Moore, resulting in a fire truck and a building to hold it. The Grand of Maryland continued a mythical Fire Dept., commissioning Fire Department "Officers" upon payment of a fee and these fees throughout Supreme enabled Maryland to make annual contributions of equipment and money to upgrade the Home Fire Department which is manned by boys of the Home.

In 1959, a National Home Scholarship Fund was taken over by Supreme at the 40<sup>th</sup> Supreme Scratch in Philadelphia after being started by the Grand Pup Tent of California. It was eventually named for its perennial Chairman the late Christie Braun, and is now self perpetuating from its investments. From the start of \$500.00 annually for one boy and one girl, it has grown to an annual amount of \$2,500.00 each until graduated, plus lesser amounts for students attending vocational schools.

**To add additional M.O.C. historical information, contact your K.C.R., H.C. or S.S. for inclusion in the next revision. - - -**