

# FRONTLINE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FINEST!

Vol. 1 No. 1

## THIS ISSUE:

- ❖ \$50,000 raised!
- ❖ OPERATION YORKTOWN 4!
- ❖ History of the Finest!
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- ❖ Exclusive: **NEW FIELD MANUALS!**

April 2018

PUBLISHED BY THE  
**FINEST**  
A G.I. JOE COSTUME CLUB



# WELCOME TO FRONTLINE

Welcome to Frontline – the official magazine of **The Finest: A G.I. Joe Costume Club!**

Produced every now and then by our Public Relations staff and approved by the Command Staff, the goal of Frontline is to keep you informed of all the comings and goings of the Finest as we continue our bid for world domination! In these pages, you will find breaking news, articles on club activities, upcoming events, resources for current and aspiring members, as well as important tips and facts.

Occasionally, you might even find yourself entertained.

Like any new publication, we are constantly looking for ideas and content. If you would like to submit an article or write-up for publication, whether it's a multi-page feature article or just a few sentences recapping your latest costume build, be sure to drop us a line! Have a small business and want to advertise in these pages? Let us know!

Frontline is not just for Finest members; it's for EVERYONE! We hope that each issue teaches you (at least) one new thing you didn't know about the Finest. From our Garrison and Squad activities worldwide, to our global charity efforts and beyond, FRONTLINE has ya' covered!



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### ON THE COVER

**COSTUMER** New Jersey member "Zany Geek" as Cobra Commander

**PHOTO** Johnny K. Photography

# OPERATION YORKTOWN 4

**APRIL 13, 2018 – CHARLESTON, SC**

It's that time of year again! Since 2015, Finest members and other G.I. Joe costumers have taken part in an epic one-day photoshoot event on board the USS YORKTOWN near Charleston, South Carolina! Our 2018 photoshoot will be April 13, 2018, and as always, is open to the public (entrance fees apply)! This annual shoot always results in thousands of amazing photos of our members on the USS YORKTOWN and surrounding areas so don't miss the action!



The USS YORKTOWN (CV-10) was the tenth aircraft carrier to serve in the United States Navy. Under construction as BON HOMME RICHARD, this new Essex-class carrier was renamed in honor of YORKTOWN (CV-5) sunk at the epic Battle of Midway (June 1942). Built in an amazing 16 ½ months at Newport News, Virginia, YORKTOWN was commissioned on April 15, 1943. World War II's famous "Fighting Lady" would participate significantly in the Pacific offensive that began in late 1943 and ended with the defeat of Japan in 1945. YORKTOWN received the Presidential Unit Citation and earned 11 battle stars for service in World War II.

Did you know that the  
USS YORKTOWN received  
the Presidential Unit  
Citation and earned 11  
battle stars for service in  
WWII?

**NOW YOU KNOW...**

In the 1950s, YORKTOWN was modernized to operate jet aircraft as an attack carrier (CVA). In 1957, she was re-designated an anti-submarine aircraft carrier (CVS), and would later earn 5 battle stars for service off Vietnam (1965-68). The ship also recovered the Apollo 8 astronauts and capsule (December 1968). YORKTOWN was decommissioned in 1970 and placed in reserve.

In 1975, this historic ship was towed from Bayonne, NJ to Charleston to become the centerpiece of Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum! The Finest extends special thanks the staff of the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for their continued support, generosity, and hospitality! See you in Charleston on Friday, April 13, 2018!

# KNOW YOUR ROOTS!

## The History of the Finest!

In 2017, our ranks swelled with new members, and with this being the first issue of FRONTLINE, we wanted to dedicate some space to the history of the Finest so that everyone can learn a little more about our club!

In 2007, Hasbro celebrated the 25th anniversary of the iconic “G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero” toy line. An all new collection of action figures was launched, featuring many of the franchise’s most popular characters with nostalgic artwork and retro packaging. Fans and collectors worldwide scrambled to retailers and became reacquainted with characters long forgotten.

That same year, a Cobra-based costume club was formed by a small group of like-minded individuals, inspired by the costumes and characters from their youth. The name of the group was a bit of an in-joke, as we all know that Cobra isn’t terribly picky about new recruits who can never seem to shoot straight.

The name of the group was “Cobra’s Finest.”

In 2009, with the launch of the major motion picture, “G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra”, the club’s ranks began to swell as a new wave of fans rediscovered their childhood. Many from younger generations discovered the world of G.I. Joe for the first time.

Meanwhile, an explosion of comic conventions continued to spread worldwide. Hundreds of thousands of pop culture fanatics shattered attendance records at comic cons in New York, San Diego, Atlanta, and elsewhere. Fueled by a never-ending circuit of conventions, reality shows, online prop-building tutorials, books, and other media, the “costuming industry” reached a fever pitch. By the time the second major motion picture, “G.I. Joe: Retaliation” hit theaters in 2013, G.I. Joe was firmly re-established in the public consciousness, and a fresh wave of inspired costumers were drawn to the world of G.I. Joe.



With an influx of talented costumers in the club wishing to portray popular “hero” characters such as Snake Eyes, Scarlett, Sgt. Slaughter, and Beachhead, “Cobra’s Finest” no longer seemed a fitting name.

In 2013, the group was rebranded as “The Finest: A G.I. Joe Costume Club” and transitioned into a structured organization, consisting of a formal Command Staff, specialized officers, several garrisons, and a rapidly-expanding membership base across several countries.



On a local level, Finest garrisons were taking part in occasional work with charitable causes, including fundraisers for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Multiple Sclerosis Society, AIDS Foundations, veterans groups, and blood drives. As the club continued to grow by leaps and bounds, the Command Staff realized that the Finest was entirely capable of executing an international, club-wide charity project of epic proportions.

In 2014, the inaugural “Girls of the Finest” charity calendar campaign was launched. That year, the Finest exceeded its own expectations and raised over \$10,000, with all proceeds donated to the **Wounded Warrior Project**.

In early 2015, the Finest solidified our working relationship with the G.I. Joe Collectors’ Club (the right arm of Hasbro). As part of this partnership, the Finest was asked to participate in a series of commercials to promote that year’s

International G.I. Joe Collectors’ Convention (“JoeCon”). A publicity stunt featured the Mayor of Springfield, Illinois presenting one of our Cobra Commanders the key to the city. The ensuing media explosion exceeded all expectations, as the Finest and the G.I. Joe Collectors Club were featured on MTV, Comedy Central, MSNBC, Business Insider, Huffington Post, and elsewhere!

Later in 2015, the Command Staff sought to top the previous year’s charity goal, and the Finest had the supreme honor of partnering with the **USO**, a nonprofit organization that has helped America’s service members and their families for 75 years. With the help of our fans, followers, members, and the G.I. Joe collector community, the Finest raised nearly \$10,000 in 2015, with all proceeds donated to the USO.

Since 2016, the Finest has supported **K9s For Warriors**, an amazing Florida-based organization that pairs dogs rescued from kill-shelters with veterans suffering from PTSD and other service-related trauma. Since 2016, the Finest has raised more than \$30,000, with all proceeds donated to K9s For Warriors.

Our charity work under the G.I. Joe banner has not gone unnoticed. At JoeCon 2016 in Loveland, Colorado, Hasbro dedicated a portion of their official presentation to recognize and praise the Finest for our philanthropic endeavors.

As the Finest blasted past our 10th Anniversary in 2017, our activity level and membership base are at an all-time high! With several hundred members worldwide, and new members gained each week, the Finest is the world’s premier G.I. Joe costume group. New garrisons and squads are formed regularly, and we are constantly identifying new ways to top charity goals and raise the group’s profile.

It’s been an amazing ride, but with new members, new garrisons and squads, and new goals... just wait for what’s to come!

Did you know  
the official Finest hashtag is  
#theFinestCC?

**NOW YOU KNOW...**

# INTELLIGENCE REPORTS

All the news you need!

## \$50,000 RAISED!

It's official! As of March 2018, the Finest has raised more than \$50,000, with all proceeds donated to military and veteran charities! Although the Club was founded in 2007, our charity efforts didn't begin in earnest until 2014 with the inaugural Girls of the Finest calendar and charity campaign. Since then, we've kept the ball rolling and donated all proceeds to amazing organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project, the USO, and K9s For Warriors!

- 2014: **\$10,250** raised (proceeds donated to the Wounded Warrior Project)
- 2015: **\$9,550** raised (proceeds donated to the USO)
- 2016: **\$11,583** raised (proceeds donated to K9s For Warriors)
- 2017: **\$16,665** raised (proceeds donated to K9s For Warriors)
- 2018: **\$3,700** (approx.) raised in Q1 (proceeds to be donated to K9s For Warriors)

**TOTAL: \$50,000+**

We have an amazing and ambitious charity project lined up for 2018, so stay tuned for more information on how you can help us use our love for GI Joe to support veterans! Thanks to all our hardworking members and contributors for making this possible!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RYAN B.

By Sean C. (CO, Central Defense)

Congratulations to Indiana Central Defense XO Ryan B. on being named as our latest Member Spotlight! Ever since his appointment as XO of Central Defense - The Fighting Fifth, Ryan has been a great help to me and has taken it upon himself to do a bulk of the promotions for the garrison.

Ryan was instrumental in setting up our first official CDFE outing at Kokomo Con in 2016, bringing many of his own items and making our table stand out. Our presence has grown exponentially in great part to his contributions and with his help, CDFE raised over \$3,000 for The Finest to help K9s for Warriors in 2017. We are on track to make 2018 even better.

Creativity has proven to be one of Ryan's strong suits. He has spearheaded several successful projects for CDFE such as creating the first all member created, live-action comic book, "Nuclear Pilferation", fun posters parodying iconic album covers, and our "Finest Valentines", which went viral within the group in 2017.



Finest members from outside CDFF have also benefited from Ryan's generosity. When he heard some of our East Coast members were heading his direction to pick up a prop in Operation S.N.A.R.E., Ryan took it upon himself to organize a welcoming party as well as create care packages for each member for the trip back. This gesture went well above and beyond expectations.

It is without question that it takes many qualified people to operate a successful group. Ryan is often first to arrive and last to leave at any event. He truly sets the example and bar by which we all strive to achieve. I am happy and truly grateful to have him on the team. YO Jo..... COBRA!!!!

**BREAKING NEWS:** On April 3, 2018, Ryan B. was appointed as the new Commanding Officer of Central Defense: The Fighting Fifth!. Congrats to Ryan, and thanks to outgoing CDFF CO Sean C. for his years of hard work!

## NEW FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ASPIRING MEMBERS !

In March, we launched the Finest Recruitment Center, an all-new Facebook page designed to help aspiring members build their costumes with the goal of applying and being accepted into the Finest! Here, we will help out new and interested costumers who wish to join our club!

We will answer questions and point you in the right direction to help you complete your canon costume for application to The Finest. On this page, current members will help mentor aspiring applicants by offering tips and resources. Whether you're a current member, just gathering your thoughts and ideas, or nearly finished with your build, check out this page for ideas and help!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/212867272786657/about/>

## MUST SEE TV: 'THE TOYS THAT MADE US' ON NETFLIX !

Have you seen the new Netflix series, "The Toys That Made Us"? Gather the family and take a trip down memory lane with our friends Larry Hama, Ron Rudat, Kirk Bozigian, Mark Bellomo and others as the history of the G.I. Joe brand is explored!

While the G.I. Joe episode is of obvious interest to our readers, other episodes highlight the history of iconic toy-lines such as *Masters of the Universe*, *Barbie*, and *Star Wars*!



## COMING SOON: DETACHMENTS

Detachments are coming! The Command Staff has approved the formation of Detachments to focus on creating interest and refining techniques and materials for certain character groups, including Iron Grenadiers, Vipers, and more! Detachments are subgroups of Finest members, based around a character faction or specific costume type (e.g., Dreadnoks, Iron Grenadiers, Crimson Guard, Python Patrol, etc.). Detachments must adhere to standards of the Finest as set forth in the charter.

Detachments are led by de facto Detachment Leaders. Detachment leaders do not hold seats on the Command Staff. The Detachment Leader serves as the unit's primary point of contact for the Command Staff, and is expected to maintain Finest costume standards in the Detachment, grow interest in the character or faction, and help promote the overall growth of the Finest.

The Detachment Leader is typically appointed by the Command Staff. Unlike Garrisons and Squads, Detachments are not geographically-based. Their primary goal is to create a sense of community and camaraderie among members building and wearing similar or identical costumes. The secondary goal of a Detachment is to promote resources, techniques, and uniformity among said members.

Detachments typically take the form of online discussion groups. Upon Command Staff approval, the Detachment Leader may create a public social media page to promote the Detachment as well as the Finest. Public social media pages must clearly state that they are a subgroup of the Finest.

Like Garrisons and Squads, Detachments are encouraged to design an original unit name and insignia. The Command Staff prior to use must approve all unit names and insignia.

Members proposing to form a new Detachment must contact the Command Staff and provide the following information:

- Roster of official members (a Detachment requires a minimum of 1 member)
- Detachment Scope (i.e., identify the character subgroup or faction)
- Proposed Detachment name
- Proposed Detachment insignia

Once submitted, the Command Staff will approve or suggest changes, if necessary, to the new potential Detachment based on the provided information. The decision will then be forwarded to the Detachment Leader or applicable members.

## SHOUTOUT!

Shoutout to the amazing Maryland artist **ANGELA McKENDRICK** for her continuous support to the Finest over the years. For those who don't know, Angela donates her awesome artwork to our club at no cost in order to further our charity efforts! By offering Angela's art in exchange for donations at conventions and events, the Finest maximizes our charity efforts and we're able to raise even more money for organizations like K9s For Warriors at substantially less cost! Thank you Angela!



Find her at a convention and visit her shop at [www.cuddleswithcats.deviantart.com](http://www.cuddleswithcats.deviantart.com) to show your support!

# EXCLUSIVE: NEW FIELD MANUALS COMING SOON !

Creating high-quality costumes with uniformity in mind is a daunting task! Fortunately, the Finest provides Field Manuals for several popular characters to capture best practices and keep uniformity among the ranks! How else are we to build an army?

Frontline has learned that several all-new Field Manuals are currently in draft form, including long-awaited guides for Alley Viper, Iron Grenadier, Python Patrol, Crimson Shadow Guard costumes, and more! Stay tuned for more info!



# GET TO KNOW: K9s FOR WARRIORS!

Since 2016, the Finest has supported K9s For Warriors, a Florida-based organization dedicated to providing service canines to Warriors suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disability, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. The goal of K9s For Warriors is to empower warriors to return to civilian life with dignity and independence. K9s For Warriors is a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization and is the nation's largest provider of service dogs for disabled American veterans.



From [www.k9sforwarriors.org](http://www.k9sforwarriors.org)

*K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest provider of service dogs to military veterans suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disability, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. Our program is unique, and no other organization operates quite like K9s For Warriors. Every warrior that walks through the door is family. We provide them with a service canine, equipment, training, certification, seminars, legal instruction, vet care, housing, home cooked meals, unconditional love and listening, and lifetime of wrap-around services (including available life-long healthcare and food for their dogs). The K9s program is 100% free for the veteran. We have our warriors' backs.*

# AROUND THE HORN

**Finest Squads and Garrisons are always on the move! Here are some reports from the field!**

## 13th CIVIL DEFENSE (NJ/NY/PA)

The 13th Civil Defense Mobile Infantry Garrison celebrated its 5th anniversary in March, and we'll be celebrating all year long! So far the 13th has started its celebration at the South Mall in Allentown, PA at Itz-A-Con and will continue through the year at such events as Garden State Comic Fest in Atlantic City on April 7-8 and other events like Great Philly Comic Con (April 27-29), and in other areas outside our territory. Our members will also attend events like the Operation Yorktown 4 photoshoot, the International G.I. Joe Collectors' Convention in Chattanooga, TN in June, and many, many more! Our membership has grown in recent weeks with new members joining as Chuckles, and Gung Ho, and other current members bringing to life new characters such as the new "Dawn Moreno" Snake Eyes, Hydro Viper, Rock N Roll (v2), Big Brawler, and more! Stay tuned for more exciting news from the 13th!



## 234th TIGERHAWKS (KS/MO)

The 234<sup>th</sup> Tigerhawk Garrison had a great start to 2018 with a huge display at Planet Comicon Kansas City in February, and got a great response from spectators. With the event moved to an earlier date in the year than usual, the Garrison decided to do a winter display, which was a lot of fun with the various Arctic characters and winterized costumes.

The Tigerhawks are currently preparing for a couple of excursions a little further away, as we go to Little Rock Comic Con in May to help represent the G.I. Joe franchise & The Finest, and then to Tennessee in June for a weekend of G.I. Joe at JoeCon.



Founded in the Spring of 2013 with five members, the 234th Tigerhawk Garrison is going stronger than ever five years. We have added several different props to our display which are life-size versions of toys from the 1980's, have grown to 18 Official Finest Members, and attend several events each year in the Missouri and Kansas area.

## ACTION FORCE 44 (IRELAND/UK)

Greetings from across the Atlantic! Action Force 44 has an eventful year, including the indoctrination of our own Firefly (Michael C.) We were proud to represent The Finest at the biggest event in Ireland last August, Dublin ComicCon. We'll be there again this year, hopefully in greater numbers, as we've been scouting new and potential recruits. International heroes!



## CAPITAL DEFENSE REGIMENT (DE/DC/VA/MD/WV)

Following up smaller shows in Maryland and Delaware, on March 29-April 1, the Capital Defense Regiment invaded AwesomeCon in Washington, DC and raised over \$500 toward our 2018 charity goal! Members of the 13<sup>th</sup> Civil Defense and Central Defense: The Fighting Fifth also made the trip! Guests included Star Wars star **John Boyega**, previous Girls of the Finest charity calendar cover artist and GI Joe comic artist **S.L. Gallant**, Finest poster artist **Angela McKendrick**, and many more!



Upcoming events include our annual garrison camping trip in May ("Operation Bivouac", as well as many shows in the Washington, DC-region throughout the summer!

## CENTRAL DEFENSE: THE FIGHTING FIFTH (IL/IN/OH/MI)

Central Defense: The Fighting Fifth (CDFF) has hit the ground running in 2018! With a number of big announcements, new faces, and new adventures, the garrison has certainly had some big happenings in the first quarter of the year.

Perhaps the largest item was the announcement of founding Garrison CO Sean C. that he would be stepping down from his leadership role. Having spent almost three years at the helm, Sean has guided the growth of the garrison to its current state today. He's also served as a major asset for the Girls of the Finest charity campaigns and other major Finest projects, like our trading cards and card backs! He's not going away though, and you can look forward to seeing his amazing Retaliation Snake Eyes, Cobra Officer, and Kamakura costumes at plenty more events in the future!



Taking up his leadership role is his XO, Ryan B, who now assumes the mantle of CDFF CO. Ryan has been hard at work for the garrison, working on getting numerous show and events scheduled, and leading the way on a number of garrison projects to help make the CDFF show experience on for fans of all stripes. To assist him, Cobra Trooper Dan N. has been named as his XO. Dan has been a near constant sight at tables and shows across the garrison territory, raising money for the Finest's charitable partners and is fully committed to seeing our fundraising reach even higher levels.

On the note of fundraising, CDFF is off to an impressive start to the year. So far, over \$2,000 has been collected from appearing at Toy Shows like CTS Promotion's

Columbus Toy and Comic Show to popular fan conventions like Gem City Comic Con, and even a business stop at Samuel Strapping in Heath, Ohio! Last year, we managed to raise just over \$3000, so this is looking like a record year so far. The garrison has set a tentative goal of \$5000, but the sky really is the limit! Also buoying this fundraising is a number of new fundraising items, including several pins, newly rolled dogtags, a custom Cobra Kai inspired patch, and multiple new poster prints with art donated by the talented (and super generous!) Damon Batt, with coloring by Brandy Dixon! Give them a look!



But it's not just new equipment, CDF has new faces as well! At the end of last year, we added a trifecta of new members. Eric W. from Michigan with a golden Iron Grenadier Destro costume, Joshua V. from Illinois with a Sgt. Slaughter impression, and Geoffery S. from Michigan with a true to life Storm Shadow gi! We're also joined this year by Matt W. from Ohio who brings his own Sgt. Slaughter into the mix, giving our Joe forces an extra Cobra Clutch in the fight!

They'll have plenty of chances to get involved right away with numerous shows and events coming up! We'll be tabling cosmically at Out of this World Festival in Columbus, OH on Apr 21. We're also

planning on having members attending Tulip City Comic Con in Holland, MI on Apr 29. Next month, we have an ambitious Free Comic Book Day (May 5th) schedule in the works, with dates and locations to be announced soon! After that, we're rolling into a grand summer schedule, taking us all over the garrison and even beyond to Joe Con in Chattanooga, TN and DragonCon in Atlanta, GA!

In all, there's big things happening at Central Defense and you should be a part of it! Join us on our adventure with the Finest, help raise money and awareness for some real American heroes, and, most importantly, have fun celebrating a hobby that we all love! Yo Joe and Hail Cobra!

## REVOLUTIONARY GUARD (NEW ENGLAND)

The Revolutionary Guard is gearing up for an exciting 2018 season with new members and new events planned! We would like to welcome aboard two new members to the squad - Raymond R. (Roadblock) from New Bedford, MA and Sean P. (Cobra Trooper) from Westwood, MA. There are also several future members currently working on costumes with plans of joining the ranks of The Finest. It's exciting to mention that with one more member, the Revolutionary Guard will graduate from Squad to Garrison status! Our team is very excited about expanding our membership this coming year.

The Revolutionary Guard will be invading Rubber Chicken Comics in Bellingham, MA on May 5th-6th for Free Comic Book Day Weekend. We will also be listed as an attraction/cosplay group at Super Megafest in Framingham, MA on Oct 12-14. We plan a return to Rhode Island Comic Con again this year on Nov 2-4 in Providence, RI. Last year RICC was the Revolutionary Guards first official event and we hit it out of the park by collecting over \$1,000 in donations during that event. We are hoping to top that this coming year.



We are also working on several life-sized props, including anti-aircraft guns, a GI Joe Mortar Defense Unit, and finishing up our Jeep Wrangler/Cobra Stinger conversion. There are lots of exciting things happening here in New England and it's just the beginning! Now you know and knowing is half the battle!

## SOUTHERN COMMAND (GA)

Southern Command invaded Toylanta in March at the Marriot Century Center, and what a weekend it was! Highlights included the debut of new costumes and posing for pics with GI Joe godfather Larry Hama! Our Georgia members look forward an awesome summer and hosting members at DragonCon in Atlanta on Labor Day weekend!



## TASK FORCE 27 (FL)

Task Force 27 has been off to a strong start for 2018. With having done 5 conventions and several event appearances in just the first three months, the Florida Garrison has already raised more in donations than all of 2017 so far, and we have much more planned for the year. The Task Force has also added 4 new members to its ranks this year so far, and we are working with several more recruits currently who will be joining up soon as well. Our ranks have nearly tripled since we established our garrison only 2 years ago and we are seeing increased growth.



Upcoming in May, Task Force 27 members will be setting up at three different comic book shops for Free Comic Book Day on May 5th. This is only possible due to our successful expansion of membership allowing us to tackle 3 events on the same day! Also in May we will be organizing our annual meet up and photo shoot of GI Joe costumers at Florida's largest convention, Megacon. Besides some private group events coming up as well, we are currently planning out the rest of the year for Summer and Fall show appearances right now. As we continue to grow, we've been able to cover more ground and in turn, being able to raise more for charity!

## VOLUNTEER ASSAULT FORCE

(TN)

All eyes are on Tennessee as the International G.I. Joe Collectors' Convention is coming to Chattanooga June 22-24, 2018! Members of our Tennessee squad, the Volunteer Assault Force will be there alongside members from several other squads and garrisons!



One person. One question. You're in...

# THE HOT SEAT

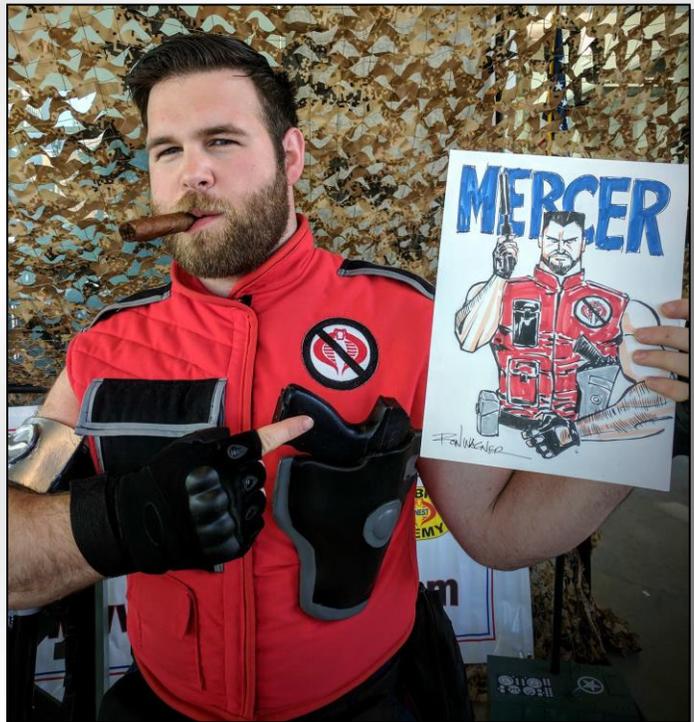
Frontline ambushed the Executive Officer (XO) of the Finest, Alex T., with a single question:

**'WHAT ARE THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECTS FACING THE XO OF THE FINEST?'**

**This was his response...**

"Time management is the biggest challenge. There are so many ideas for different projects, and it is difficult to prioritize which one to invest time into. I would really like to accomplish all of these projects, but I have to sleep sometime. Our members have oodles of ideas so it is often difficult to determine what makes the cut. Like any organization, someone has to step up and make the call of determining where to focus our efforts. I have really enjoyed the projects that I have been a part of: from Series 1 of the trading cards, to the Girls of the Finest, it is never boring being the XO.

"The second most challenging aspect is the different personalities. With more than three hundred members, the Finest is a good mix of folks with different backgrounds, ages, etc. Like any group of people, we have differences of opinion, and managing that while still working to accomplish our end-goal can be a challenge. Not that this a negative thing, sometimes the different perspectives will take us down a route that we would not have otherwise explored. We all have different relationships to G.I. Joe, but in the end, we all enjoy being part of the Finest and bringing smiles to faces."



Did you know PIT VIPER STUDIOS offers a 15% discount to active Finest members?

**NOW YOU KNOW...**

# QUARTERMASTER CORNER

**Finest merchandise items are available for limited periods and are for approved members only. Check here for the latest and greatest swag, direct from the Quartermaster himself!**

The newest batch of Finest t-shirts for club members have arrived and are shipping now! Major Bludd's recent incursion into Sierra Gordo interfered with the cotton supply line and caused a brief delay, but the new shirts are ready and are shipping to members now!

After taking a break last year to offer the highly-popular navy blue 2017 "10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" shirts, our classic black dual-logo t-shirts are back, with an all new dissolved fade design on the front logo! NEW MEMBERS, we hope you didn't miss your chance!

Coming up next are Finest H.O.O.D.ies, followed by retractable badge holders! The good news is that we are way ahead of the Weather Dominator Division in terms of schedule (believe me, when those guys and gals roll out, you'll want a hoodie!).

If you have ideas or vendor connections, please share them with me. 'Til next time, from the rear, with the gear!

Keith M.  
VPR-M0017  
Quartermaster/Merch Viper

Like Flag Points from your youth, did you know that you will be able to redeem your *FINEST POINTS* for exclusive prizes? **NOW YOU KNOW...**



# THE ARMORY

Need G.I. Joe or Cobra gear? Here are some vendors to help you on your way!

**Alpine Traditions**

Backpacks, Viper kits, 3D print and sewing services  
Etsy: Alpine Traditions

**Cobra Tech**

Backpacks, commissions  
[www.facebook.com/CobraTech](http://www.facebook.com/CobraTech)

**Negative Eleven**

Helmets, belt-buckles, commissions  
[chris@negativeeleven.com](mailto:chris@negativeeleven.com)

**Pit Viper Studios**

Helmets, shields, armor and more  
[www.pitviperstudios.net](http://www.pitviperstudios.net)

**Xero Props**

Custom belt buckles, 3d Printing services  
[www.facebook.com/XeroProps/](http://www.facebook.com/XeroProps/)  
[www.shapeways.com/shops/xeroprops](http://www.shapeways.com/shops/xeroprops)

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