Overview - Orientation

HPIC Y. Michelle Dowleyne, MBA (210) Imperial Director

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Imperial 1st Ceremonial Master
Administrator















Presentation Overview

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History

The Military & Veteran Affairs Department (MVAD), forerunner to today's JMVAD, was conceived by PP Dr. Bruce L. Brown and established during the administration of then Imperial Potentate Dr. Ralph Slaughter.

During the Imperial Session in August 2005, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Brown highlighted the organization's limited support for Active-Duty Service Members, Retirees, and Veterans. He raised several concerns and offered key recommendations on how Shrine could better serve this oftenoverlooked demographic.

The Imperial Potentate's response was direct: "Make It Happen."

History

The first Administrator assigned to the Department was then Imperial Chief Rabban Donald R. Parks.

Founding members HPIP Bill Lowery and HPIP James Britt served as the Department's first Deputy Directors. The following year, HPIP Mark Heath was added to the team as the Department Adjutant and later, first Chief Deputy.

History

In 2003, Dt. Gwendolyn A. Moore, then Imperial Outside Spy, inquired about the MVAD's functions and operations to facilitate the creation of a similar group within the Imperial Court.

Shortly thereafter, in 2012, under the leadership of then Imperial Commandress, Dt. Ruth Ellerbe, the Military Daughters, was officially established as a Department of the Imperial Court, with HPIC Denise King serving as its first Imperial Directress, and Dt. Karen Wright- Chilsom, then Imperial 1Lt Ceremonial Daughter, the first Administrator.

A.E.A.O.N.M.S.

Military & Veteran Affairs Department (JMVAD)

History Continued

Eighteen years later, in 2021, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the MVAD and Military Daughters merged to form the Joint Military and Veterans Affairs Department (JMVAD), as it is known today. HPIP James W. Arradondo (169) was appointed as the first Imperial Director to lead the Joint Department.

In 2023, under the leadership of Honorable Eric Myers, then the 45th Imperial Potentate, a historic milestone was achieved within the organization. For the first time, 5 Daughters was appointed to lead the Joint Departments. HPIC Y. Michelle Dowleyne (210) was appointed as the first daughter to lead the Joint Military and Veterans Affairs Department.

Purpose

The A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Joint Military & Veterans Affairs Department represents the Imperial Council's commitment to honoring and supporting Prince Hall Shrine members who have served in the Uniformed Armed Services.

Mission

The Department's mission is to ensure Shrine Active-Duty Service Members, Veterans, and their families have access to the latest information on benefits, services, and claims processing. It also serves as a vital link to resources provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other Service Advocacy Organizations."

Scope

This department is committed to supporting Active-Duty Military personnel, Retirees, Veterans, and their families by providing access to resources that outline the full range of benefits earned through military service.

This mission is carried out in two keyways:

Year-Round Support

 Assisting Deserts, Temples, Courts, and their leadership in organizing and facilitating programs and activities that help their members and local community Veterans access the benefits and services they have rightfully earned.

Scope

Year-Round Cont.:

OServe as the primary resource and recognition body for the Imperial Council and Imperial Court; documenting programs, initiatives, and activities conducted by constituent members which support, promote, and enhance the well-being of Active-Duty Service Members, Veterans, their families, including widows, widowers, and orphans.

Scope

Annually (Imperial Session):

- O The Department organizes and hosts an Annual Veterans Symposium, designed to provide Service Members, Veterans, and their families with up-to-date information on benefits and services, claims processing, and other essential resources offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and various Service Advocacy Organizations
- Additionally, the Department facilitates one-on-one private counseling sessions with Certified Service Officers from accredited National Service Advocacy Organizations.

Structure & Responsibilities

Imperial Director:

• The Imperial Director plans and oversees all aspects of the Department's activities, ensuring that its mandated mission of support to Shrine Service Members, Veterans, and their families are carried out to the highest standards of fraternal commitment, excellence, professionalism, integrity, and accountability. The Imperial Director is also responsible for the assignment of Deputy Directors/Directress and their associated responsibilities supporting the Department's mandated mission

Structure & Responsibilities

Chief Deputy:

• Chief Deputies are responsible for overseeing and coordinating Department-wide activities throughout the year. Additionally, their duties include managing Imperial Session coordination, and handling logistical and administrative tasks that support the Department's overall mandated mission.

Structure & Responsibility

Deputy Director/Directress:

• Imperial Deputies of this Department are charged with providing direct support to Deserts, Temples, Courts, and the leadership within their assigned region. They serve as an information resource on current and evolving Veterans Benefits and Services, Claims Processing, and other vital services provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs and Service Advocate Organizations

Structure & Responsibility

Deputy Director/Directress Cont.:

 Additionally, they are to monitor and report special programs, actions, and activities conducted by the constituent membership that aid, promote, and enhance the interests of local Service Members, Veterans, Disabled Veterans, spouses, their families, widows, widowers, and orphans

Structure & Responsibility

<u>Deputy Director/Directress (Resource & Recognition):</u>

O Resource & Recognition Deputies of this Department are charged with the research, analysis, and production of periodic articles and opinion pieces on relevant Veterancentric issues of the day. Additionally, as a panel, these Deputies will review significant Veteran-centric programs, actions, and activities conducted by the constituent membership for possible award recognition

Operational Details

Year-Round:

• The Imperial Director reviews and approves all veterancentric information and activities requests from all Shrine constituent bodies and documents such activities in the report to the Imperial Administrator.

Operational Details

Year-Round:

- Deputy Director/Directress shall maintain frequent communication with each Shrine Leadership member in their assigned area to provide advice & assistance information and/or facilitate coordination with veterancentric activities.
- O Chief Deputies shall maintain constant communication with each Deputy Director/Directress to review and assist with all veteran-centric information and activities requests. Additionally, the Chief Deputy will document such activities in their report to the Imperial Director.

Operational Details

Annually (Imperial Session):

- O Imperial Director During each Imperial Session, the Director will attend all required Imperial Staff meetings to provide an in-depth update on all finalized veteran-centric plans and activities the Department will conduct in conjunction and coordination with other convention programs.
- The Director will exercise general supervision of these activities and submit a detailed Executive Summary as required at the Session's close.

Operational Details

Annually (Imperial Session):

- O Chief Deputy During the Imperial Session, the Chief Deputies will coordinate a department planning and final closeout meeting. Additionally, the Chief will oversee the daily operation of all the Department's scheduled activities. These will include but is not limited to:
 - Logistics: Room Setups (Department Meetings, Workshops, Symposium, and Veteran Counseling Sessions)
 - Communication & Advertisement: (Symposium Public Announcements Signage)
 - Recognitions: (Awards for Keynote speakers and constituent membership)

Department Reports

- Imperial Director Report Submitted quarterly or as directed by the Imperial Administrator. This report provides a detailed summation of all Department ongoing, completed, and projected department related activities during the reporting period
- Pre-Session Report Submitted 90 days prior or as directed by the Imperial Administrator. This report details the Department's projected activities supporting the ensuing Imperial Council Session (Vet Symposium, Vet Memorial/Grave Site Visitations/Observances, One-one Clams Services, Etc.)

Operational Details

Annually (Imperial Session):

- Deputy Director/Directress During the Imperial Session, all Imperial Deputies will be assigned to individual duties to support the finalized program activities scheduled for the Imperial Session. These will include but is not limited to:
 - Mandatory attendance at all Department meeting
 - Symposium and Veteran Counseling Session administrative support
 - All other assignments as required by the Imperial Director or Chief Deputy

Department Reports

Reporting: The following is a list of the Department's operational reports:

- Deputy Director/Directress Report Submitted quarterly to the Chief Deputy. This report outlines detailed interactions between the Deputy and Coalitions, Deserts, Oases, Temples, and Courts in their assigned regions.
- Chief Deputy Report Submitted quarterly to the Imperial Director. This report summarizes all reports received from the Regional Deputies and all other veteran-related activities conducted during the reporting period.

Department Reports

 Imperial Director Executive Summary – Closeout report detailing all activities conducted supporting the current Imperial Council Session (Vet Symposium, Vet Memorial/Grave Site Visitations/Observances, One-one Clams Services, Etc.).

Overview - Orientation

~ Questions ~













