



From the Desk of Candidate for State Quartermaster

PSC Mitchell R. "Mitch" Cota

Hello Comrades

For those who may not know me, I am Mitchell R. Cota, 2014-15 Past State Commander. At mid Winter in January 2023, I surprised those in attendance by announcing I intended to seek the office of State Quartermaster (QM) for the VFW Year 2023-2024. I have also been appointed as the 23-24 State Adjutant (ADJ) for our Department by Senior Vice Commander Ron Delaney for his year. As a candidate, I am humbly asking for your support at the June Convention.

Service

A retired E-7, Master Sergeant serving from February 1978 to December 2007 in the US Air Force. While serving, I handled weapon training forecast purchase and budgets for supply up to 6.5 million in assets while stationed in both the states and on active deployment.

2023 Senior Vice Commander and Adjutant Training

Senior Vice Commander Ron Delaney and I just attended and completed the Senior Vice Commander and Adjutant training held in Kansas City, MO - learning the latest ins and outs of the Adjutant's duties and the new upcoming, but yet to be determined, change from the OMS reporting system to a new reporting system tentatively call Command Post or CP for short, to be used by Post, District and State Adjutant/Quartermasters.

Goals for the Betterment of the Dept.

1. (Adj) Department Voting - It is time as a Department to listen to its members. Talking to members at different levels in the Dept., it has come to light that voting leaves the bulk of the membership without a chance to cast their Post's votes during convention elections. Those of us who have been State Line Officers have always said we work for you the member. Yet, it is the membership who are the last to vote during convention elections. The voting order should be Posts, District Commanders, Line Officers, then the State Commander. This allows the voice of our members to be heard and will be something I present to the council.

2. (QM) Get as close to 100% paperless with *Commanders Guides* - these can be done digitally with as few hard copies as needed, and *Post Packet handouts* - most of this information is in digital form already. Both can be placed on flash drives and the department website for download. These are just two things that can be implemented at a savings to the department in both manufacturing hours from Headquarters Staff, reduction in paper, ink, and printer maintenance, and printing at a professional printer.

3. (QM) Bring new ideas to the Quartermaster's office as well as new fundraising programs and events for the Department; streamline and cut waste from the budget with the help of the appointed Budget Committee and the Council of Administration (COA) in their endeavors.

4. (Adj/QM) Produce an information package for each Council Member with a comprehensive, itemized budget indicating all sources of income, banks and financial institutions where



Positions Held

- State Commander*
- District Commander*
- Post Commander*
- Post Quartermaster*
- State Chief of Staff*
- NMS State Chairman*
- VOD State Chairman*
- Community Service State Chairman*

Department funds are held, along with an itemized listing of outgoing expenses. Provide a printed copy of the detailed, itemized budget to each member of the COA and Budget Committee to review and make written changes that may be needed before final approval.

5. (QM) The budget made available to any VFW member attending each conference and convention for their viewing at the registration table to see the Department's business. Reminders would be placed in each *Mail Call* stating that a copy of the Budget will be available at each registration table for viewing during operation hours.

6. (Adj) Reduce the amount of time spent by District Commanders, Committee Chairs, and Line Officers giving verbal reports during meetings. Each report would be submitted digitally, seven days before Department Convention, as stated in *Article VI, Section 3. b.* of Department Bylaws. After the Convention or Conference, all COA members will receive a digital copy of the minutes with all reports and/or any updates added. Also make them available online for review by Department members. This is something else I will present to the council.

Reason For Absences

It is being said that I had abandoned and quit our department since the Fall of 2016. And true, I have indeed been away, but I did not quit or abandon the VFW. Before becoming State Commander in 2014, I was enrolled in college, seeking a degree in the Multi-Media field. Upon my return to school in 2016 that degree was no longer offered. I had to basically start over with the credits I had. After choosing to pursue Television Production, I discovered I had enough credits for an additional degree in Visual Communication. I completed both degrees in the Spring and Fall of 2018 respectfully.

After my completion of school I had a second neck fusion surgery in 2019, which went well at first but failed, affecting motor skills in my arms, hands, and legs by the end of December 2020. I had an emergency surgery in January 2021 and therapy throughout 2022. Feeling better, I started to once again get involved with veteran organizations and have been active with the VFW these past seven months at department events.