



From the Desk of Candidate for State Quartermaster

# PSC Mitchell R. "Mitch" Cota

## CORRESPONDENCE 2

**Hello Comrades,**

I am still currently wrapping up prior commitments and my schedule will be clear by May 25th. I am however working every free moment with SVC Ron Delaney, as his incoming State Adjutant (Adj). I am looking forward to working with his Chief of Staff, our State Line Officers, and the Council of Administration members consisting of newly elected District Commanders for 2023-2024.

I was looking forward to the election between Adj/Quartermaster (QM) Precilla Wilkewitz and myself this June but now I will be facing her appointed assistant QM. I do thank her for her decades of devoted service to our department, its veterans, and to our VFW National Organization. I wish her well in her retirement as she moves into this new transition of her life.

One goal, if elected QM, is to help create a healthy membership program. Each year members in Posts across Louisiana are chasing down last year's recruited members in order to collect their dues. This is a waste of time, a waste of energy, and a waste of funds for those absent members or worst, Post or donated funds. Time and funds are best spent for current members devoted to projects and other tasks within their Post. Too often members are placed in the department or a post at a recruitment event without being voted on as prescribed in the *Manual of Procedure, Article I-Members, Section 103, Applications. (second paragraph)*

*The original application of every member will be retained on file with the Adjutant. Balloting on Applications. Before voting on the application during a Post meeting, the Commander shall allow the members present an opportunity to state their objections, if any, to the admission of the applicant. Unless one member present shall request a written ballot, a vote shall be taken and a majority of the votes cast shall decide acceptance or rejection of the application.,* all in order to achieve their post's or department's 100% for a cap. Sure, membership is key to running a department but leaving it up to next year's team to do it all over again, chasing down nonparticipating members, is just nonproductive. We need to start attracting members willing to be active within our posts and communities, and not just for someone's personal awards. If you make 100% this year, you should be able to do it each and every year there after, with members who believe in what we are doing for veterans and their families. But some won't. They will continue to do as they are doing. I plan to work with the 23-24 Membership Chairman on a couple of ideas I am developing and will present them to him in the first weeks of June.

My plans, if elected QM, are to move the QM's Office in line with the new Department Inspection criteria implemented by National in 2022. Another one of my goals is to make the Department's Budget electronically accessible to Posts after its approval and have the proposed budget available for review at State Conventions before it is voted on. I will submit a request to the State Commander to conduct an audit of Adj and QM books as required by the *Manual of Procedure, Article V Departments, Section 518-Officers: Duties and Obligations, (a) Officers. (4) Quartermaster, e. Provide the auditors with all records, files and statements required or necessary for the preparation of the Department report of audit.* I've heard that some don't believe an audit is necessary or warranted at this time. I believe anytime a new QM is elected, an audit is warranted and should be conducted shortly after taking office. Audits should also be conducted once a year as long as he or she is in office. Also, even though the National Bylaws do not state an audit is required of Adjutant Records in the 2023 Podium Edition, I believe one should be conducted during the QM'S Audit. This allows for transparency and accessibility for both offices.

Thank you for your time and again, I am humbly asking for your support at the June Convention, for a healthier department with more transparency and accessibility to the QM's office.

**PSC Mitchell R. "Mitch" Cota**  
**State Adjutant Designee 2023-2024**  
**Candidate for State Quartermaster 2023-2024**  
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### Positions Held

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