

**International Federation
of Trekkers**

FEDERATION ACADEMY



**Officer Candidate Course
(OCC)**

by

Commander Mark S Herrett

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The History of the IFT

“We must remember that the promise of tomorrow will not be fulfilled easily. The collective commitment of our nations, as well as the vision, wisdom, and hard work of many individuals will be required to bring our dreams to fruition. In a way, the Enterprise and the optimistic future in which it exists might be thought of as a reminder of what we can achieve when we really try.”

Gene Roddenberry Creator, “Star Trek” and “Star Trek: The Next Generation”

It was with this in mind that on June 1st, 1984 the International Federation of Trekkers was founded. Known at that time as the “Ohio Federation of Trekkers”, the organization and founding chapter, the U.S.S. Conquest (now known as the U.S.S. T’hy’la, which is Vulcan for “more than friends”), was based in Cleveland, Ohio.

What started off rather small grew beyond the boundaries of the state of Ohio and into other states and countries. This growth was instrumental in legally changing the organization’s name to the “International Federation of Trekkers”.

On April 23, 1992 IFT incorporated itself to reflect the organization’s real world stance. This changed the IFT command structure and the legal aspects of the International Federation of Trekkers’ position in the real world.

The Purpose of the IFT

Every organization is based on some fundamental principles. The IFT has several. The IFT is devoted to keeping alive many of the ideals and philosophies brought forth in Star Trek. These include, but are not limited to, racial harmony, space exploration, and the respect of all forms of life.

The IFT is dedicated to going beyond hoping and wishing for a better future. Through our newsletter, and by our actions, we promote environmental awareness and help to establish new programs to help our ailing planet. We promote education to all regardless of age. The IFT keep members informed about the real life difficulties relating to the space programs of all nations. IFT members are involved in humanistic concerns such as the Red Cross and other disaster relief organizations.

The IFT is also dedicated to enjoying the Star Trek mythos in all its different forms. IFT encourages fans to pursue all or any part of Star Trek that they take pleasure in. We encourage our members to add exciting new stories, concepts, and ideas to the ever-expanding Star Trek Universe. We have fun with one another by participating in meetings, attending conventions, and sharing our views and experiences from around the world. Star Trek may be the theme, but it is the people that make the difference.

The Role of the IFT in the Real World

IFT takes an active role in environmental issues, efforts to protect endangered species, humanistic needs, and the continuing efforts of the Earth's space Programs.

Environmental Issues

IFT provides a central resource for any information related to recycling and environmental concerns. IFT regularly provides advice and publishes articles on environmental concerns and helps to unify our voices in the common concern for our planet's continued survival.

IFT chapters have become involved in many of these issues through interaction with various environmental programs, such as forest reclamation, recycling, and Adopt-A-Highway programs around the world.

Endangered Species

Information on endangered species is also routinely shared with all our members. Chapters are encouraged to get involved on a local level with the protection of the chain of life on Earth.

Many IFT chapters have become involved with the preservation of endangered species through various animal adoption programs as well as direct contact with numerous animal rights organizations.

Humanistic Needs

The Chapters of the IFT regularly participate in blood drives and pledge drives for public television and medical research organizations. IFT has provided help for and has made others aware of relief efforts of other organizations and individuals.

In 1992 IFT chapters in the Eastern part of the United States joined together to provide truckloads of materials for people living in devastated Florida following the onslaught of Hurricane Andrew.

The combined effort of IFT chapters has demonstrated that the shared vision of the future we embrace is not as fictional as some would say, but is attainable through active participation in the events that shape the world around us.

Space Exploration

IFT is dedicated to the spirit of exploration and mankind's efforts to escape our Earthly bounds. Following the Challenger disaster in 1986, IFT joined other organizations and individuals in helping to fund the Challenger Center, an educational program focusing on man's space faring endeavors.

IFT Philosophy

by Fleet Admiral Russ Haslage

I have had many months to try and piece together words to describe the philosophy on which IFT is based. Over the past few months, I have learned that the IFT philosophy is in some ways a feeling or belief. One thing is for certain. It is not something that can be expressed in a few words.

In the early years of IFT, the philosophy was spread through one to one dialogue between IFT members, chapter commanders, and myself. IFT was a smaller organization then, and the direct communication between all IFT members and myself made the projection of the philosophy easy to do in stating decisions and the reason for them.

Today's larger IFT with its necessary levels of management has shown that the philosophy is not as well known as it once was. This is evident in the misunderstandings and miscues that we see occurring throughout the fleet from time to time. After sitting back and taking a realistic view of the problems faced by our organization, everything centered around one problem...and one solution. The problems had occurred because the parties involved in it were not acquainted with the philosophy. It seems in a very basic sense that the philosophy can cure all.

Upon talking with people in the corporate and philosophical realms, that is a sign of a very sound philosophy. If problems can continually be solved easily by taking the philosophy of an organization to heart...the organization is built on a strong foundation and can and should continue to thrive for many years (and centuries) to come...providing the philosophies are ones that can be understood and practiced by the members of that organization. The perfect philosophy is one that is "felt". That means that the members should "feel" the philosophy without consciously having to think about it when decisions need to be made and actions taken.

With these things in mind, I have set out on a quest to introduce the philosophy on which IFT has been built. The philosophy instilled since our pre-founding days in 1983, through the days of record setting growth in the mid 80's and into the future.

Many people have heard me say that the TREK universe changed greatly since the death of Gene Roddenberry. During his life there seemed to be “unwritten rules of conduct” for TREK fans all over the world. Since his death though, it seems that many TREK fans are living by a “ME, ME, ME, ME” ideal, an ideal far removed from what Mr. Roddenberry sought out to instill in his work. The putting of the IFT philosophy into words will help IFT members understand what it means to be a team, and what it truly means to be what (for lack of a better term) I call a Roddenberry-esque TREK fan.

WE ARE ONE. Even this part of the philosophy can be broken down into finer points, but it is a place to start. In IFT every member is of equal importance. Simply put, we are all equal in IFT. Yes, we all have our assigned duties within the organization. But that doesn’t mean that the member who just joined today is of less worth than I am. Everyone has the potential to make a fantastic positive leap for IFT, humankind, the world and the future.

Gene Roddenberry believed that each and every person is important: that everyone has a special “spark” within them that when cultivated and coordinated with the sparks and talents of others, can greatly benefit mankind, the planet, and the future. That firm belief that everyone has unlimited potential is the cornerstone of the IFT philosophy. This goes hand in hand with the I.D.I.C. philosophy that Gene instilled as a Vulcan trait. In the real world it is true that everyone is different and it is those differences that make us special. And, it is those differences that make meshing our sparks even more beneficial to us all.

IFT has offices and chapters placed around the world. We must continually remember that those chapters are not separate, but that they are local manifestations of the whole. IFT is one unified team of TREK fans committed to making Gene Roddenberry’s dream of the future someday come true. IFT is one unified team working together for the benefit of all. Together we are IFT.

International Federation of Trekkers Chain of Command

IFT Federation Council

Chief of Operations
Chief of Staff
Chief of Services
Admiral of Operations
Chief of Administration
Council Adjutant
Geo Coordinator

IFT

Fleet Administration Office

Services Division

Commendation Board
Diplomatic Corps
IFT Academy
Cadet Corps
Security Corps
Fleet Merit Awards
Graphic Department
Relief Missions
Special Services
Voyages Staff
Web Services

IFT Council Prime

Geo Coordinators
Geo Commanders

IFT

Chapter Commanders

IFT

Chapters
General Membership

The Local IFT Chapter

In addition to operating the parent organization, IFT sanctions local Chapters. Chapters are made up of two to four members (for a shuttle) or five or more members (in a full chapter) in close proximity, located in communities around the world. IFT chapters are run by fellow IFT members to provide a localized forum. They are created to better serve the individual tastes and needs of each area's fans.

The IFT GEO (Geographical Extensions of Operations) Commanders sanction chapters based on need and the geographical relationships to other chapters. Once approved, the GEO Commander assists the new Chapter Commander in establishing the chapter and provides guidance as the chapter develops.

IFT Chapters represent facets of the IFT "fleet". These chapters usually take on the fictional role of a starship, thus carrying a vessel name and number to enhance the role plying aspect of Star Trek fandom. With the success of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, IFT also sanctions other types of space faring vessels such as starbases and outposts.

In order to enhance the Star Trek fan experience, local IFT chapters sponsor their own unique events such as conventions, trips, and community service programs.

Chapter Requirements

To form a chapter of IFT there must be at least five paid IFT members interested in their own chapter. Chapters must retain at least five members to maintain chapter status. Special chapters called “shuttles” can be sanctioned in those cases where at least two members are interested in forming a chapter. Shuttle chapters are given a period of time to establish themselves as full chapters.

Every IFT chapter must hold regular meetings open to the general public. Files must be maintained on chapter personnel, projects, and financial accounts. Each year it must provide IFT Command with a summary of chapter dues, fees, and entitlements given to members. All chapters of IFT must also maintain a regular correspondence with IFT through monthly status reports.

Every member of any IFT chapter must be a paid IFT member. Chapters are allowed to collect IFT membership fees on behalf of its members, provided funds are forwarded to IFT within sixty days of receipt.

In keeping with IFT goals and mission, all chapters of IFT are highly encouraged to perform at least one public service per activity year.

Chapter Recognition

IFT presents awards to chapters and members through a Fleet Merit Awards system. On an annual basis IFT recognizes the outstanding efforts made by various chapters of the organization. Winners are selected by the Federation Council based upon IFT goals of education, environmental conservation, social involvement, space exploration education, IFT interaction, and general fellowship.

The IFT Fleet Merit awards also allow IFT GEO Commanders and Chapter Commanders to acknowledge the accomplishments and efforts of their fellow chapters and their members.

Customs and Courtesies

Introduction

In any walk of life, observance of commonly accepted codes of behavior is the simplest, most direct way of getting along with other people. In the military service however, observance of customs has a greater function than merely getting along. Just consider for a moment the many walks of life and the many economic, religious, and cultural backgrounds of the people in our chapter.

Customs

Every group that is organized observes customs in a common undertaking. It is unwritten, inviolable law. You obey them because it is necessary to live in harmony with those around you. You cannot create your own customs and expect others to follow them. Rather you inherit customs from every area of association into which you may enter.

As a member of the International Federation of Trekkers you inherit many customs from the military services.

Rank has its privileges

You are probably familiar with the letters RHIP. Spelled out this means that rank has its privileges. You may wonder why rank should have privileges in addition to prestige. Stop and think about privilege for a moment. You will realize that whoever has privilege usually has responsibility. The two are inseparable in the service. They go hand in hand in civilian life also. A person who assumes responsibility for others is entitled to enjoy a few special privileges and courtesies. You can see that the same type of courtesy and respect that is due an elder is due a senior military member.

A list of such privileges would serve no purpose; indeed such a list would be confusing because many would consider some of the privileges to be customs, while others would call them privileges. A safe rule to follow with respect to privileges is to be considerate towards senior officers in the same way you are considerate towards elders. You can see clearly that only a thin line divides custom, courtesy, respect, and privileges. All of them are a part of military life and serve to give the military a high standard of civility.

Showing disrespect to the uniform

There has always been a taboo against bad conduct in uniform. Aside from the disrespect brought upon oneself as an individual, one disgraces the uniform and the International Federation of Trekkers. One individual by his or her poor appearance or disgraceful conduct destroys the good impression created by a large number of IFT members who have dressed and behaved properly in public.

Courting Favor

If you court favor with your superiors, you will earn the dislike of your companions. Such practice is beneath the conduct expected of an officer. Boot licking marks an individual as being incapable of making his or her own way on ability only. It is regarded as a contemptible display of weakness.

The Old Man

The Commander is often referred to as the “Old Man” by virtue of his position and without regard to age. The term is one of admiration. However, you should never use it in the presence of the commander because it is never customary to do so. Your use of the term in his presence would show disrespect.

Titles

The correct use of titles is an important act of military courtesy. It shows respect for both the individual and his or her grade. You should observe the following rules of military courtesy in addressing seniors and subordinates.

Officers are always addressed and referred to by their title or rank, such as Admiral, Captain, or Commander. If several officers of the same rank are together it is proper to use both title and name, such as Admiral Jones or Captain Kirk to avoid confusion. Officers of the rank of Lieutenant Commander and below and Cadet are addressed as “Mister” or “Ms”.

By tradition the commanding officer of any ship or station, no matter what his or her rank, is addressed and referred to as Captain. The Executive Officer likewise is referred to as the Commander. Other Captains and Commanders in the same command should be addressed by their rank and name.

On Deck

When the commanding officer or a flag officer (Commodore or above) enters a room, usually at a meeting, the Chief of Security will call the room to attention by saying in a slightly higher than normal speaking voice, “Captain on Deck!” or “Admiral on Deck!” In lieu of the Chief of Security, the senior officer present will call the room to attention. The room will come to attention and remain so until the officer the honors were rendered to replies, “As you were” or “Take your seats” as appropriate.

The IFT Policy on Uniforms and Ranks

IFT does not require that members wear Starfleet uniforms, nor does it require adherence to any one “generation” or “fandom”. No one can be excluded from activities for lack of a uniform. However, they may be excluded from parts of an event if a uniform is needed.

Because the rank systems used by paramount pictures are not always consistent, IFT does not mandate to a particular set of rank designations. However, IFT does utilize a rank structure to reflect the role-playing aspects of fandom and to reward and reflect the contributions made by IFT members.

The Uniform

Uniforms have been used for centuries to identify military persons as to service, group, and place in the chain of command. Insignias are added to the uniform to show position in the chain of command, rank, awards, and affiliations.

Appearance and conduct should always reflect credit upon the officer and the International Federation of Trekkers. The uniform should be clean and worn correctly. No articles such as pens or jewelry may be worn exposed on the uniform.

Although no particular uniform type is required to be worn by members of the IFT, the following are the uniforms worn by officers and members of the U.S.S. Phoenix.

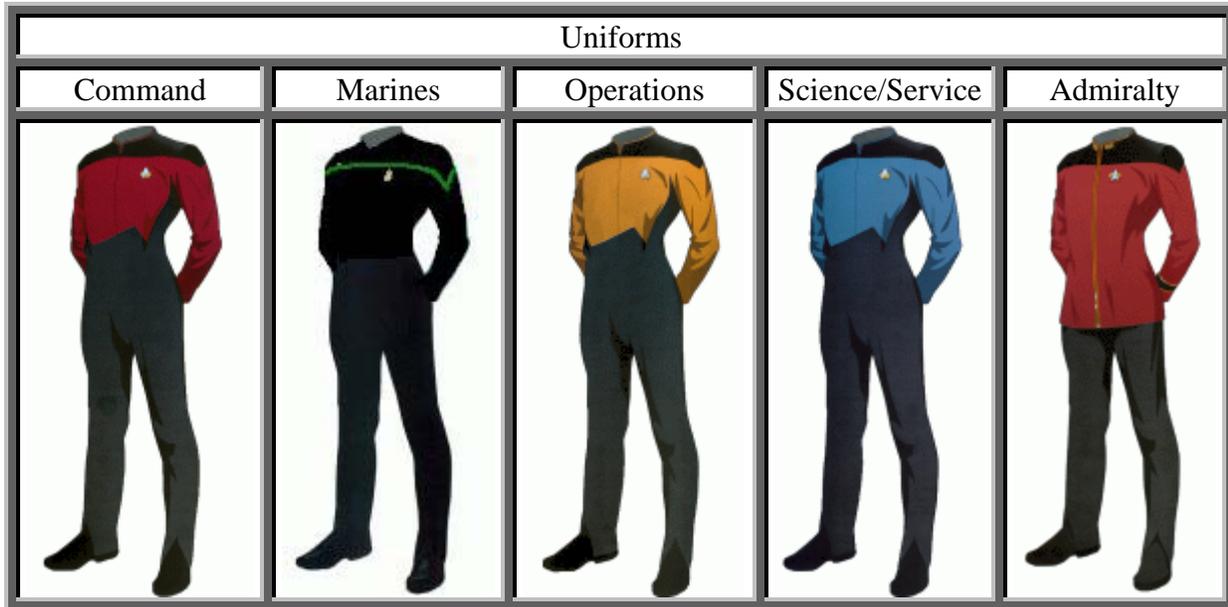
The Dress Uniform



1. The tunic is white with the contrasting piping indicating the wearer's departmental affiliation. Red is for Admiralty and Command, Gold is for Engineering, Sciences, and Security, and Blue is for Medical and Support. This is the color scheme for the U.S.S Phoenix. Color schemes may vary from ship to ship. The gentleman above is an Admiral. The following insignia is worn on the tunic.
 - a. Rank insignia are placed centered on the collar. Above the photos shows an Admiral, the insignia are on both sides of the collar. For the rank of Captain down, the rank insignia is only on the right side collar with the left side blank.
 - b. Communicator badge centered between the V-neck and the left arm placed approximately one inch below the piping. (In the above case the Ambassador insignia is in place of the communicator).
 - c. The Official International Federation of Trekkers patch is centered on the left shoulder.
 - d. Ribbons and awards are centered approximately one half inch below the communicator badge (in this case the Ambassador insignia). They are worn three in a row.
2. Black trousers of plain design or an optional black skirt of conservative length for female officers is worn with black shoes or boots of plain design.

3. The dress uniform is normally worn for ceremonial occasions, i.e. change of commands, award ceremonies, and dress occasions specified by the Officer in charge.

The Duty Uniform



The duty uniform is used for general use consists of the following:

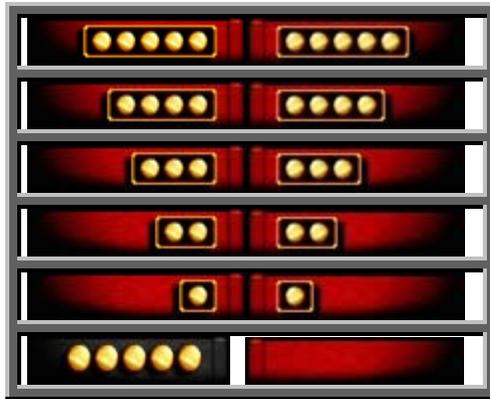
- A. The tunic or shirt is the color of the department that the individual serves in. The above colors designate the USS T'hy'la departmental collars. Red is designated to Command, green to the Marines, yellow to Operations, and blue to Sciences and Services. These colors may vary from ship to ship.
- B. The pants are black.
- C. The shoes are black or are plain, black boots.
- D. Insignia and other accessories are the same as the dress uniform.

The duty uniform is worn at meetings, conferences, and other events as deemed appropriate by command.

Flag Ranks and Insignia

IFT Flag ranks have been designed by IFT in “The Next Generation” era. The following are the ranks used by IFT above the rank of Captain.

Admiralty consists of the Admiral pips enclosed by a gold frame on the collar as well as the following pips worn on the right sleeve above the gold piping.



The above graphics show these ranks from top to bottom:

Fleet Admiral

Vice Fleet Admiral

Admiral

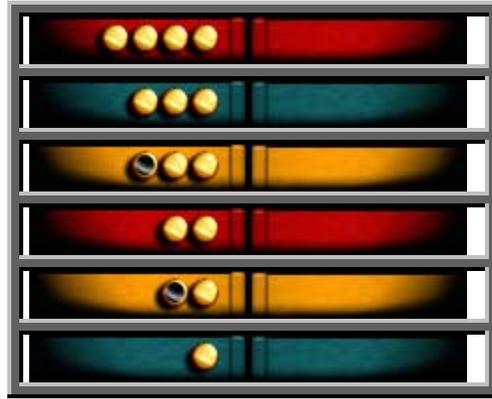
Vice Admiral

Commodore

Fleet Captain: designated with five single gold pips on the right side of the collar.

Take notice that the ranks of Commodore and above are displayed on both collars.

Officer Rank Insignia



The above insignia represent the ranks of officers in IFT. They are from top to bottom:

Captain

Commander

Lieutenant Commander

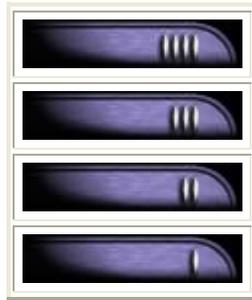
Lieutenant

Lieutenant Junior Grade

Ensign

Ranks from Ensign through Captain are further divided into sub classes: Ensign 3rd class, Ensign 2nd class, Ensign 1st class and so on in every rank.

Cadet Ranks



The Cadet Corps range ages 5 through 15

The above ranks from top to bottom are:

Cadet Captain

Cadet Commander

Cadet Lieutenant

Cadet Ensign

Within these ranks are sub ranks just as with the adult officers. The rank of Ensign has three grades, 3rd class, 2nd class, and 1st class.