

**FINEST**  
A G.I. JOE COSTUME CLUB



**FIELD MANUAL: CRIMSON GUARD (V1)**



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Crimson Guard!

You have survived your initiation ritual and have been inducted into an elite group of warriors, far too valuable to squander on the field of battle. You are young, intelligent, attractive, and upwardly mobile! You are an upstanding pillar of your community, active in local politics, a concerned citizen. You are a trusted executive with an untarnished reputation for honesty and fair dealing. A loving spouse, a compassionate parent, you are the last person to be suspected of having a Crimson Guard uniform in your closet!

As a newly-minted "Siege" (CG), your orders are simple. You will maneuver your way into the confidences of the mighty. While Troopers and Vipers take the fight to our enemies on the battlefield, your battles will be fought in the executive boardrooms of the government and private sector. You will use your advanced degrees in law and accounting to help Cobra achieve our political and economic goals. You will hide in plain sight, working your way upward in the political machine to the Senate and... dare we hope - higher?

This Field Manual is intended to help new recruits assemble a 1985 Version 1 (V1<sup>1</sup>) Crimson Guard uniform as accurately and as economically as possible. The recommendations in this manual are intended to provide a uniform standard to ensure that all new Crimson Guard entering the ranks of the Finest are visually identical. Where possible, special attention has been made to recommend uniform components that are commonly available and easily attainable via online sellers.

Although there have been several variations of the Crimson Guard uniform since 1985, the primary references for this manual are the original V1 Crimson Guard action figure and card artwork. When applicable, this manual will also make references to updated interpretations of the V1 Crimson Guard, including the V9 (2008) and V12 (2008) figures. Please note that other variations of the Crimson Guard uniform are not addressed in this manual (e.g., comics, animated series, Sideshow Collectibles, etc.).

Despite certain variations, the updated interpretations of the Crimson Guard uniform (V9 and V12) referenced in this manual are based upon the original designs of the V1 Crimson Guard, and therefore certain elements of those uniforms are considered acceptable substitutions (details are noted throughout).

Now, armed with this Field Manual, take your place among the elite ranks of the Crimson Guard!

**HAIL COBRA!**

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of a common reference system, the version numbers referred to in this manual use the structure provided by [www.yojoe.com](http://www.yojoe.com).



## REFERENCE PHOTOS

The primary references for this manual are the original V1 Crimson Guard action figure and card artwork. Please note that there are several differences between the card artwork and the action figure (including the helmet, chest eagle insignia, shoulder board design, left sleeve insignia, and sleeve service stripes). This manual will cite each reference accordingly and provide options where applicable.





## FIELD MANUAL: CRIMSON GUARD [V1]

REVISED: Aug. 2016





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SECTION 1: HEADGEAR</b>	6
<b>HELMET</b>	6
<b>OPTIONAL HEADGEAR</b>	6
<b>BALACLAVA</b>	6
<b>SECTION 2: UNIFORM</b>	7
<b>OVERVIEW</b>	7
<b>JACKET</b>	7
<b>JACKET REFERENCE PHOTO</b>	11
<b>TROUSERS</b>	11
<b>TROUSER BELT</b>	12
<b>GLOVES</b>	12
<b>BELTS</b>	12
<b>BELT BUCKLES</b>	12
<b>BELT POUCHES</b>	12
<b>SECTION 3: BOOTS</b>	13
<b>UPPER PULL STRAPS</b>	13
<b>BOOT POUCHES</b>	13
<b>ANKLE STRAPS</b>	14
<b>SPURS</b>	14
<b>SPUR STRAPS</b>	14
<b>SECTION 4: WEAPONS</b>	16
<b>ASSAULT RIFLE</b>	16
<b>SIDEARM (OPTIONAL)</b>	16
<b>SECTION 5: CHECKLIST</b>	17



## SECTION 1: HEADGEAR

### HELMET

For Finest approval, the helmet must be visually identical to helmets already in service within the Finest ranks (ask a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff for vendors and availability).

Note: helmets with a black faceplate (V1 and V9 figures) or a silver faceplate (V1 card art and V12 figure) are accepted. Finished helmets provided by the manufacturer are as pictured to the right.



### OPTIONAL HEADGEAR

When not wearing the Crimson Guard helmet, a U.S. army-style black beret is authorized. The recommended flash is the red and black U.S. Army Special Operations Command beret flash.

All berets should be Rothco "Inspection Ready" which are pre-shaven, pre-shaped, leather-trimmed, and made to military specifications without eyelets or drawstrings.

If you are unfamiliar with the proper care and wear of a military beret, please consult with the Command Staff or various online beret tutorials. If you are in the process of assembling a Crimson Guard uniform and do not yet own a helmet, the beret is an acceptable temporary alternative.



### BALACLAVA

The balaclava must be black and long enough to completely cover the front, side, and back of the neck. The balaclava should be tucked into the jacket collar so that no skin is exposed. Open or closed-faced balaclavas are acceptable as long as the neck and chin are covered. Using an open-faced balaclava will help prevent the helmet visor from fogging.

The ideal balaclava should be thin, lightweight, and designed to wick away sweat from beneath the helmet. Black balaclavas are widely available from a variety of online vendors.





## SECTION 2: UNIFORM

### OVERVIEW

Unlike typical Cobra “combat” uniforms, the Crimson Guard wears a formal military dress uniform, as opposed to the tactical battle attire of Officers, Troopers, and Vipers. As such, care should be taken to ensure that the jacket and trousers are dry-cleaned and pressed before each event, and that the uniform is stored and transported on an appropriate suit hanger in a suit bag. Tip: use a suit hanger similar in style to the picture at right. These hangers are designed to hold the shape of the jacket shoulder and the non-slip bar will keep the trousers secure.



### JACKET

As a base jacket, the Finest recommends the THELEES Mens Casual Double Breasted button Slim Jacket Blazer (red) as pictured to the right. It is recommended that you purchase this jacket from eBay using the search terms previously stated. NOTE: this is a “slim-fit” jacket, and the largest size currently available is US XL (approximately 44” chest and 40” waist).<sup>2</sup> If you require a larger jacket, contact a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff to inquire about commissioning a custom-made jacket.

Note: the price for the correct jacket is currently \$76.00. There are many imitations of this jacket available for significantly cheaper prices, however, the color and quality of the imitation jackets are not recommended. Please be aware that jackets sold online for significantly cheaper than \$76.00 are cheaply made and are the wrong shade of red (i.e., they will not match the recommended trousers or helmet). Please ensure that your jacket is the high-quality “THELEES” brand, and not a cheap imitation. Modifications to the jacket must be made, as detailed below.



### Buttons

As an option, the large buttons on the jacket’s chest and abdomen may be replaced with rectangular buttons to more accurately match the reference photos.

### Collar

The collar button should be removed. For greater accuracy, this button may be sewn on the upper chest, equidistant between the top two buttons. The mandarin collar tab of the jacket maybe folded and sewn to more closely match the reference photo.



As seen on the V9 and V12 figures, you have the option of wearing two silver Cobra collar pins (one on each side of the collar). Ask a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff for vendors and availability. Alternatively, you may choose to not wear collar pins.

<sup>2</sup> This jacket is typically sold in Asian sizes. Be sure to confirm with the seller prior to purchase that you are receiving the correct size jacket.

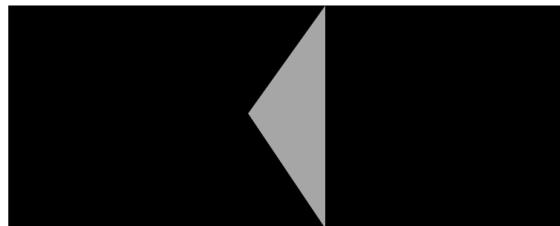


## **Shoulder Boards**

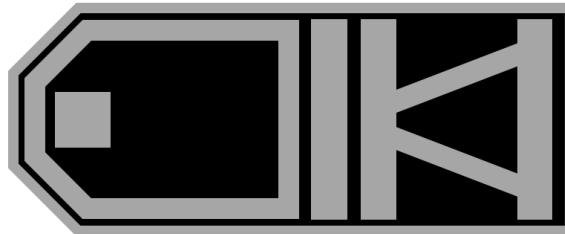
Black and silver shoulder boards must be attached to the shoulders of the jacket. The shoulder boards should be 2" wide and 5" long, and should be embroidered as high quality patches ("satin stitch" if possible). To stiffen the shoulder board, you may back the embroidery with cardstock or plastic.

Shoulder boards vary greatly between the V1 figure and card artwork, as well as modern figures. Finest members have several design options for the shoulder boards, as detailed in the graphic below. Once you select a shoulder board option, you may take the design to an embroiderer for production (2" wide and 5" long). Metallic silver embroidered onto durable black tackle twill is recommended. Contact a Finest garrison commander or Command Staff member for embroidery details.

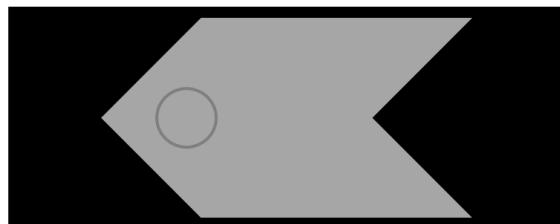
**Option 1**  
V1 figure



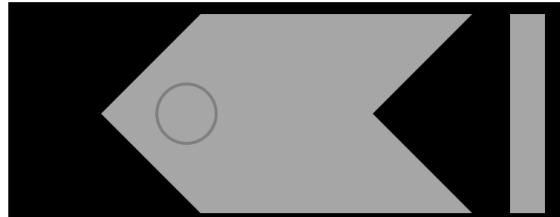
**Option 2**  
V1 figure card artwork



**Option 3**  
V9 and V12 figures, Sideshow Collectibles figure



**Option 4**  
Squad Leader V1 (2008) figure



For options 3 and 4, you may wish to create the "arrow" shape as a separate piece from metal or thick plastic to more closely match the reference.



## **Chest Sigil**

A silver Cobra sigil should be embroidered onto the center of the jacket chest. For the correct size and placement, the embroiderer will typically need to create a high-quality embroidered patch (satin stitch is preferred). At its widest point, the width of the embroidered sigil should be approximately 6". The top of the embroidered patch should be placed level with the second row of buttons (see photo). This design is available at EmbroidMe franchise stores nationwide. Contact a Finest garrison commander or Command Staff member for embroidery details. For details on the embroidery, please consult a Finest garrison commander or the Command Staff.



## **Right Shoulder Cord (Aiguillette)**

A silver, single-braid, nickel-tipped shoulder cord/aiguillette should be worn on the right shoulder of the jacket. The shoulder cord should pass under the shoulder board and under the arm. The recommended shoulder cord is the "French Single Braid with Nickel Tip Shoulder Cords (CD-B)", available online at [supplyroom.com](http://supplyroom.com). The required color is "silver mylar." The loop of the shoulder cord is attached to the jacket beneath the right shoulder board by use of a tie tack, or sewn.



## **Left Arm Insignia**

A silver Crimson Guard insignia should be embroidered onto the left upper arm. For the correct size and placement, the embroiderer will typically need to create a high-quality embroidered patch (satin stitch is preferred). Finest members have two design options for the left arm insignia.

1. The "Diamond" design featured on the V1 card artwork, comics, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary figures, and Sideshow Collectibles figure). This design should be scaled to 4" wide and 6" high and embroidered on the left upper arm 2" below the shoulder seam. This design is available at EmbroidMe franchise stores. Contact a Finest garrison commander or Command Staff member for embroidery details.
2. The "Inverted Triangles" design featured on the V1 action figure. This design should be scaled to 4.5" wide x3" high and embroidered on the left upper arm 4" below the shoulder seam.



**Option 1**  
(V1 card art, Sideshow Collectibles  
figure, & comics)



**Option 2**  
(V1 figure)



## **Sleeve Service Stripes**

One silver service stripe should be sewn completely around each sleeve, four inches from the wrist cuff (just above the sleeve cuff buttons on the Thelees jacket). The silver service stripe is made using silver ribbon (5/8" width). Using the 1985 card artwork as reference, a second service stripe is optional. If worn, it should be sewn with a 5/8" gap from the first service stripe. A maximum of two service stripes are permitted.

To match the other silver elements of the uniform, the recommended material for the jacket sleeve service stripes is the Berwick Offray Ribbon (silver, 5/8" width) (UPC code 079856 363423).

## **Service Ribbons**

Service ribbons should be worn on the upper left chest. To match the character reference, the recommended ribbons are:

1. Red: Army Meritorious Unit Citation
2. Blue: Presidential Unit Ribbon (2)

All ribbons should be placed in silver frames (if necessary, gold frames may be painted silver). To match the reference, service ribbons should be arranged in the order of precedence as pictured. The service ribbons should be affixed to a ribbon rack similar in style to a photo below.



## **Eagle Insignia**

A metal "eagle insignia" should be worn on the upper left chest beneath the service ribbons. The eagle insignia varies greatly between the card artwork and the action figure. The recommended eagle insignia is the "Roman Eagle/Rome SPQR Standard/War WW2 Italian Pin/Broach" available on Amazon.com. This pin is sturdy metal, lightweight, and features two military-style clutch pins on the back for a cleaner appearance on the uniform jacket. The eagle insignia should be centered 5/8" below the service ribbons.



Tip: cut a piece of cardboard (approximately 5" wide by 3" high) to be used inside the jacket behind the service ribbons and eagle insignia. When pinned through the cardboard, the service ribbons and eagle insignia will have a neater appearance on the front of the jacket.

**JACKET REFERENCE PHOTO****TROUSERS**

To closely match the Thelees jacket, the recommended trousers are Haggar Men's Belted Poplin Straight Fit Plain Front Pant (Dark Red) as pictured to the right (the belt should be removed). These trousers are commonly available from various online retailers including Amazon.com.

Tip: For ease of use with boots, you may wish to add stirrups to the bottom of each trouser leg.

**Trouser Stripes**

Two silver stripes (matching the service stripes on the jacket) should be sewn down the seam on the outside of each leg. The stripes match the silver service strips on the jacket cuffs and are also made from silver ribbon (5/8" width). There is a 5/8" gap between the two trouser stripes.

To match the other silver elements of the uniform, the recommended material for the trouser stripes is the Berwick Offray Ribbon (silver, 5/8" width) (UPC code 079856 363423).





## TROUSER BELT



The recommended belt for the Crimson Guard uniform is any black leather belt suitable for wearing with dress pants. Please note that this belt is fed through the belt loops of the trousers and will be completely concealed by the jacket and outer belts.

## GLOVES

The recommended gloves for the Crimson Guard are “Luxury Men’s Touchscreen Italian Nappa Leather Gloves (black)”, which are commonly available from various online retailers including Amazon.com. These gloves are touch-screen-compatible.



## BELTS

The Crimson Guard wear two black leather belts over the jacket. The recommended belts are two “Eurosport Premium Thick Wide Leather Belt Straps”, available on Amazon.com. To match the reference, both belts are joined together on the left hip (through the left belt pouch loops), but not on the right. The belts are 1.5” wide and will accommodate the Crimson Guard belt buckles, described below.



## BELT BUCKLES

Kits for Crimson Guard belt buckles are custom made by vendors in the Finest (ask a Garrison Commander or the Command Staff for vendors and availability). The buckles consist of a black rectangle, four rivets, and an inverted triangle which should be painted silver/gunmetal. The buckles are designed to be used with a 1.5” wide black leather belt as described above. Two belt buckles are required for the Crimson Guard uniform.



## BELT POUCHES

The Crimson Guard wear two black leather belt pouches on each side. These pouches should be a high-quality black leather to match the belts. The recommended pouches are “Horizontal Black Leather Case for iPhone 6 4.7” Carrying Pouch”, which are commonly available on ebay.com (note: similar black leather pouches customized for other types of phones may be purchased).



Note: to match the reference, both belts should be fed through the belt loops of the left belt pouch, (only one belt is fed through the right belt pouch).



## SECTION 3: BOOTS

### BASE BOOT

The Crimson Guard wear tall, black leather, military cavalry boots. For male and female Crimson Guard, the recommended boots are “Tuffrider Baroque Dress boots.” These boots feature a zipper and elastic strip in the back and may be stretched easily to accommodate a variety of calf sizes. Several modifications should be made to the boots, including the addition of upper pull straps, pouches, ankle straps, spurs, and wide spur straps. Note: most modifications are cosmetic only, and leave the boot undamaged to be worn with other costumes, if needed. Note: the reference boot shown below is the Crimson Guard V9 action figure. Although it is essentially the same as the V12 figure, this reference was selected because of the detailed paint application.



Reference Boot: CG V9



Tuffrider Baroque Dress Boot

### UPPER PULL STRAPS

Using strips of 0.75” black leather, pull straps should be folded over the upper edge of each boot and attached via two silver/nickel snaps per boot. Note: the snaps do not need to be functional. Alternatively, tie tacks may be pushed through the boot leather of the top of the boot to simulate a pull strap.

### BOOT POUCHES

A small black leather pouch should be attached to the upper section of the outside of each boot. The recommended pouch is a plain lighter pouch (Zippo or other brand), similar to the pouch pictured at right. A black permanent marker may be used to color the white stitching. The boot pouches may be attached via a variety of techniques, including the use of clutch-back tie pins (two per pouch to prevent the pouch from rotating).





## ANKLE STRAPS

The Crimson Guard boots feature 0.5" black leather straps which wrap around both ankles. The fit of each strap may be adjusted by use of the rectangular buckles (nickel/silver color). You may create these straps from 0.5" leather strips and buckles, or you may purchase these straps ready-made. If purchasing, the recommended ankle straps are the "Weaver Leather Spur Straps", commonly available on Amazon.com.



Note: The ankle straps on the V9 and V12 figures featured a "heel protector" on the back of the ankle. This addition is optional. The V1 figure ankle straps did not feature a "heel protector."

Tip: the ankle straps may be glued to the front of the boot, or non-skid rubber may be attached to the underside of the ankle straps to prevent movement.

## SPURS

The Crimson Guard boots feature ceremonial spurs on the boot heel. The recommended spurs are "WEMBLEY English/Dressage Spurs", similar in style to what is pictured at right. Spurs may be stainless steel/nickel in color (V9), or painted black (V1, V12). Using pliers, the spurs should be custom fit to the heel of your boots, and fastened using a 0.75" elastic band. The elastic band should run over the top of your boot, through one side of the spur, under the boot sole (in the gap forward of the heel), through the other side of the spur, and fastened on the top of the boot via Velcro. The elastic band will be concealed by the wide (1.5") leather spur strap which covers the top of each boot (see photo on following page).



## SPUR STRAPS

The Crimson Guard boots feature wide (1.5") spur straps across the tops of each boot, with rounded ends. These straps may be created from 1.5" black leather strips commonly sold at craft stores (e.g., Michaels) and secured to the boot via a 0.75" black elastic band. The elastic band runs beneath the sole of the boot (in the gap forward of the heel), and is secured to the leather strap by two metal snaps or studs. Alternatively, you may attach the leather spur straps to the 0.75" elastic band which holds the spurs in place.

By using these techniques, it is not necessary to sew or otherwise permanently alter the boot.







## SECTION 4: WEAPONS

### ASSAULT RIFLE

The closest real-world equivalent to the iconic Crimson Guard rifle is the FN FAL assault rifle with mounted bayonet.<sup>3</sup> Finest members are permitted to carry Airsoft rifles (unloaded at all times) with the Crimson Guard uniform.<sup>4</sup> The recommended rifle is the King Arms FN FAL Airsoft Rifle (as of the publication date of this manual, the King Arms FN FAL Airsoft Rifle has been discontinued, so you may wish to frequently check online auction sites).

Please refrain from carrying U.S.-associated Airsoft rifles with the Crimson Guard uniform, including M16s, M4s, etc.



### BAYONET

The Crimson Guard rifle features a bayonet mounted to the barrel. The recommended bayonet is the inexpensive Lancer Tactical CA-07 plastic bayonet, available at various online retailers including [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



### SIDEARM (OPTIONAL)

The Crimson Guard reference photos depict a sidearm worn on the left thigh through a loop which matches the trouser material. This sidearm is optional.

<sup>3</sup> This opinion is evidently shared by Sideshow Collectibles, as the FN FAL was the weapon included with their version of the Crimson Guard in 2012.

<sup>4</sup> The Finest places the utmost importance upon the safety of our members and the safety of the public while attending public events. Finest members are not required to carry prop weapons. When carrying weapons, members are required to abide by all relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to weapons, as well as the individual rules and policies of specific venues and events. As laws and regulations vary based on location, Finest members are required to be knowledgeable of, and abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to each member's specific location or event. Finest members are expected to conduct a safety check of weapons prior to events to ensure that all weapons are unloaded at all times.



## SECTION 5: CHECKLIST

### HEADGEAR

- Helmet
- Beret with U.S. Army Special Operations Command flash (optional)

### UNIFORM

- Jacket
- Replacement Buttons (optional)
- Cobra Collar Pins (optional)
- Shoulder Boards
- Chest Sigil (embroidered)
- Right Shoulder Cord (silver)
- Left Sleeve Insignia (embroidered)
- Sleeve Service Stripes (one or two stripes per sleeve)
- Service Ribbons with ribbon rack
- Eagle Insignia
- Trousers (Haggar Men's Belted Poplin Straight Fit Plain Front Pant [Dark Red])
- Trouser Belt (black), worn through trouser belt loops
- Gloves (Touchscreen Italian Nappa Leather Gloves [black])
- Belts (2)
- Belt Buckles (2)
- Belt Pouches (2)

### BOOTS

- Tuffrider Baroque Dress Boots
- Upper Pull Straps (2) with silver/nickel snaps (4)
- Boot Pouches (2)
- Ankle Straps with silver/nickel buckles (2)
- Spurs (silver/nickel or black)
- Spur Straps with silver/nickel snaps (2)

### WEAPONS

- Assault Rifle
- Bayonet
- Sidearm (optional)

