

WARHAMMER® 40,000

Adeptus Custodes Codex



Adeptus Custodes

By Michael Tamíollo



Adeptus Custodes

The Adeptus Custodes are the guardians of the Imperial Palace and the Golden Throne, as well as being the personal bodyguard to the Emperor. A small elite of three hundred Custodes, known as the *Companions*, form the Emperor's personal bodyguard and never leave his side. Due to the vast size of the Imperial Palace, the Custodes always act as a defensive force. The Custodes themselves never leave Terra, and only rarely leave the Palace.

It is the Adeptus Custodes that decide who may enter the throne room of the Emperor, and when.

Organisation

The Adeptus Custodes is a department of the Adeptus Terra the Imperial government, but its members are answerable only to the Emperor and their own leaders.

The organization's leader carries the title of *Captain-General*, and due to the importance of the Adeptus Custodes he often holds a position in the Senate of the High Lords Of Terra.

Appearance and equipment

The Adeptus Custodes adorn the eagle crest, which together with their halberds and elongated helms mark their position within the Imperium.

Their armour is of the purest gold and is marked with a crimson cloak of office depicting many of their individual achievements.

The uniforms of the Custodians are traditional but effective: boots, leather breeches and long black cloaks. Their torsos are naked and corded with tattooed muscle. Their tall, brazen helmets, ominous and all-enclosing, give them a threatening and impersonal appearance; ancient and ornate, the helmets incorporate advanced protective equipment and communicators.

Originally the traditional colour of the Custodes was red; following the confinement of the Emperor after the defeat of Horus, it was changed to black.

The weapons carried by the Custodes resemble spears, but in fact they are laser weapons built in the shape of spears. The spears are built to resemble the original guardian spears carried by the Adeptus Custodes before the Emperor's confinement. The guardian spear is closely associated with the Custodes, and is depicted on their banners and badges

History

The Adeptus Custodes were known originally as the **Legio Custodes**. The original Custodians were the first genetically and psychologically altered warriors created by the Emperor during the Terran Unification Wars. They served as the Emperor's personal bodyguard.⁴ The genetic enhancement that forms the Custodes is different from and predates that developed to create Space Marines.³ P.29 During the Great Crusade, the Custodes always kept a contingent with the Emperor for his protection, but also travelled individually as envoys. Since the Emperor's internment in the Golden Throne, the Adeptus Custodes have taken a more limited role as protectors of the Imperial Palace.

Originally, they were equipped with the best power armour of the age, and had access to the same type of equipment and weapons as had the Space Marine Legions. Equipment which was characteristic of the Custodes would influence the equipment of the later Grey Knights. After the confinement of the Emperor within the Golden Throne, the Custodes abandoned, among other things, the use of their armour, and their traditional colour of red was changed to black.⁴

During the Age of Apostasy, the Adeptus Custodes reemerged briefly during the siege of the Ecclesiarchal Pallace of Terra in the reign of Goge Vandire. During this time, the Custodes attempted to make their way towards Vandire, halted only by Brides Of The Emperor whom Vandire had convinced into becoming his personal bodyguards.

After a long and fruitless discussion, the Custodes convinced the leader of the Brides, Alicia Dominica to return with them to the presence of the Emperor. What happened during that moment is unknown, but the effects resulted in the Brides of the Emperor rebelling against Vandire, ending his reign once and for all.



Outlook & Training

Although the Custodes were among the first modified warriors to be created by the Emperor, they were never intended to be part of a conquering army; such a role was to be filled by the latter Astartes armies. This is revealed both in their mindset and training:

While Custodians share a genetic kinship with one another within the formation, do not foster the same spirit of brotherhood that is instilled within the Astartes in order to function together as a unit. Indeed, each Custodian prepares and inspects his equipment individually, rather than on military parade.³

The individuality of each Custodes is further promoted by the fact that the processes required to produce them is not as refined or as simple as that of the Astartes and thus are not "mass-produced" as the Astartes are; meaning that each Custodian is a unique investment for the Imperium.

One ritual that the Custodes do share is the recognition of mighty deeds, manifested in the awarding of names, which are added to the Custodian's title to represent the actions he has performed in service to the Emperor. (Constantin Valdor obtained 1932 names prior to the assault on Terra)³ Such names were inscribed onto the inside of the warrior's battle armour as marks of individual pride.

The training of the Custodes also differed immensely from the Astartes, being Bodyguards rather than Soldiers.

It is clear from their blood games that Custodians are trained in the arts of assassination -both improvised and advanced- in order to counter possible assassination attempts to the Emperor. It is common for several Custodians to be on detached duty for these Blood Games so that the organisation remains vigilant against developing threats.



Furthermore it is clear that the Custodes are also well versed in the political etiquette of Terra, and have been known to act outside of Imperial Law to infiltrate influential Noble Houses and to investigate any potential threats.³ (A role that an Astartes would never be expected to fulfil.)

This aspect of the Custodian mindset is advantageous, given that the Captain-General often shares a seat with the High Lords Of Terra and thus allows him to navigate the political maneuverings of the Imperium's various agencies, while still remaining an awe inspiring warrior.

Adeptus Custodes Units Types And Army List

Constantin Valdor - Chief Custodian HQ Unit 275pts

WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld	Save
7	5	4	5	4	6	5	10	2+

Unit Composition

- 1 (Unique)

Unit Type

- Infantry

Wargear

- Artificer Armour
- Master Crafted Relic Blade With Built In Bolt Gun
- Frag Grenades And Melta Bombs
- Storm Shield

