

**THE
NOLAN CARSON MEMORIAL
COLOR GUARD
OF THE
CINCINNATI CHAPTER**

**Songs of the
American
Revolution**

**COLOR GUARD HISTORY
& OBJECTIVES**

VOLUME 1

Dedication

These two volumes of the Cincinnati Chapter Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard Manual, is dedicated to the current and past members of the Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard.

Since 1998, compatriots of the Cincinnati Chapter have determined to show honor and respect to the Flag and Heritage of the United States through their respectful presentation of the National Colors and the story of our National Journey.



It is with pride and a sense of duty that the Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard continues this Legacy of Respect while seeking opportunities to introduce the idea of Patriotic Love of Country, to citizens, old and new, in these United States.

Respectfully Dedicated

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Turner Lee Wilkerson III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "T" and "W".

Turner Lee Wilkerson III
Commander 2017/2018
Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard
Cincinnati Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

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CHAPTER I

COLOR GUARD MISSION, HISTORY & ACTIVITIES

COLOR GUARD MANUAL

This narrative, is intended for the edification of Cincinnati Chapter members desiring to participate in the Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard. The contents of this manual should be especially helpful to those with little to no experience with drill & ceremony as well as those that might have experience acquired during their military service. A companion pamphlet, Drill & Ceremony Manual, outlining the command and movement that will govern our performance in commemorative ceremonies can also be found on the Color Guard page of the Cincinnati SAR Website. All of us can benefit from the instruction within relating to the colonial manner of Drill & Ceremony that was taught to our Continental Army in the 18th century by Major General Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben.

As we seek to replicate realism in the portrayal of our ancestry we shall need to focus our attention on the details of behavior needed to achieve this goal.

Given that the SAR is a historical, educational and patriotic lineage society that seeks to maintain and extend:

- The institutions of American freedom
- An appreciation for true patriotism
- A respect for our national symbols
- The value of American citizenship, and
- The unifying force of E Pluribus Unum that created one nation and one people

We strive to perpetuate the heroic triumph of the patriots whose courage established the independence of the United States of America through our programs and outreach to state and local communities.

The Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard was formed as an extension of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR to provide a service of remembrance to the citizens of our community—a reminder of the struggles braved by our ancestors in the fight for freedom that was required to gain our independence from Great Britain during the birth of our nation.

Members of our guard frequently typically will wear the uniform that may have been worn by their revolutionary war ancestor. Some of the units represented are: First Virginia Regiment, Second Massachusetts Regiment, Thirteenth Virginia Regiment, South Carolina Militia, Virginia Militia, Morgan's Rifles and Pennsylvania Militia

The Guardsmen carry reproduction weapons that were likely carried by their patriot ancestry such as the British Brown Bess, French Charleville, Kentucky Long Rifle, various fowling guns and a number of edged weapons such as the 1751 Hanger (sword), Dragoon's



CINCINNATI CHAPTER COLOR GUARD

DRILL & CEREMONY MANUAL

Sabers and bayonets. While we do not consider ourselves reenactors, we do attempt to bring as much realism to our Historical and Color Guard Ceremonies as possible.

New members to the Color Guard are always welcome to join us in celebrating the lives of our patriot ancestors and presenting to the public a genuine celebration of American History, as it was recorded, during this period of our nation's evolution

HISTORY OF THE NOLAN CARSON MEMORIAL COLOR GUARD



*Founding Members of the Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard
(left to right) – Paul M. Wilke, J. Ross Amos, John E. Simmons, and Brian Schilling*

CINCINNATI CHAPTER COLOR GUARD

DRILL & CEREMONY MANUAL

Former National Society President General, Nolan W. Carson, was also a Past President of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR and Past President of the Ohio Society SAR. His legacy of leadership and patriotism inspired compatriots of his home chapter to memorialize his contributions to the Society and Country within the Color Guard that now bears his name.

Prior to his passing on 7 December 1997 at his Anderson Township home he was counsel attorney with Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP and a community leader. Carson joined what is now Dinsmore & Shohl in 1951, after serving in World War II and earning his law degree from the University of Michigan. He served a term in the Ohio House from 1961-62, and held leadership positions with the Hamilton County Park Board, the Natural History Museum and the Cincinnati Southern Railway. Carson was also a director emeritus with Fifth Third Bancorp.



*President Nolan W. Carson
Cincinnati Chapter 1961
Ohio Society 1970
National Society 1987*

Compatriot Carson became President of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Ohio Society in 1961 and was later elected to lead the Ohio Society as President in 1970. In 1987, Compatriot Carson became President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. His legacy of leadership and community service continues to inspire those who knew him personally and those of us who follow his example of patriotism and dedication to these United States.

NOLAN CARSON MEMORIAL COLOR GUARD		
ESTABLISHED IN 1998		
COMMANDER	DATES OF SERVICE	
J. ROSS AMOS	1998	1999
JOHN E. SIMMONS	2000	2004
PAUL M. WILKE	2005	2008
JOHN KIRTS	2009	2009
PAUL M. WILKE	2009	2011
JOHN O. LANGLITZ	2011	2011
PAUL M. WILKE	2012	2017
TURNER LEE WILKERSON III	2017	2018
SHAUN PHILMORE SMITH	2018	2019

Compatriot Paul M. Wilke, a member of the SAR since 31 March 1998, a Past President of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR, Past President of the Ohio Society, Past Vice President General of the National Society and one of the founding members of the Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard, went on to become the longest serving commander of the color guard, holding the position on three separate occasions for a total of ten years.

During the course of Paul's service he received a number of color guard honors and awards. He was nominated and elected by the National Society to receive the Gold Color Guard Medal on 11 July 2017 as the 2017 Color Guardsman of the year. His previous Color Guard Awards include the Bronze Color Guard Medal (05/02/2002), Silver Color Guard Medal (05/07/2005) & Von Steuben Medal (09/27/2014).

Paul's passion for the honor of guarding the colors is being passed to the next generation of those who share his love of God & Country—compatriots desiring to be remembered for their patriotism and service to those who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.

HISTORY OF THE COLOR GUARD¹

The Color Guard of the 21st century is primarily ceremonial in terms of purpose and duty. However, the origins of the Color Guard are based in military practicality. The following is a concise history of the origin of the Color Guard.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, flags were commonly referred to as “the Colors.” These colors were of primary importance to the military regiment or brigade as the line of battle was formed around the colors of the unit which were placed at the center of the line. These colors were easily seen through the smoke of battle. If the colors advanced, the line would advance. If the colors retired, the line would retire. As battles would progress and casualties mounted, the line would contract to the colors. In effect, the colors would serve as a rallying point if the line was broken or the men became dispersed. Thus, success in battle was often dependent on the handling of the colors.



Regiments in Line of Battle

The importance of the colors was so significant that a ceremony was performed before battle called “The Trooping of the Colors.” The men of the regiment or brigade were assembled on the parade ground in camp and the colors were paraded before them. This way, each man would see and thus be certain of *his* colors before taking the field of battle.

Likewise, while there could be many diverse objectives in a battle, one of the most important was capturing of the colors of the enemy unit. This would deprive the enemy of their primary means of control and rallying point during the battle. To prevent this, regiments and brigades would select the most valiant men to protect the colors and color bearer. These men comprised the “Color’s Guard,” a posting of great honor and source of pride. As in years past, this posting continues to be a position of honor.

¹ Extracted from The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard Handbook.

HISTORY OF DRILL & CEREMONY²

Military history reveals that armies throughout the world have participated in some form of drill. The primary value of drill historically has been to prepare troops for battle. For the most part, the drill procedures practiced have been identical to the tactical maneuvers employed on the battlefield. Drill has enabled commanders to quickly move their forces from one point to another, mass their forces into a battle formation that afforded maximum firepower, and maneuver those forces as the situation developed.

In 1775, when this country was striving for independence and existence, the nation's leaders were confronted with the problem of not only establishing a government but also of organizing an army that was already engaged in war. From the "shot heard around the world," on 19 April 1775, until Valley Forge in 1778, revolutionary forces were little more than a group of civilians fighting Indian-style against well-trained, highly disciplined British Redcoats. For three years, General George Washington's troops had endured many hardships—lack of funds, rations, clothing, and equipment. In addition, they had suffered loss after loss to the superior British forces. These hardships and losses mostly stemmed from the lack of a military atmosphere in country. Thus, an army was created with little or no organization, control, discipline, or teamwork.

Recognizing the crisis, General Washington, through Benjamin Franklin, the American Ambassador to France, enlisted the aid of a Prussian officer, Baron Friedrich von Steuben. Upon his arrival at Valley Forge on 23 February 1778, von Steuben, a former staff officer with Frederick the Great, met an army of several thousand half-starved, wretched men in rags. He commented that a European army could not be kept together in such a state. To correct the conditions that prevailed, he set to work immediately and wrote drill movements and regulations at night and taught them the following day to a model company of 120 men selected from the line.

Discipline became a part of military life for these selected individuals as they learned to respond to command without hesitation. This new discipline instilled in the individual a sense of alertness, urgency, and attention to detail. Confidence in himself and his weapon grew as each man perfected the fifteen l-second movements required to load and fire his musket. As the Americans mastered the art of drill, they began to work as a team and to develop a sense of pride in themselves and in their unit.



General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben

Watching this model company drill, observers were amazed to see how quickly and orderly the troops could be massed and maneuvered into different battle formations. Officers observed that organization, chain of command, and control were improved as each man had a specific place and task within the formation. Later, the members of the model company were distributed throughout the Army to teach drill. Through drill, they improved the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Army.

To ensure continuity and uniformity, von Steuben, by then a major general and the Army Inspector General, wrote the first Army field manual in 1779, The Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, commonly referred to as the Blue Book. The drill procedures initiated at Valley Forge were not changed for 85 years, until the American Civil War, and many of the drill terms and procedures

² Extracted From United States Army Field Manual – FM 22-5; December 1986; Headquarters, Department Of The Army

are in effect today. Drill commands are about the same as at the time of the War of 1812, except that then the officers and noncommissioned officers began them by saying, "Take care to face to the right, right, face." Also, during the American revolutionary period, troops marched at a cadence of 76 steps a minute instead of the current cadence of 120 steps. Then units performed precise movement on the battlefield, and the army that could perform them best was often able to get behind the enemy, or on his flank, and thus



Training & Drill at Valley Forge

beat him. Speed spoiled the winning exactness. Also, firearms did not shoot far or accurately in 1776, so troop formations could take more time to approach the enemy.

As we, members of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR Color Guard, carry out our duty we shall make every effort to follow the Commands and Movements documented by General von Steuben in his manual—The Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States. Additionally, we are referring to the following for guidance and authenticity: The American Soldier of the Revolutionary War and The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard Handbook.

PURPOSE OF DRILL & CEREMONY

One of the characteristics of Drill & Ceremony is the inculcation of a discipline that allows unity of precision and movement of the Color Guard members such that Honor is paid to our Flag, the Occasion and the Patriotism of our ancestry in their service to the United States.

The purpose of drill is to:

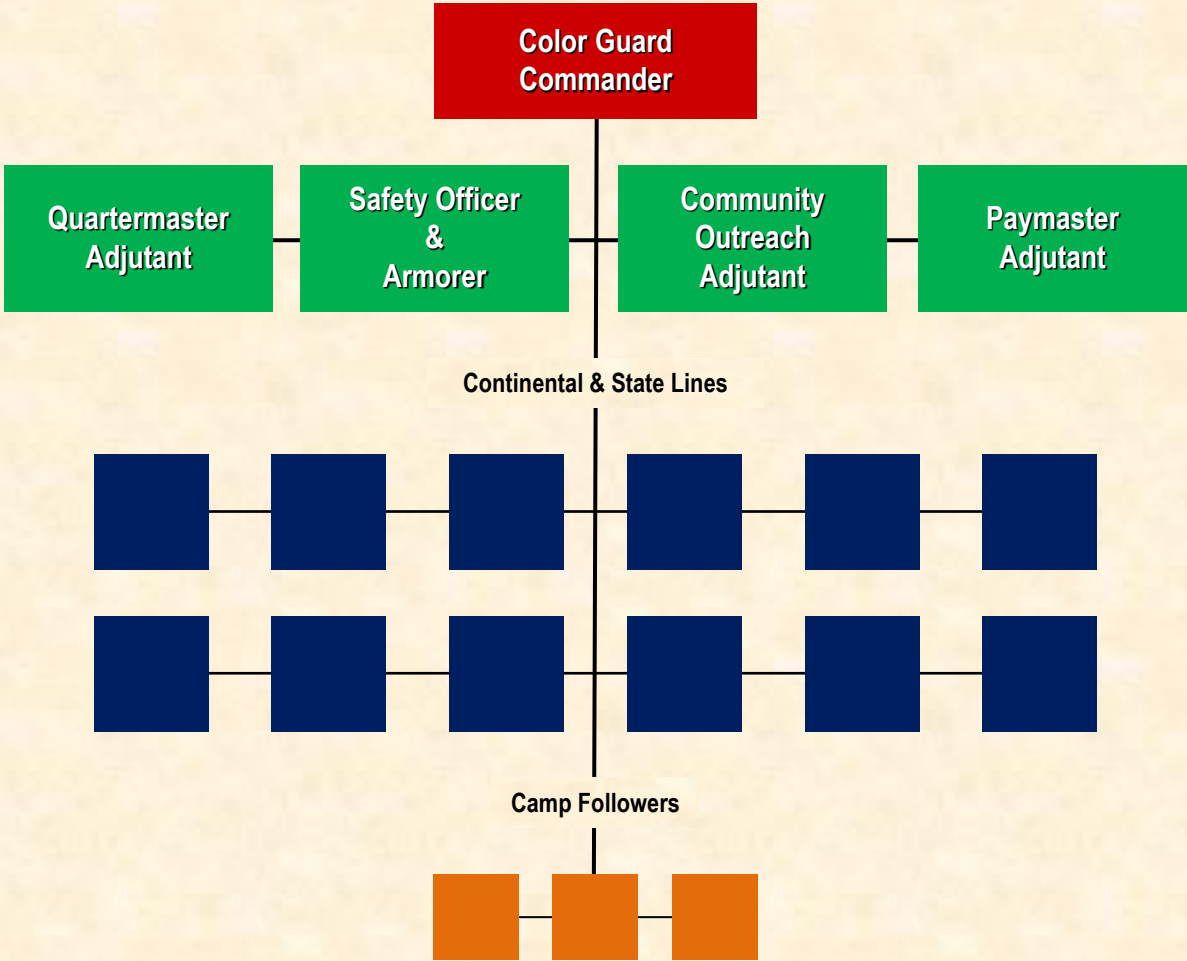
1. Enable a commander to move his unit from one place to another in an orderly manner.
2. Aid in disciplinary training by instilling habits of precision and response to the leader's orders.
3. Provide a means, through ceremonies, of enhancing the morale of troops, developing the spirit of cohesion, and presenting traditional, interesting and well-executed military parades.
4. Provide for the development of all soldiers in the practice of commanding troops

CHAPTER II

COLOR GUARD ORGANIZATION, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

COLOR GUARD STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP

The structure of the color guard shall be as depicted in the organization chart in the figure below:



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COLOR GUARD MEMBERS & LEADERSHIP

COLOR GUARD COMMANDER — The Commander has the responsibility of leading and managing the function and performance of the Color Guard in all events in which the color guard participates:

- Performs pre-event planning and coordination
- Coordinates color guard activity with on-site program director (EMCEE)
- Assembles required color guard for each event
- Inspects the color guard for uniformity and fitness for duty
- Assigns color guardsmen to specific functions
- Determines which colors to present
- Determines the order of march and movement
- Maintains record of individual attendance and supporting color guard member data base
- Proposes awards and decorations based on performance and leadership within the color guard

SAFETY OFFICER AND ARMORER — The Safety Officer / Armorer is second in command and has the responsibility for weapons safety for the color guard and viewing public:

- Inspects all color guard members & weapons for safety equipment and proper function
- Instructs all color guard members in the requisite safety protocol for each event location
- Serves as the Musket Salute Corporal for all musket salutes & feu de joie
- Serves as the Instructor for Drill & Ceremony practice & Manual of Arms
- Supervises maintenance and repair of Cincinnati Chapter owned weapons & safety equipment
- Makes recommendations for material purchases

PAYMASTER ADJUTANT — The Paymaster has the ongoing responsibility for documenting attendance at Color Guard/Grave Marking events:

- Maintain Attendance record for each Color Guard event
- Calculate points and mileage for Color Guard Awards (Bronze/Silver/von Struben)
- Maintain record of qualified participation in grave marking events
- Issues monthly reports on Color Guard Activities
- Compile annual Report on Color Guard Activities
- Coordinate Color Guard Announcements on Cincinnati Chapter website.

QUARTERMASTER ADJUTANT — The Quartermaster has the responsibility of:

- Maintaining the colors in a ready-to-present condition
- Transporting the colors along with bases and/or ground stakes to the event venue
- Maintaining a list of needed material & accoutrement necessary for each event
- Makes recommendations for material purchases

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ADJUTANT — The Community Outreach Adjutant:

- Tracks the schedule of Citizenship Naturalization Ceremonies in the surrounding community
- Reports the color guard members attendance at outreach events to the Commander
- Maintains a list of needed materials for specific events

CHAPTER III

FOR THE COLOR GUARD

COMMANDER

THE COMMAND VOICE ³

A correctly delivered command will be understood by everyone in the unit. Correct commands have a tone, cadence, and snap that demand willing, correct, and immediate response.

1. Voice Control

- a. The loudness of a command is adjusted to the number of soldiers in the unit. Normally, the commander is to the front and center of the unit and speaks facing the unit so that his voice reaches everyone.
- b. It is necessary for the voice to have carrying power, but excessive exertion is unnecessary and harmful. A typical result of trying too hard is the almost unconscious tightening of the neck muscles to force sound out. This produces strain, hoarseness, sore throat, and worst of all, indistinct and jumbled sounds instead of clear commands. Ease is achieved through good posture, proper breathing, and correct adjustment of throat and mouth muscles, and confidence.
- c. The best posture for giving commands is the position of attention. Soldiers in formation notice the posture of their leader. If his posture is unmilitary (relaxed, slouched, stiff, or uneasy), the subordinates will imitate it.
- d. The most important muscle used in breathing is the diaphragm — the large muscle that separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity. The diaphragm automatically controls normal breathing and is used to control the breath in giving commands.
- e. The throat, mouth, and nose act as amplifiers and help to give fullness (resonance) and projection to the voice.

**THE BEST POSTURE FOR GIVING COMMANDS
IS THE POSITION OF ATTENTION**

2. Distinctiveness

- a. Distinctiveness depends on the correct use of the tongue, lips, and teeth, which form the separate sounds of a word and group the sounds into syllables. Distinct commands are effective; indistinct commands cause confusion. All commands can be pronounced correctly without loss of effect. Emphasize correct enunciation (distinctiveness). To enunciate clearly, make full use of the lips, tongue, and lower jaw.
- b. **To develop the ability to give clear, distinct commands, practice giving commands slowly and carefully, prolonging the syllables.** Then, gradually increase the rate of delivery to develop proper cadence, still enunciating each syllable distinctly.

³ Extracted From United States Army Field Manual – FM 22-5; December 1986; Headquarters, Department Of The Army

3. Inflection – Inflection is the rise and fall in pitch and the tone changes of the voice.
 - a. The preparatory command is the command that indicates movement. **Pronounce each preparatory command with a rising inflection.** The most desirable pitch, when beginning a preparatory command, is near the level of the natural speaking voice. A common fault with beginners is to start the preparatory command in a pitch so high that, after employing a rising inflection for the preparatory command, it is impossible to give the command of execution with clarity or without strain. A good rule to remember is to begin a command near the natural pitch of the voice.
 - b. The command of execution is the command that indicates when a movement is to be executed. **Give it in a sharper tone and in a slightly higher pitch than the last syllable of the preparatory command.** It must be given with plenty of snap. The best way to develop a command voice is to practice.
 - c. In combined commands, such as **FALL IN** and **FALL OUT**, the preparatory command and command of execution are combined. Give these commands without inflection and with the uniform high pitch and loudness of a normal command of execution.
Cadence
4. Cadence
 - a. Cadence, in commands, means a uniform and rhythmic flow of words. The interval between commands is uniform in length for any given troop unit. This is necessary so that everyone in the unit will be able to understand the preparatory command and will know when to expect the command of execution. For the squad in march, except when supplementary commands need to be given, the interval of time is that which allows one step (or count) between the preparatory command and the command of execution. The same interval is used for commands given at the halt. Longer commands, such as **Right flank, MARCH**, must be started so that the preparatory command will end on the proper foot, and leave a full count between the preparatory command and command of execution.
 - b. When supplementary commands are necessary, the commander should allow for one count between the preparatory command and the subordinate leader's supplementary command, and an additional count after the subordinate command but before the command of execution.

**CADENCE, IN COMMANDS, MEANS A UNIFORM
AND RHYTHMIC FLOW OF WORDS**

CHAPTER IV

FIREARMS SAFETY & SAFETY

EQUIPMENT

Members of the Color Guard that are trained to carry the period weapons shall only carry one of the following types of musketry:

**ALL FIREARMS ARE TO BE HANDLED AS IF
LOADED**



Brown Bess Musket (2nd Model, Short Land)



Brown Bess Musketoone (Dragoon Model)



Charleville Musket (Model 1766)



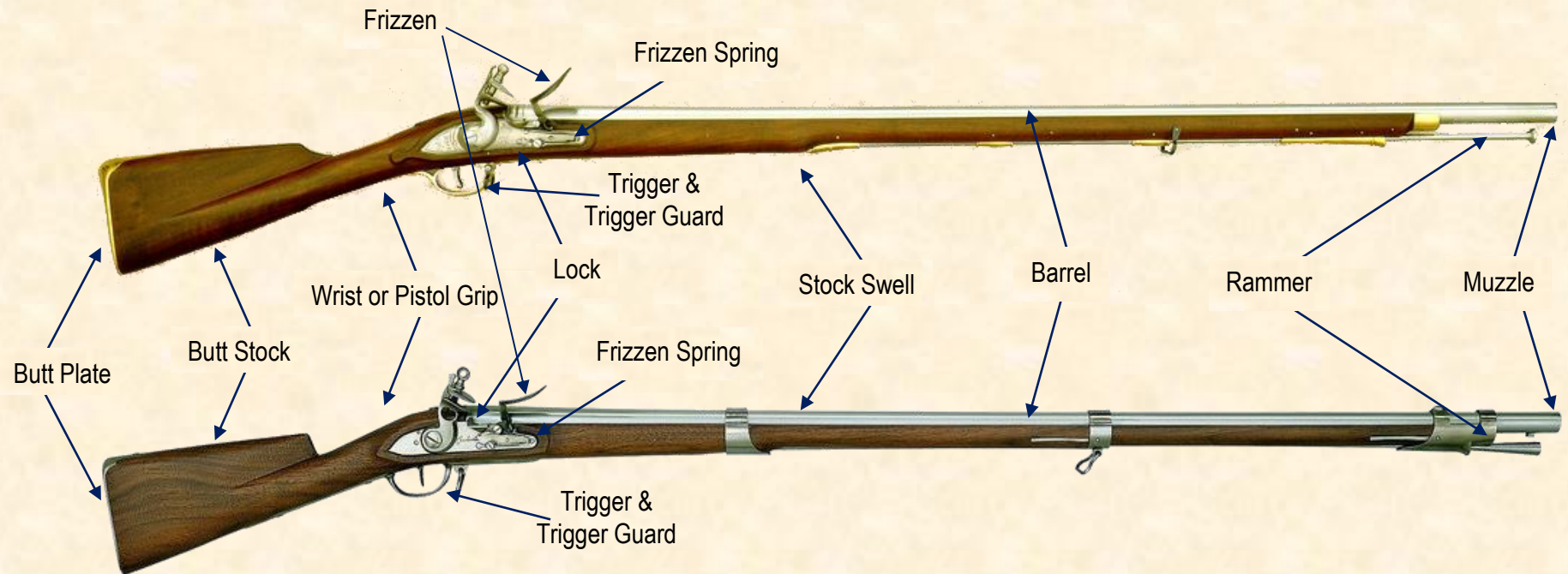
Rifled Muskets (top) and/or Fowling Pieces (bottom) of the period



**EACH OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN-
OTHER'S SAFE FIREARMS CONDUCT**

NOMINAL MUSKET NOMENCLATURE

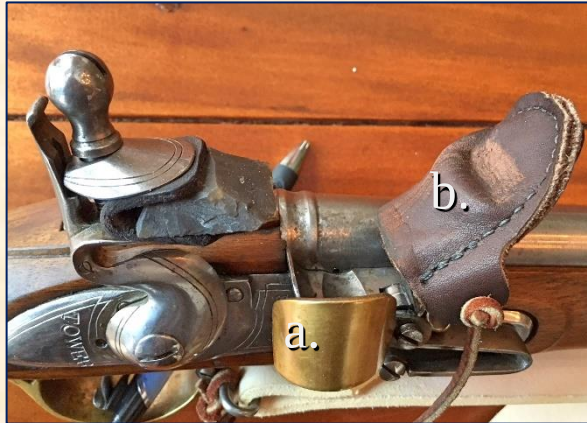
In these figures we shall present fundamental nomenclature for the British 2nd Model Short Land Musket almost always referred to as the Brown Bess (upper) and the French Charleville Musket (lower). The purpose of this section is simply to present fundamental external identification of various components of the weapons to enable a better understanding of the Manual of Arms that will be covered in extended detail in the following sections.



REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

1. All of the aforementioned weapons shall be in good working order, free of rust and corrosion and shall have been proof tested for black powder firing service.
2. All weapons shall be equipped with an appropriate flash guard around the Frizzen & Pan

- a. Flash Guard (Safety) –
The brass shield prevents powder flash in the pan from injuring shooter or bystanders from powder burn.



- b. Hammerstall (Safety) –
The leather envelope that slips over the frizzen/hammer preventing inadvertent hammer strike and accidental firing.

3. All weapons shall be equipped with a sling, properly installed and configured



4. Brown Bess and Charleville weapons shall be properly fitted with the correct bayonet



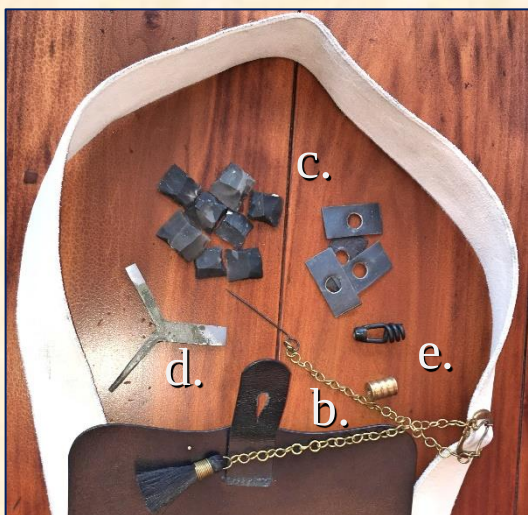
5. Each weapon shall have the appropriate Rammer (ram rod)



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6. Each compatriot carrying a weapon shall have the following accoutrement:
- An approved Cartridge Box with Cover & Hanger. Many Cartridge Boxes of the period had room under the cartridge block to carry cleaning and maintenance supplies and equipment.
 - Whisk & Prick for clearing misfires—the whisk is used for clearing the frizzes pan and the prick is used to clear the touch hole if blocked.
 - Spare Flint & Feathers of appropriate size
 - Combination Tool for field service of weapon
 - Cleaning Jag and Patch Worm



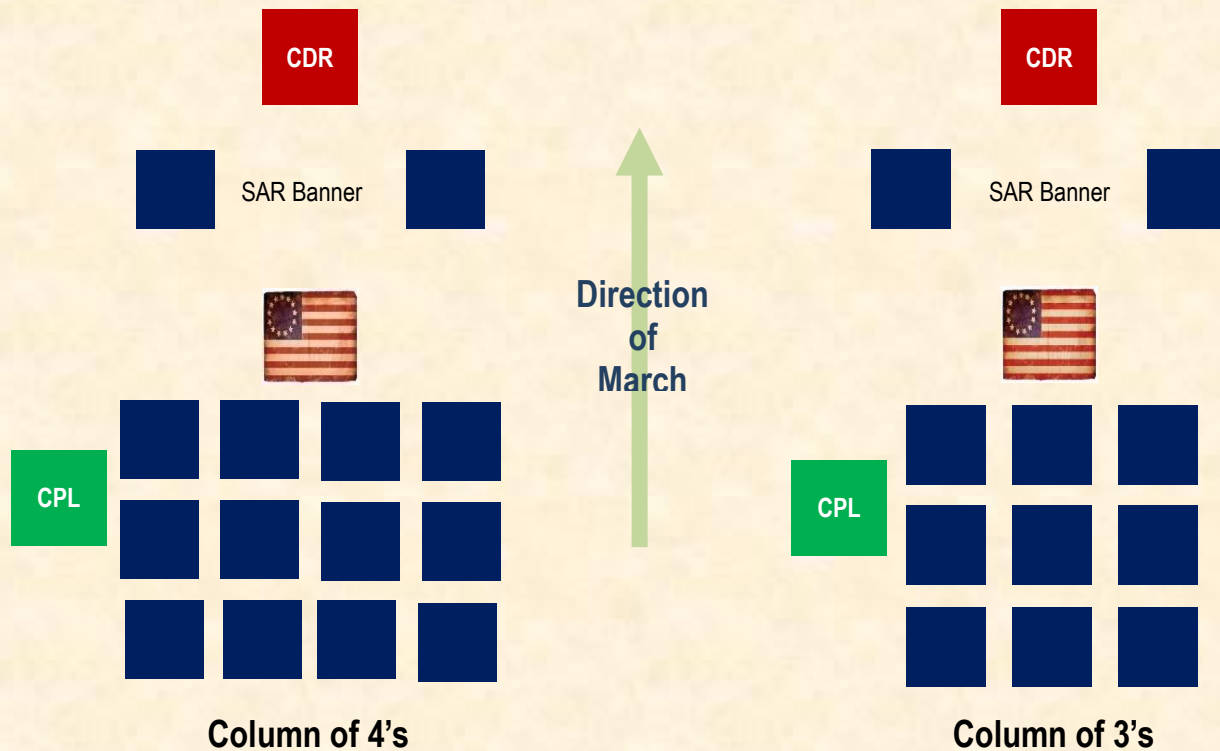
- An approved Bayonet, Carriage & Hanger. The image below reflects a double carriage for a Brown Bess Bayonet and an NCO's sword. A standard infantryman's bayonet carriage is a single carriage for bayonet only. Note that the carriage is the leather strap and frog—the bayonet scabbard is fixed to the frog by means of a simple button or clasp as shown on both sword and bayonet scabbards.

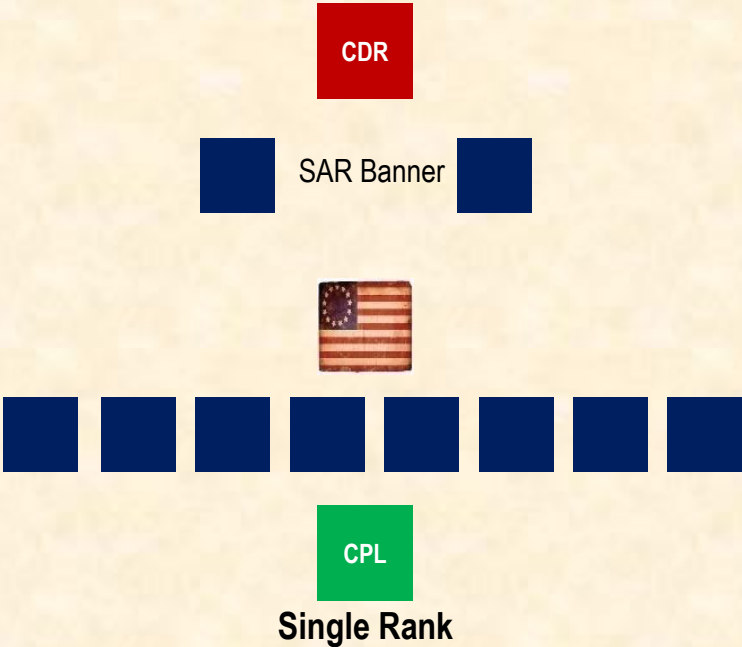


CHAPTER V

PARADES AND PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL COLORS

MARCHING OR PARADE FORMATIONS



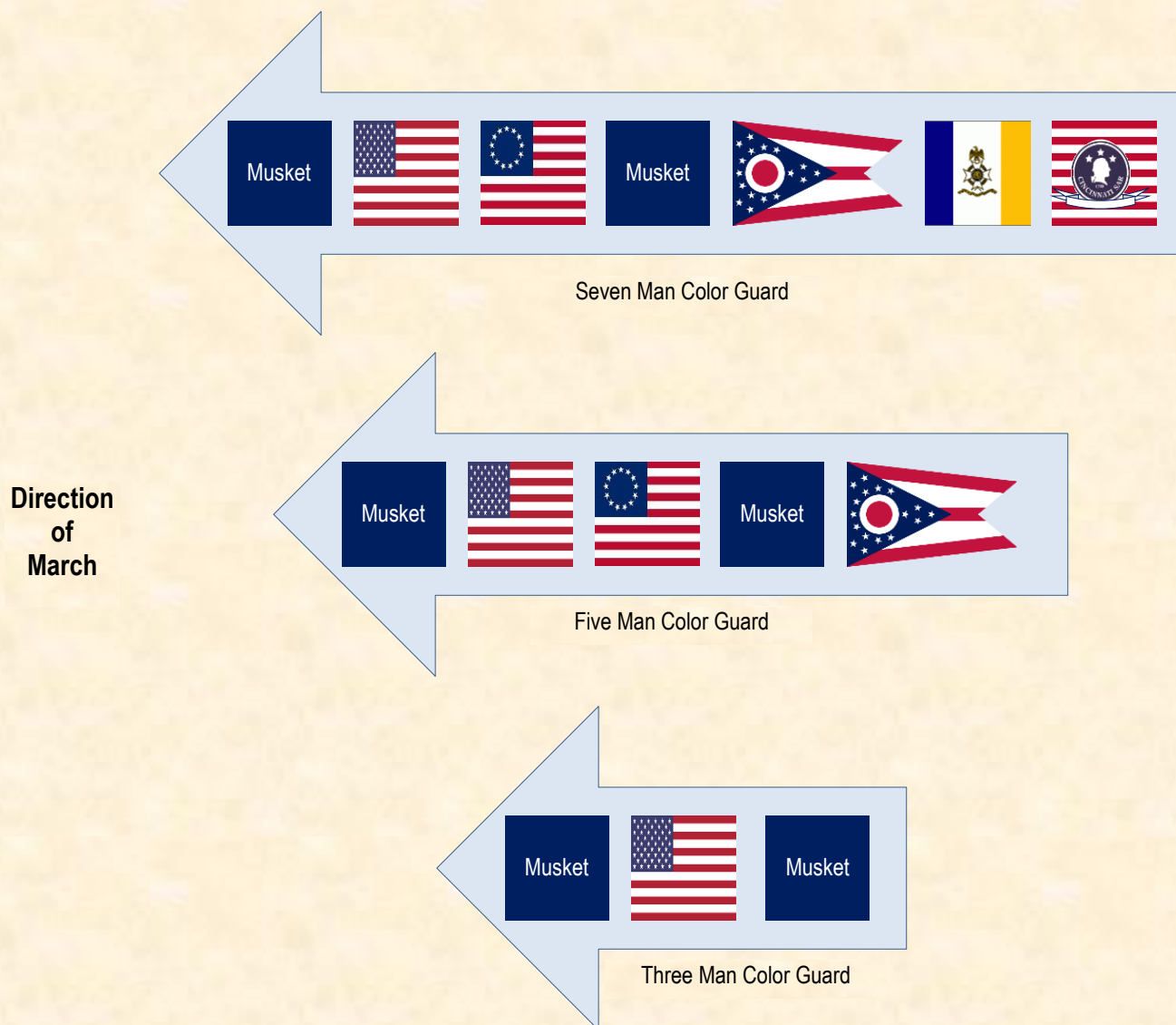


MOVEMENT OF COLORS IN FORMATION

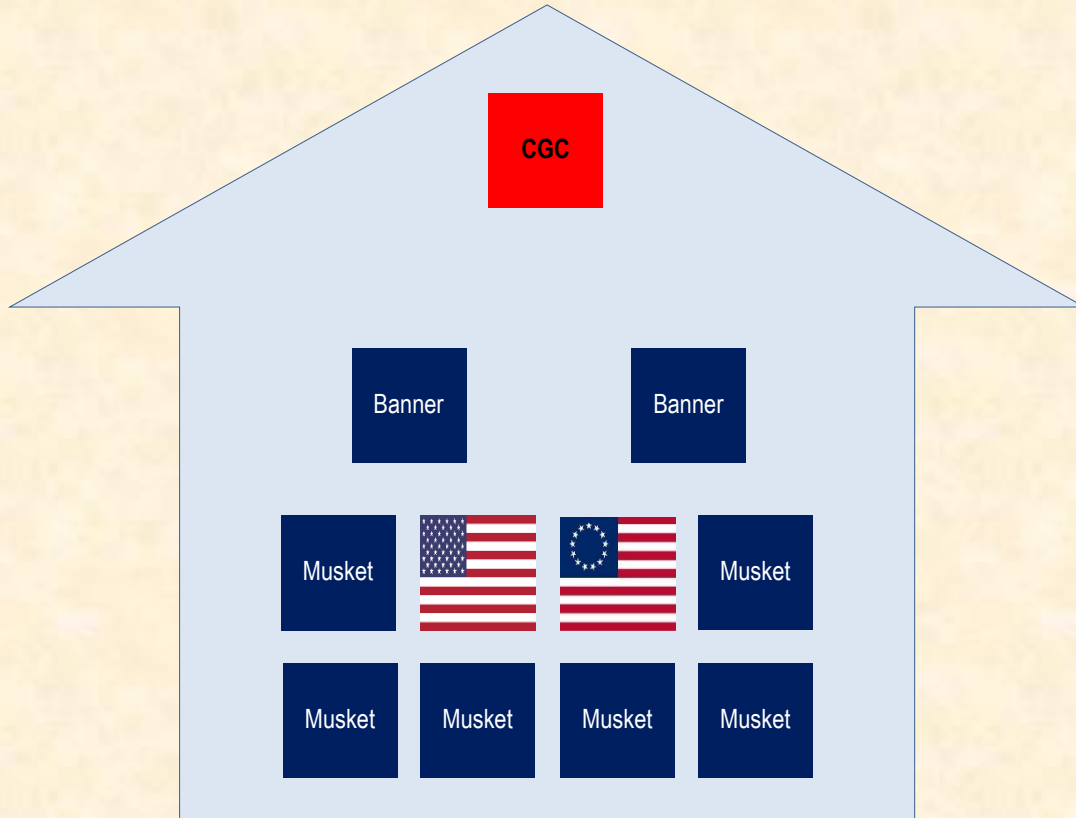
The Cincinnati Chapter Color Guard will generally be limited to the following flag sequence or arrangement for chapter functions. Given that most of our chapter venues limit our formations to a single file presentation and posting of colors. Therefore, these exercises are generally fairly simple requiring few complex commands or movements. Additional colors and muskets can be added to the file in the order of precedence as detailed in the previous section—Display Sequence of the Colors.

From time to time throughout the year the Cincinnati Color Guard has the opportunity to represent our Chapter, Society and Ancestry in National Celebrations and Parades around the various Cincinnati communities. These events will call for somewhat more complex command and movements of the guard.

The formation below is pretty flexible in that it can be used with a minimum of six color guardsmen or as many as forty+ should we have an opportunity to march in concert with other chapters. Additional colors can be added to the formation depending upon the availability of color guard members and audience.



Direction of March



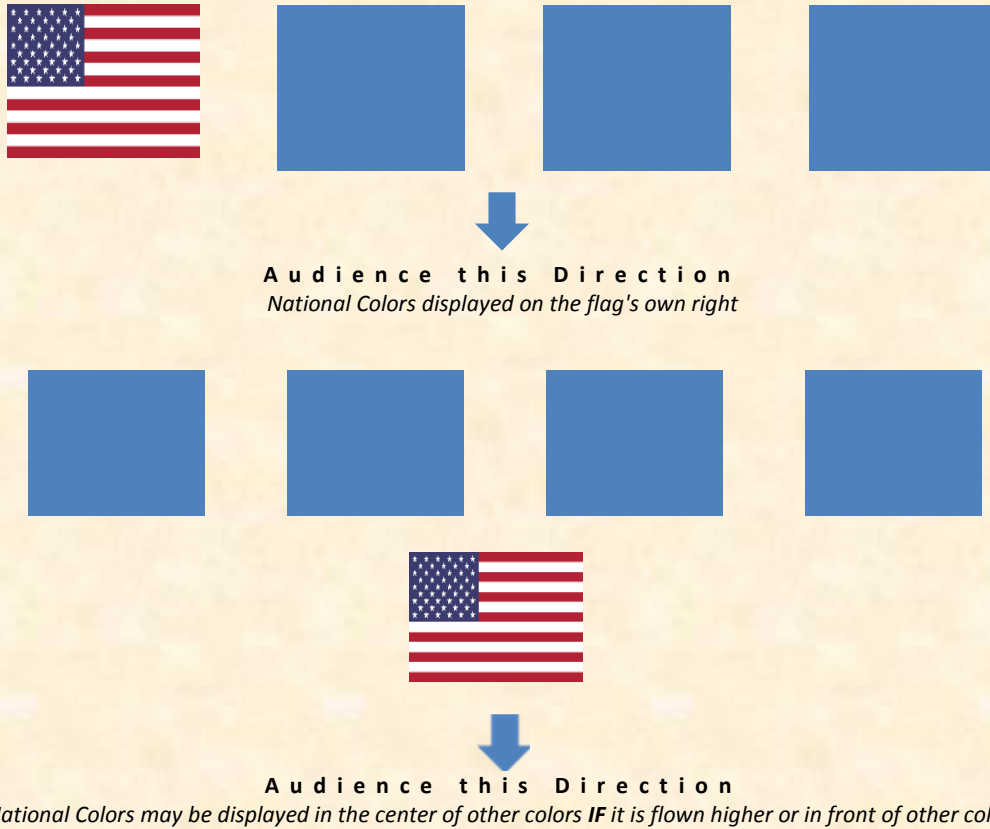
DISPLAY SEQUENCE OF THE COLORS

The figures and text below detail the order and protocols in which the flags must be arranged when posted or carried in parades or other ceremonies. These examples relate only to the static order or relative positions of the various colors relative to the National Flag.

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1. National Colors

The National Flag of the United States shall always be displayed the flag's own right⁴ of any collection of flags or if displayed from in the center, shall be displayed higher than other colors



2. Betsy Ross—



3. Other Country's National Colors



France



Great Britain



Germany

⁴ The term or phrase "own right" simply means that as the National Flag stands or is held during presentation, it will always be to the right-most position of all other colors as it faces an audience. Another perspective would hold that the flag is always right-most to the speaker as he/she faces an audience. If you are situated in an audience the National colors shall always be to your left.

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4. Service Colors

US Army



US Marine Corps



US Navy



US Air Force



US Coast Guard



5. State Colors (oldest first)



Virginia—1788



Tennessee—1796



Ohio—1803

...Unless the state flag is displayed in its home state, then it is displayed to its own right in the sequence of state colors.



Ohio—1803



Virginia—1788

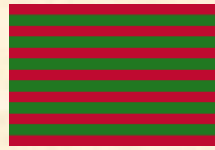


Tennessee—1796

6. SAR Colors



National Society



Central District
Society



Ohio Society



Cincinnati Chapter

7. Continental Regimental Colors (oldest first)



Cross of Burgundy
1700



1st Virginia Regiment
July 17, 1775



11th Virginia Regiment
3 February 1777



13th Virginia Regiment
12 Feb 1777

APPENDIX — A

MUSKET SAFETY INSPECTION ⁵

PART III — INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS

If a park has a seasonal program, each park weapon should be subjected to a complete inspection at the beginning and end of the season using the National Park Service inspection checklist appropriate to the weapon (see checklist below).

If the program is year round, complete inspections should be conducted every six months. All weapons will receive a cursory inspection before and after every historic weapons demonstration; the after demonstration inspection will occur when the weapon has been cleaned and before it is stored for the day. Weapons in storage should be checked on a regularly scheduled basis (at least monthly) for rust or other moisture, storage, or cleaning related damage.

All newly acquired weapons will be inspected using the appropriate checklist before firing.

If a weapon does not meet safety standards for any reason, that particular weapon will be tagged out in accordance with the park's documented tag-out system, with the tag specifically detailing the problem(s). The tagged weapon WILL NOT BE USED until repairs are affected. The park's historic weapons supervisor will be responsible for insuring that such repairs are made as soon as possible.

Common Problems Encountered During Inspections

1. Overall Poor Cleaning - Inadequate or improper cleaning can result in a variety of safety and operational issues: coke build-up in the bore, cleaning patches left in the bore, rust, corrosion, screws too tight (parts can bind), loose screws, damaged stocks, etc. The final step in most demonstrations is weapons cleaning, and quite often demonstrators rush through the process. Proper cleaning and oiling of a weapon is critical, and without doubt the most frequent problem confronted during weapons inspections is poor cleaning.
2. Missing Safety Devices. All weapons used at National Park Service sites are required to have hammerstalls and flashguards. It is not uncommon for demonstrators to neglect replacement of these items after cleaning, and many re-enactors from outside groups simply do not have them. Spare hammerstalls and flashguards should always be available for both park weapons and for re-enactors from outside groups.
3. Weak Mainspring - A weak mainspring will increase the frequency of misfires. If a weapon appears to have a weak mainspring it should be replaced or taken to a competent gunsmith to be hardened.
4. Weapon Fires on the Half Cock - A weapon that does not hold on the half-cock position can have wear or damage to the half-cock notch on the tumbler, a weak or broken sear-spring, or wear or damage to the nose of the sear. Worn or damaged parts should be replaced.

⁵ United States National Park Service Publication—18th Century Musket Manual 2010-01-21.pdf; Manual of Instruction for the Safe Use of Reproduction Flintlock Rifles & Muskets in Interpretive Demonstrations pp.6-8;

5. Bent or Stuck Rammer. Bent ram rods are a frequent occurrence and can cause the rammer to bind in its channel, which can result in embarrassment when a rammer sticks, or in injury while attempting to forcibly remove a bent rammer from its channel. Bent rammers can be carefully straightened with little trouble, and parks should have a ram rod removal tool to deal with stuck rammers. Bent rammers often occur when a demonstrator tries to force down a cartridge that sticks part way down the barrel; short, sharp taps are not only safer, but work much better than fisting the ram rod and attempting to muscle the cartridge.
6. White or light spots on the stock. Certain parts of the stock will have adhered powder after firing and require cleaning with water. Heavy rubbing of the stock with wet patches will eventually leave lighter spots, usually above the lock plate. A very light oiling with linseed oil after cleaning can prevent this problem.
7. Cleaning Patch Lodged In Barrel - Attempt to remove a stuck patch by careful use of the worm. Always turn the worm in a clockwise direction or the worm may unscrew itself from the cleaning rod. A CO2 misfire kit or high pressure air from a maintenance shop can also be effective in removing a stuck patch. Pulling the breech-plug is the last resort and extreme care should be used.
8. Burrs or Sharp Points on Metal Parts. Careless handling or disassembly or assembly can result in damage to metal parts which can cause injury to demonstrators. Proper training can reduce this problem, but any burrs or sharps points should be filed or ground down.

Broken parts. It goes without saying that parts break or will wear from heavy use. To reduce the necessity of tagging out a weapon for an extended period of time, parks should keep a supply of spare parts on hand, particularly parts that are prone to breaking
9. The following checklist should be used when inspecting individual firearms. Newly purchased firearms should be inspected using this checklist prior to placing into service (see following page)

CINCINNATI CHAPTER COLOR GUARD
DRILL & CEREMONY MANUAL

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Division of Interpretation and Education



Historic Weapons Program

Flintlock Musket & Rifle Inspection Check List

Park: _____ Weapon: _____ S.N./Prop.# _____

Before Disassembly

- ☐ The weapon is confirmed to be unloaded by springing the rammer.
- ☐ Your overall first impression is favorable.

The Stock:

- ☐ No cracks or splits.
- ☐ Butt plate, trigger guard, etc. fit tightly.
- ☐ No burrs on butt plate, trigger guard or barrel band screw heads that would snag clothing or hands.
- ☐ No burrs around the top of the lock.
- ☐ No splinters or rough edges on the stock.
- ☐ Do any barrel band springs work smoothly.
- ☐ ** If pin fastened – all pins tight and in place.
- ☐ Any ramrod spring or spoon works freely.
- ☐ Two-piece stocks have sections secured.

The Lock:

- ☐ Lock works smoothly.
- ☐ The hammer fits tightly on the tumbler.
- ☐ The half-cock (safety) position works correctly.
- ☐ Smooth trigger pull with no catching or half-cock.
- ☐ Correct trigger pull – not too heavy, not "hair" trigger.
- ☐ Lock fits properly into the stock and snug against the barrel.
- ☐ ** If a set trigger, it is properly adjusted.
- ☐ The cock screw works smoothly, jaws grip flint securely.
- ☐ The frizzen spring is of the right tension.
- ☐ The frizzen is in good condition and not gouged.
- ☐ The pan is clean and in proper relationship to the vent.
- ☐ The flint is in good condition and set at correct angle.
- ☐ There is a leather or lead flint cap.

The Barrel:

- ☐ The barrel fits the stock correctly.
- ☐ Free from visible dents or cracks.
- ☐ The muzzle is not dented or worn.
- ☐ No signs of heavy corrosion around the vent.
- ☐ ** The barrel bands hold the barrel securely.
- ☐ The ramrod is straight, fits the stock correctly.
- ☐ The ramrod head is tight on the ramrod.
- ☐ The ramrod threads are clean and free of burrs.

After Disassembly

The Stock:

- ☐ There are no shiny spots in the lock recess from rubbing by the metal parts of the lock assembly.
- ☐ Lock recess is clean and free of splinters and cracks.
- ☐ No splitting or cracking around the tang screw and tang recess.
- ☐ The barrel bed is clean.
- ☐ ** Any nose cap – is fastened to the stock.
- ☐ Recheck two-piece stock for firm secure joint.

The Lock:

- ☐ All internal screws are tight.
- ☐ No internal parts are broken or chipped.
- ☐ The nose of the sear and the tumbler notches are sharp and in good condition.
- ☐ No signs of metal rubbing on the inside of the lockplate.
- ☐ No signs of incorrect repairs or incorrect placement parts.
- ☐ With hammer fully forward, the mainspring does not disconnect from the tumbler.
- ☐ nor does any part of the mainspring protrude below the lockplate.
- ☐ The frizzen fits snugly on top of the pan.

The Barrel:

- ☐ Any signs of flint striking or gouging the barrel.
- ☐ The vent is clear and of acceptable size.
- ☐ All parts are clean and lightly oiled.
- ☐ ** The breech plug is fully seated and correctly aligned.
- ☐ "Patent Breeches" – there is no indication of seam separation.
- ☐ Bore check with light or reflector – Clean and in good condition.
- ☐ Bore wiper check-patch comes out clean.
- ☐ ** On pin fastened pieces – all barrel lugs are complete and in good condition.
- ☐ Park Staff reports no problems in using the firearm.

** Special feature not found on all weapons

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

MISFIRE PROCEDURES ⁶

Each park shall develop a written Misfire Plan to address the action necessary to render a firearm safe in the event of a Level I or Level II Misfire

Types of Misfires

A “Level I Misfire” is defined as a misfire that can be cleared on the demonstration area and the demonstration can continue

A “Level II Misfire” is defined as a misfire that cannot be cleared at the demonstration area without disrupting the demonstration. Specialized equipment is needed to render the firearm safe

Causes of Misfires

- **Improperly cleaned firearm:** If a firearm is not properly cleaned immediately after use, the residue in the barrel will harden, rust and corrosion will form. This buildup of fouling will likely obstruct the vent. Excessive oil may pool in the breech and obstruct the vent or neutralize the powder charge.
- **Improperly sized flint:** If the flint is **too** large it can keep the pan from closing tightly allowing powder to be spilled while handling the weapon.
- **Improper flint position:** The flint must be placed in the jaws so it will make good contact with the steel.
- **Improper loading procedure:** The powder charge is not properly seated under the vent. Once fire has been introduced to the bore, do not re-ram the charge!

Level I Misfire Procedures

A. Failure to Spark:

1. Remain at position of aim. Count to ten
2. Interpreter explains the situation to the public.
3. Return to the priming position and half-cock the firelock
4. Check priming and flint. If working with the flint (striking or knapping) attach hammer stall. Also dump priming when working with flint.
5. Reprime if necessary.
6. Repeat drill from “SHUT PAN!” command. This is done without reloading or ramming.
7. If the weapon fails to fire after three attempts, dismiss the visitors and move to a safe area to perform Level II Misfire procedures.

B. Flash in the Pan

1. Remain at position of aim. Count to ten
2. Interpreter explains the situation to the public.
3. Return to the priming position and half-cock the firelock
4. Pick touch-hole and reprime.
5. Repeat drill from “SHUT PAN!” command. This is done without reloading or ramming.
6. If the weapon fails to fire after three attempts, dismiss the visitors and move to a safe area to perform Level II Misfire procedures.

C. Level II Misfire Clearing Procedures

Level II Misfire—Co2 Discharger

1. Keep the piece pointed in a safe direction

⁶ IBID – pp. 39-40

2. Open the pan and dump out the priming.
3. Place the CO2 discharger with adapter in the vent. Press the discharger lever quickly and release.
4. Clean and inspect the piece before attempting to load it again.

D. Level II Misfire— Unloading Through the Muzzle

Should the CO2 discharger not be available or fail to remove the charge, the **piece must be unloaded** through the muzzle

1. Keep the piece pointed in a safe direction
2. Open the pan and dump out the priming.
3. Soak the powder charge with water poured down the muzzle.
4. When the powder charge is sufficiently wet, remove the obstruction with a wiper.
5. Clean and inspect the piece before attempting to load it again.

In group-firing demonstrations where multiple rounds are fired, a demonstrator who has had a misfire should announce or signal to the demonstration supervisor that a misfire has occurred before applying **the** appropriate misfire procedure.

Once the misfire has been attended to, **the demonstrator** will come to the position of Shoulder---Fire-lock! The demonstrator should remain at that position, and being sure not to reload and ram again, wait and fire on command with the rest of the unit. If **the demonstration** supervisor decides not to fire again, proceed with the Level II Misfire Procedure.

E. Safety Notes

1. Weapons are to be kept down-range and away from visitors at all times.
2. DO NOT ram again after a misfire.
3. All weapons are required to have flash guards attached when firing in ranks.
4. Hammer stalls are required items on flintlock firearms

NATIONAL COLOR GUARD COMMANDER'S POLICY AND PROCEDURES—FIREARMS USE IN DRILL & CEREMONY

Broad Outline of Policies and Procedures Presented Fall 2017 Meeting Louisville, KY

A. Policies

1. Insurance

- a. Insurance is required for any Chapter who fires
- b. State and National SAR will be named as Additional Insureds
- c. Copies forwarded to at least State SAR

2. Training

- a. All members firing will be properly trained
- b. NRA-NMLRA training courses that offer certification
- c. Costs are in the \$150 to \$250 range
- d. Copy of certification forwarded to at least State SAR Firearms

3. Firearms

- a. Period Correct only:
 - i. Brown Bess
 - ii. French Charleville
 - iii. American Long Rifle
 - iv. American Fowler
- b. No Firing of Original Firearms
- c. Must be manufactured to fire black powder
- d. Types of and Limitations on Black Powder
- e. Proper handling

4. Edged Weapons

- a. Swords, Bayonets, Halberds/Pikes, Knives
- b. Proper handling

5. Safety

- a. Flash Protector
- b. Frizzen Cover
- c. Safety Inspection by commander or his designee
- d. Black Powder to be used
- e. Only Blank Paper Cartridges will be used
- f. Never load from a powder horn
- g. Clothing to be natural fiber fabrics or leather
- h. At no time will a color guard member be impaired by alcohol or medication while firing
- i. **Minimum** age for participation in firing

6. Enforcement

- a. Commander or his designee
- b. Demonstrated knowledge of and compliance with approved policies

B. Procedures

1. Site Safety

- a. Advise participants of any adverse weather conditions
 - i. Lightning
 - ii. Extreme Heat
 - iii. Provide for hydration
 - iv. Identification of appropriate shelter
- b. Inspect all areas and routes that will be used by color guard
 - i. Trip/fall hazards
 - ii. Low hanging obstacles
 - iii. Combustible materials in area where firing
 - iv. Consideration should be made when firing between buildings or structures
 - v. Consideration of down range area and side space for safe firing

2. Safety Officer

- a. Safety Officer shall be designated and present at every event where firing occurs
- b. Safety Officer shall be present while rendering a misfire safe to insure safety precautions are observed

3. Pre-Event Musket Check

Commander or his designee will conduct an inspection of all firearms that are to be fired

4. Post-Event/Misfire Safety Check

- a. Commander or his designee will conduct Post event safety check
- b. Safety Officer will conduct all misfire safety checks

5. Firing Commands

- a. SAR will adopt standard firing commands
- b. Proposed Firing Commands:
 - vi. Fall in
 - vii. Left Shoulder Arms
 - viii. Prime and Load
 - ix. Make Ready
 - x. Present
 - xi. Fire
 - xii. Left Shoulder Arms

6. Enforcement

- a. Commander or his designee
- b. Demonstrated knowledge of and compliance with approved procedures
- c. Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing the weapons