

“Liberty Greys”

6th Regiment, 1st Division, ANV

Ordnance Manual and Safety Procedures

revised and updated January 15, 2005

This manual is written as a guideline for the protection and well-being of all reenacting participants within the **6th Regiment**. All Units or individuals falling in with the **6th Regiment** will be held to these guidelines. These are the minimum standards acceptable. In the case of more stringent Event standards, those standards will supersede the standards in this manual.

Section I. DEFINITIONS:

1.1 The term **WEAPON** shall be defined as any and all devices designed to fire a powder driven projectile or blank cartridge and all bladed weapons such as, but not limited to swords, sabers, bayonets, lances and knives. Whether a weapon is actually functional or loaded is of no importance.

1.2 The term **ACCOUTREMENTS** shall be defined as any and all issued military type goods taken onto the field. These items include, but are not limited to, cartridge box, cap box, bayonet and scabbard, belt, haversack, canteen, holsters, map cases, and binoculars.

1.3 The term **FIELD** shall be defined as the area in which camps, drills, dress parades, living histories and battles are conducted.

1.4 The term **REGIMENTAL COMMANDING OFFICER** referenced in these procedures refers to the senior Regimental Officer present and in command at an event. It need not be the elected Colonel if he is absent.

1.5 The term **ORDNANCE OFFICER/SGT.** Is the person selected by the individual Battalions/Regiments to perform the task of inspecting and clearing weapons as safe. He will report to A.N.V. Headquarters for safety meetings and is responsible for turning in “Weapons Inspection Form”.

1.6 The term **CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER/CHIEF OF ORDNANCE** officers refers to the senior Ordnance Officer at A.N.V. Headquarters.

1.7 The term **SOLDIER** refers to a Regiment unit member who carries a weapon onto the field. The term **SOLDIER** also refers to a non-combatant individual who carries flags, guide-ons, signal flags, pennants, medical equipment, etc.. The minimum age to carry a weapon is 16 years.

Section II. INSPECTIONS:

2.1 Every member of the **6th Regiment**, military or civilian, desirous of carrying a weapon, loaded or otherwise, shall participate in all weapons inspections.

2.2 Weapons inspections will be conducted prior to all Regimental formations by Company officers unless specifically released from this by the Regiment's commanding officer. A Regimental weapons inspection may be held at any formation but will always be conducted prior to an engagement.

2.3 Regimental staff will be inspected by the Commanding Officer or his designated representative(s).

2.4 A weapon found to be questionable for any reason(s) will be failed. It WILL NOT be carried in any Regimental formation or activity until repairs are affected and it has been re-inspected in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section V.

2.5 A permanent record should be kept by Regimental Ordnance, listing reason for failure, owner's name, Unit and serial number of the weapon. The Chief Ordnance Officer may ask to see this record.

2.6 It is recommended that each Company will keep a permanent list of that Company's weapons. The list should include owner's name, weapon description and serial number.

2.7 The Chief Ordnance Officer or Regimental Ordnance Officer/Sgt can, at any time request that an individual, Company or Regiment/Battalion, re-inspect their weapons.

Section III. WEAPONS AND ACCOUTREMENTS:

3A: RIFLES, MUSKETS and CARBINES

3A.1 Only proper weapons of the period will be allowed. No Hawkins, Plains, Zouave or flintlock rifles or muskets will be allowed. Nor will modern firearms or ammunition be permitted on the field at any time. (Flintlock type weapons may be used at early war impressions with expressed consent from event/Command staff, i.e. 1st Manassas)

3A.2 All weapons shall be cleaned, in good working order and inspected, before being allowed on the field.

3A.3 Barrels shall be clean and free of obstructions. When the rammer is inserted bell down, just a few threads should extend above the top of the barrel.

3A.4 The half-cock will be tested on all weapons. The weapon shall be capable of supporting the weight of the weapon by the trigger while at half-cock. Pressure will be applied to the hammer, which will also be checked for side to side play or looseness, but at no time will the hammer be struck.

3A.5 The nipple will be visually inspected to ensure that it is not bent, cracked or deformed and that it is properly seated.

3A.6 Breech loading carbines will be inspected in the same manner as rifles except, (a) with the action open a visual check must be made of the interior of the barrel, or, (b) a ramrod or such device is inserted into the barrel, the barrel probed in its full length and the device seen to emerge at the opening of the barrel.

3A.7 Weapons will be capped off before moving to the battlefield. The exception to this is loaded pistols.

3A.8 The use of shotguns is discouraged. Shotguns may only be used by Cavalry and Provost, and then only at the Commanding Officer's discretion.

3A.9 Tompions will not be carried onto the field.

3B: PISTOLS

3B.1 Pistols will only be carried by officers, NCOs and cavalry troopers, artillerists and those with proper historical documentation and having the permission of the Regimental Commanding Officer. This includes civilians.

3B.2 No more than two (2) pistols shall be carried on anyone's person. A third pistol may be carried in the proper saddle holster or a *mounted* trooper.

3B.3 ALL pistols shall be carried in a proper military holster with a flap capable of being fastened or of the style that can be strapped and secured. At no time should open or western quick draw holsters be used.

3C: EDGED WEAPONS

3C.1 Bayonets must be kept in scabbards in proper condition with a firmly attached brass tip.

3C.2 Bayonets must have proper a locking mechanism, and a rifle a correct front sight or bayonet lug or they will not be fixed.

3C.3 It is mandatory that all swords and sabers have scabbards in proper condition and made of correct materials for that period.

3C.4 Swords and sabers will not be sharpened.

3C.5 The carrying of belt or sheath knives onto the battlefield is discouraged. If worn it is mandatory that knives be carried in scabbards in proper condition, with secure closures (tie-downs), made of correct material for the period. At no time will such knives be unsheathed on the battlefield.

3C.6 Lances will only be used with the permission of the Commanding Officer and then in accordance with established Regimental procedures.

3D: ACCOUTREMENTS

3D.1 Canteens shall be filled and carried at all formations and will be checked at all inspections.

3D.2 Canteens must be properly constructed of wood, tin, or steel. No glass bottles, padded or otherwise, slung or in haversacks, are acceptable.

3D.3 Care should be taken to properly maintain canteens between events. Canteens which are not properly cleaned make a perfect breeding ground for the germs that can make an individual ill at the next event.

3D.4 Cartridge boxes must be of the proper type with a flap that secures. It is recommended that the cartridge boxes have the appropriate tins when originally designed to use them. Some events require them.

3D.5 Cap boxes must be of the proper type, with a flap that can be secured.

3D.6 If spare cylinders for a pistol are to be carried, they **MUST** be in proper leather cases of period design and worn on the belt. Spare cylinders will also be inspected.

3D.7 Cases for maps and binoculars must be of proper type for the period.

3D.8 The Commanding Officer shall make the final decision on the acceptability of any weapon or accoutrements.

Section IV. CARTRIDGES and LOADS:

4.1 No live rounds with projectiles will be allowed at any time, either in camp or on the field.

4.2 Projectiles may be displayed in camp for living history and educational purposes but must remain separate from cartridges and must NEVER be stored in a cartridge box.

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4.3 Cartridges must be carried in proper cartridge boxes. They will not be carried in pockets or haversacks.

- 4.4 Percussion caps must be carried in a proper cap box or tin. They will remain separate from cartridges.
- 4.5 No six-sided (CCI, etc.) percussion cap will be used by members of the 6th Regiment or individuals/Units falling in with and under the direct command or the 6th Regiment commanding officer. *All six-sided caps will be confiscated. For EVERYONE'S safety !!!*
- 4.6 Cartridges will be constructed from plain paper without printing in a period style. At no time will penny wrappers, staples or the “Sunday Comics” be used in the construction of cartridges.
- 4.7 Wadding will not be used in cartridge construction unless specifically required for that type of weapon.
- 4.8 All cartridges will be inspected for size and authenticity. Those not meeting acceptable standards will not be used- *For EVERYONE'S safety !!*
- 4.9 At no time will “Wonder Wads”(cork, wool or otherwise be used in any pistol. Optimal packing for pistols would be cream of wheat, peanut butter or a commercial powder pistol product such as “Spitball”
- 4.10 Pre-made pistol rounds are acceptable IF they have been inspected by the Regimental Commanding Officer or his designated representative.

MAXIMUM LOAD SIZES

.58(.577) Caliber Rifles/Muskets - 70 GRAINS
.69 Caliber Rifles/Muskets - 90 GRAINS
Carbines - 60 GRAINS
Shotguns - 70 GRAINS (50 GRAINS IF “Sawed-Off”)

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Section V. REPAIR and SERVICE:

5.1 Any weapon requiring a repair or service during an event must be re-inspected immediately afterwards by the officer who failed it and/or the Ordnance Sergeant, who may be from another Battalion/Regiment if necessary.

5.2 When an individual must purchase a part from a sutler at an event, it is highly recommended that a Company 1st Sgt., Battalion/Regimental Ordnance Sgt., or other such experienced person accompany them. This is to insure that the parts purchased are appropriate for that weapon's modern manufacturer and model.

5.3 Replacement gun parts may be purchased from the Regimental Ordnance Sgt., when available, at the current cost for replacement of the part to inventory.

Section VI. SAFETY In the FIELD:

6.1 All weapons will be treated as if they are loaded at all times.

6.2 Any weapon which hits the ground during battle is not to be used for the remainder of the action.

6.3 Any soldier whose weapon misfires will immediately notify a Sergeant or designated NCO who will retire the weapon to the rear to have it cleared by the Ordnance Sergeant or other designated representative. If the weapon cannot be cleared it will not be used for the remainder of the engagement.

6.4 Weapons will not be grounded.

6.5 Two-banded rifles/muskets will be carried in the front or single rank.

6.6 No stacking of loaded arms will be allowed at any time.

6.7 Any time a Company or Regiment/Battalion stacks arms, at least one guard will be placed on them.

6.8 No smoking in ranks !!!!!!!

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6.9 At no time will the empty cartridge paper, or completely intact cartridges, be placed in the muzzle of a long arm.

- 6.10** Cartridges are not to be laid on the ground in “readiness” nor will dropped cartridges be used without first undergoing a visual inspection for debris, stones, etc.
- 6.11** No ramrods will be used in loading on the field. The only person who may draw a ramrod on the battlefield is the Ordnance Sgt. Or other designated personnel, behind the line of battle, for the purposes of clearing a weapon.
- 6.12** Bayonets will not be fixed at any time during battle
- 6.13** Only officers will draw their swords while the Regiment is reenacting a combat action. Others may be drawn in Regimental formations and to render honors as is historically appropriate.
- 6.14** Enlisted troops will draw and/or fire pistols in battle only on the order of their commanding officers.
- 6.15** No person shall “take a hit” while his weapon is loaded. When taking a hit an individual’s cartridge box and cap box shall be secured.
- 6.16** Agreed upon group hits are dramatic. Taking a hit and throwing yourself backward in an attempt to take down some folks in the rear rank is stupid and dangerous. They may be loaded, you may be hurt. DON’T DO IT!!
- 6.17** ALL weapons will be cleared and checked after battle. Whenever possible, the Regiment will clear weapons together. No loaded weapons will be brought back to the camp area. There will be no carrying loaded weapons in camp.
- 6.18** No aimed or leveled fire will occur in the direction of other persons on the field. No firing on troops within 40 feet.
- 6.19** At no time will mounted persons be fired upon at close range. Never fire directly at or near an animal.

- 6.20** Every attempt should be made to reform on and exit with the Regiment when it retires from the field at the end of a battle or demonstration.

6.21 There will be no carrying of a loaded firearm to, through or from the sutler's area.

6.22 *For EVERYONE'S Safety!!* ALL individuals, Military and civilian, will carry a canteen or water source when leaving the camp area (i.e. going to the sutler's area at an event). If not a period container it must be covered and/or disguised.

Section VII. HAND to HAND COMBAT:

7.1 The Regiment does not participate in unscripted hand to hand combat. Should we be overrun by an enemy, we will die, flee or surrender.

7.2 Permission for a scripted hand to hand combat may only be granted by the Regiment's Commanding Officer, in which case it will be carefully rehearsed. Conventions such as attackers keeping weapons at present arms and defenders receiving the attack at arms port should be used. In no event will weapons actually be swung or thrust.

7.3 No bayonets will be used in scripted hand to hand combat. Officer's swords will remain in the scabbard.

7.4 The colors of either side will only be touched by the other side with the permission of the Regimental and relevant Company commanding officers. Such should only occur when called for by the scenario and any colors permitted to be taken will be treated with the utmost care and respect.

Section VIII. CAMP:

8.1 No weapons will be discharged within camp boundaries without prior permission from the Regiments commanding officer or second in command. The exception to this will be weapons undergoing clearing or repair which may be

discharged at the boundaries of the camp after sufficient verbal notice (i.e. shouting, “Fire in the hole”!)

8.2 Quiet hours are to be observed as outlined in either Regimental procedures and guidelines or individual Event rules and/or regulations.

8.3 Drinking to excess is discouraged.

8.4 Axes, when not in use, should be embedded in a chopping block or be covered by a sheath.

8.5 Fire pits will be dug only at the ends of the company street and in line with the first and/or last tent, not in the middle of the street.

8.6 Women working around campfires will not wear hoops.

8.7 Fire buckets will be kept filled and adjacent to all fire pits at all times.

8.8 Fires should be properly banked at all times.

8.9 Open flames are not permitted to be left burning in tents at any time.

8.10 Unattended lanterns shall not be left burning in a tent.

8.11 Open flames should not be used in tents where straw is used as bedding. The old candle in the bayonet could become a candle in the straw far too easily.

8.12 Cartridges should not be rolled in camp except in cases of absolute necessity. Should this be the case it must be done in daylight away from any source of flame, open or closed.

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Section IX. ARTILLERY:

The artillery will follow their own safety rules and guidelines as designated by the Regiment’s Chief of Artillery. A Regimental Artillery Manual will provide the infantry commanders with safety procedures and signals for combined operations.

Any artillerist(s) fighting with an infantry unit or as an infantry unit shall follow the infantry safety guidelines and procedures as set forth in this manual.

Section X. HORSES:

Mounted personnel participating in the field with the Regiment shall serve as cavalry, staff or couriers. At no time will civilians or other unsupervised persons ride with the Regiment. The mounted cavalry will follow their own safety rules and guidelines as designated by the Regiment's Chief of Cavalry. A Regimental Cavalry Manual will provide the infantry commanders with safety procedures and signals for combined operations. Any Cavalry troopers fighting dismounted shall follow the infantry safety guidelines and procedures as set forth in this manual.

NOTE: These procedures are for the safety and well-being of ALL individuals, civilian and military, reenacting with the 6th Regiment, 1 Division, Army of Northern Virginia, "The Liberty Greys". They are for your safety and the safety of everyone. Please adhere to these procedures as they pertain to you and your Unit.

Let's keep our Regiment protected and safe !!