



Honor Guard - Color Guard - Artillery Battery Procedures and Guidelines

John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Sons of Confederate Veterans

As a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we were given a charge from our ancestors to honor and perpetuate their memory, their heroic deeds, their sacrifice, and their devotion to cause. We took an oath to do just that. Don't take that oath lightly. At each opportunity to put on that uniform and fulfill that charge, pause for a moment and take in just exactly what it means to represent them, the SCV, and your personal ancestor.

If there is no sense of personal pride and unyielding devotion to doing our very best, then we should take another moment and re-assess our priorities before stepping into public representing the Confederate soldier. As a member of the Color Guard or Honor Guard, especially at a marker dedication, we are the closest representative that a family has to their ancestor, at whose grave we stand. The flag that soldier fought and died for is in our hands. His reputation is reflected in our military and personal behavior.

A color bearer's life expectancy in battle was about 20 seconds. To the enemy, killing a color bearer caused confusion in logistics and troop location, so they were a prime target. Still, the position of color bearer was considered an honor and a privilege, therefore the bravery those men showed deserves nothing less than absolute respect from us as a Color Guard today.

As a member of the Honor Guard, we are responsible for delivering the closest thing to military honors that the veteran will ever receive for his Confederate military service. Think about that before we slouch in formation, show up late, or fail to execute a ceremony with all the dignity, solemnity, and precision that it deserves.

With this in mind, thank you for making this decision and commitment to the SCV, to your ancestor, and to what can and will be the finest Color/Honor Guard

in our organization. RH

Objectives

- 1.) The main objective of this guideline will be to ensure the safety of participants, spectators, and property regarding marker dedications, parades, or any other function in which the Color/Honor Guards of Camp 2156 participates, either as hosts, coordinators, or support. At no time should any aspect of safety be overlooked or given less than ultimate priority.
- 2.) Secondly, this guideline will give the participant an overview of the various military procedures that we may perform, verbal commands to be expected and become familiar with, and the responsibilities of all participants before, during, and after each event.

Topics

Topics covered in this guideline will include;

- 1.) Personal safety
- 2.) Weapons safety
- 3.) Event coordination
- 4.) Personal and military decorum
- 5.) Military procedures
- 6.) Verbal commands
- 7.) Summary

1.) Personal Safety

The personal health and safety of each member is paramount. Members should be aware of potential problems such as heat, physical condition, and potential confrontation with outdoor hazards such as insects, snakes, and toxic vegetation in and around cemeteries. Members are urged to bring a canteen to events even in the spring or fall and make sure to take in plenty of liquids before the event starts and at any time during events that it is needed or wanted. Remember also to remove hats as opportunities arise and decorum permits, to release heat that can do damage to you before you know it.

The event coordinator or the detail commander will try to post the details in the shade whenever possible, but sometimes there is just none available.

2.) Weapons Safety

All weapons, whether they are muskets, pistols or cannons, should be treated as if loaded at all times.

- 1.) Never leave a weapon unattended.
- 2.) Never allow any untrained, unauthorized person to handle or fire your weapon under any circumstance.
- 3.) Display or demonstration of weapons is allowed as long as the weapon remains in your possession at all times.
- 4.) Never bring live ammunition to any event wherein that ammunition is unlawful or unnecessary.
- 5.) No participant will load more than 75 grains FFF powder per shot into any musket at any SCV ceremonial function. No artillery round should be loaded that is more than 5 ounces FF powder per shot at any SCV ceremonial function. Pistols should be considered as ornamental only and should not be loaded at an SCV ceremonial function. Musket cartridges should be wrapped as is period correct and artillery rounds should have an outside wrapper of non combustible foil
- 6.) All weapons must pass safety inspection prior to each event to determine cleanliness, operational status, and potential projectiles within the barrel. This will be completed by the detail commander, and will consist of pinging the barrel with a rammer, and discharge of musket cap towards the ground to ensure operational readiness.
- 7.) All musket and cannon volleys will be fired on order of the detail commander only.
- 8.) All musket volleys will be fired at "maximum elevation" only, which is an approximate 45 degree angle.
- 9.) In the event of a weapon misfire, the participant will immediately make certain that the detail commander is aware of the misfire, at which time the detail commander will decide whether to reprime or cease fire for that participant.
- 10.) When reloading muskets after initial firing, the participant will leave the spent musket cap in place on the nipple until the new charge has been seated in the barrel. Removal of the spent cap prior to reloading may cause premature detonation of the round due to air introduced through the nipple to any residual sparks from the previous round.
- 11.) Never place your hand or any part of your body over the muzzle of a loaded weapon, whether it be primed or not.

12.) Never load a musket with the hammer at the "full cock" position. Neither should you march nor maneuver through the manual of arms with the musket at the full cock position. Hammer fully down while loading, half cock only when priming, full cock only in firing procedure at the command "AIM!"

13.) Never fire over the heads of spectators or other participants. Always direct fire on the orders of the detail commander and always away from people or obstructions.

14.) For artillery firing, a minimum of 50 feet clearance, behind and beside the cannon, will be kept free of combustibles and spectators. A minimum distance of 100 yards in front of the cannon will be kept clear of obstructions, vehicles, and spectators. The gun ammo box will be kept locked when unattended and will be guarded at all times.

15. The artillery piece(s) will never be left unattended while loaded.

16.) **If you see that firing your weapon will endanger, injure or damage anyone or anything, do not fire!**

3.) Event Coordination

1.) The Event Coordinator (EC) and Detail Commander (DC) should communicate between themselves and other participants in the days preceding an event to update weather conditions and forecasts, participant attendance, transportation logistics of flags, weapons, powder, speaker's podiums, or any other necessary items that the Camp is responsible for providing for an event.

2.) The EC and (DC) must arrive at least 45 minutes early to an event to decide placement of colors, spectators, artillery, musketry, install preliminary colors and /or flag holders, route of approach for the Color and Honor Guards into the event sight, assess resources, for shade, water, etc., assign colors to participants, complete weapons inspections, and give outline of ceremonial sequence to participants. All other participants should arrive as early as is possible but no later than 30 minutes prior to beginning of the event to allow for inspections, assignment of colors, briefings, etc.

3.) The pre-event staging area for participants should be as inconspicuous or hidden as is possible to allow for briefings, weapons inspections, and event sequence outlines, and to further enhance the initial visual impact of the ceremony for the spectators.

4.) The event coordinator should also provide materials for press or media coverage, defining our event purpose, time, place, etc.

5.) For archival purposes, a member should be assigned to take photos and notes of the ceremony, camp attendees, etc., for submission to camp, brigade, division, and national HQ.

4.) Personal and Military Decorum

1.) It is imperative that members conduct themselves in a proper manner for the occasion, at any event where we are in uniform and/or under the scrutiny of the public. A marker dedication should be considered the same as modern graveside services. A school program is much more lighthearted and is an opportunity to entertain, enlighten, and educate. A parade is more relaxed and less formal, but still an opportunity to advance the merits and reputations of the organization and our ancestors.

2.) As we represent a Confederate military unit, members should strive to complete their own uniforms as soon as is practical. They need not match exactly to start with, as we are a Texas unit, and most accounts of Texan's uniforms during the period, other than early war, mostly state that they did not match. At some point in the future we may have the opportunity to be "uniformly uniformed." Our first priority will be to learn and execute the drill and ceremonial functions at the highest proficiency level possible.

5.) Military Procedures

1.) Posting of Colors:

- A. The order of colors at any event should be as follows;
 - Texas
 - 1st National
 - 2nd National
 - 3rd National
 - Battle Flag
 - Bonnie Blue
 - Regimental
 - SCV Camp
- B. If a shortage of color bearers exists, the priority will be Texas, and Battle Flag, as it is the official SCV Flag.
- C. If an event includes the UDC, then the EC and DC may wish to add the 1st National Flag as a courtesy, and as a 3rd priority.
- D. At the beginning of an event, the detail commander will begin with the following commands;

ATTENTION - DETAIL! The detail comes to attention.

SHOULDER - ARMS! Riflemen shoulder their muskets, Flag bearers shoulder their colors, and officers draw swords.

FORWARD - MARCH! Guiding on the detail commander or as prearranged, the unit moves along the approach route.

COLOR GUARD, MARK TIME - MARCH! As each flag bearer arrives alongside his holder, he stops, but continues to march in place.

DETAIL - HALT! The entire detail will come to a halt ending on the left foot. (Timing is important here)

LEFT (OR RIGHT) - FACE! The entire detail pivots in the ordered direction and brings the rear foot alongside the front.

COLORS - POST! Color bearers place their flags in holders simultaneously, and then stand at attention.

COLOR GUARD, TO THE REAR IN OPEN ORDER - MARCH! Color bearers will take two steps back and halt at attention.

DETAIL! PRESENT - ARMS! Color bearers salute, riflemen bring muskets to the present arms, officers raise sabres. Hold till next command.

SHOULDER - ARMS! Bearers return to attention, riflemen to shoulder arms, Officers with swords to shoulder arms.

COLOR GUARD, CLOSE ORDER- MARCH! Bearers take two steps forward and halt at attention.

At this point, depending on circumstances, the DC will either march off the detail, have the riflemen stack arms or have the detail come to Parade Rest. He will then turn and address the event MC and salute if the MC is an officer, then inform them by title, (Sir, Ma'am, etc.),

THE COLORS ARE ON THE FIELD OF HONOR! The DC will then march crisply to, and join the detail.

H. When time to retire the colors, the DC will, after placing all troops in position, give the command;

RECOVER - ARMS! Bearers will simultaneously removed their flags from holders and return them to shoulder arms.

Depending on exit route, the DC will then give the order;
BY FILES LEFT (OR RIGHT) - MARCH!

or if he needs to reverse direction and keep the Texas flag out front, he will order;
COUNTERMARCH, BY FILES LEFT (OR RIGHT) - MARCH!

I. If there are pledges to flags, roll call, or marker unveiling, the various colors as is appropriate will be "presented" by the assigned bearer.

The DC, after bearers are in place, will give the command;

COLOR GUARD - ATTENTION! Bearers should come to attention

RECOVER - ARMS! Remove flags from holders simultaneously and return them to your side, bottom of pole resting on the ground

SHOULDER - ARMS! Raise your flag to the shoulder height

PRESENT - ARMS! Raise the Flag to where the bottom of the pole is even with your navel and hold flag straight up. During the pledges, only the respective flag being saluted will be presented. All others remain at the shoulder.

SHOULDER - ARMS! Return all flags to the shoulder position.

COLORS - POST! Return all flags to their holders simultaneously.

2.) Firing by command:

- A. No person under the age of 21 will be allowed to fire or handle a loaded weapon unless permitted to do so in writing by a parent or guardian in attendance.
- B. All firing will be done only at the command of the DC.
- C. All safety procedures stated herein will be strictly adhered to without exception.
- D. Weapons will be loaded and primed only when directed to do so by the DC.
- E. The DC will command, and members will execute the firing drill in the following manner for muskets;

LOAD! Bring the musket to the front, and leaning the muzzle slightly away from you, tear and introduce an open cartridge into the muzzle, remove rammer from under barrel and plunge into barrel to seat charge. Return rammer to holder under barrel! Raise musket to waist level with lockplate over capbox. Raise muzzle to eye level. Move hammer to half cock position and place cap firmly on nipple. Keep lockplate over capbox.

READY! Without moving, visually inspect for obstructions in your front, and that your

musket is safely loaded.

AIM! Pull the hammer to the full cock position and raise the musket into firing position. Elevate the muzzle to an approximate 45 degree angle.

FIRE! Jerk the trigger in unison with others and immediately upon command of the DC. After you've fired, hold the musket at the "AIM" position until you hear the order;

RECOVER - ARMS! Bring the musket back to the abovementioned "READY" position, and wait till you hear the command;

LOAD! Repeat the steps in the "Load" command listed above. When firing is complete, the DC will give the command;

CEASE FIRE! Do not reload. Determine whether your musket has misfired or not, and let the DC know immediately.

- F. The DC will command, and members will execute the firing drill in the following manner for artillery:

LOAD! The gun commander will supervise the appropriate steps of manning, sponging, worming, advancing the round, seating, and priming.

FIRE! The DC will give the firing command when he sees the gun commander at the primed position with lanyard in hand, and at such time as they make eye contact.

LOAD! Repeat the above mentioned steps. When firing is complete, the DC will give the command;

CEASE FIRE! Do not reload. Determine whether your piece has misfired or not, and let the DC know immediately.

SECURE THE PIECE! Sponge the barrel once more, and ensure that the ammo storage is secured.

3. Saluting under arms:

A. When members are at shoulder arms, whether they be riflemen or color bearers, a hand salute is accomplished by bring the left arm up, extending the left forearm across the body parallel with the ground, palm flat and open towards the ground, and touching either the musket or staff of the flag being carried with their fingertips.

B. The salute should be held until returned by the officer saluted, or held only for a moment and returned to the side if saluting another flag, a grave marker, monument,

etc.

C. Officers with swords or sabres at the shoulder salute by slowly moving the weapon to their front with the handle at about waist level and the blade straight up, then extending the right arm bearing the sabre fully outward and downward in a sweeping motion towards the ground. After the salute is acknowledged, return momentarily to the front or first position, than back to the shoulder.

4. Presentation/handling of colors at marker unveiling:

A. When markers are unveiled at a ceremony the detail will come to attention and present arms.

B. Color bearers will execute the order by either hand salute as described above, or in the case of bearers of Confederate flags, present arms as described in Article 5, paragraph 1 - I.

C. To those assigned to remove and fold the flag from the marker, the DC will give the command;

COLOR GUARD - ATTENTION!

Depending on the route from the color line to the marker, the DC will give the necessary marching commands to place one member at each of the four sides of a marker. Three members and the DC at least are necessary for this. Four would be better. The command will be;

POST! The detail will march towards the marker and position themselves on the four sides of the marker.

ATTENTION - TO - COLORS! will be the command given by the DC to signal the Color guard to slowly and with solemnity, bend as one, all four grasping an edge and slowly raising the flag evenly in a taught flat manner to slightly above waist height.

While the flag is being raised from the marker, the DC will give the command;

DETAIL, PRESENT - ARMS! Color bearers of all CS flags and riflemen will come to Present Arms as described herein, and remain there until the flag is folded and/or the DC gives the order to;

SHOULDER - ARMS! At this point, return to the Shoulder Arms position as described herein. The man opposite the DC or appointee to receive and bear colors will then present the colors to the DC or appointee in a flat, folded position at waist height, with one hand flat under, palm up, one hand flat over, palm down. The DC will first salute the folded colors, then accept them in the same manner as given, slowly raising the folded colors to his chest holding them there. The salute will be returned by the last folder. The DC will then give the command;

COLOR GUARD - POST! at which time the flag folders will reverse their route of approach to the marker and return to their posts. The DC or appointee will then march to and halt in front of the oldest relative of the honored veteran, or that relative's appointed recipient. He will then address the recipient and state;

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS AND A GRATEFUL NATION, I PRESENT YOU WITH THIS TOKEN OF APPRECIATION!

Come to attention, salute, about face and march crisply back to the assigned post.

D. The flag will be folded into the triangular pattern used by the modern military today.

5. Personal tributes:

A. At some marker dedications, you may have the opportunity to make a personal tribute if you wish. If this is on the event schedule feel free to approach the marker when directed to do so, and either say a word of prayer, leave a button or black arm band from your uniform, or just simply approach, come to attention and offer a salute if you wish. If not given the opportunity to do so during the ceremony, it is appropriate to do so immediately after dismissal. Be aware that anything you leave becomes the property of the family, and they may wish to retrieve it as a keepsake and memento of your respectful gesture.

6.) Verbal Commands:

Below, you will find a list of the most likely commands you may hear during any event the camp is involved in. Use this to familiarize yourself with their definitions so that we can better perform our ceremonies with precision and dignity. Understand that there are two parts usually to any command. These two parts tell you what to do and when to do it. They are called the preparatory and executionary. Preparatory tells you what to do, and executionary tells you when to "execute" that order. To look good doing what we do, we must learn the preparatory definition, and execute only on the executionary. Don't be late with execution, but don't jump the gun either. It is the DC's responsibility to tell you when to execute. He should be loud, crisp, and clear with his orders, and a crisp, correct execution is a beautiful thing to behold. Listen to his voice inflexion to better understand timing, to better anticipate the order. Drill yourself mentally and try to learn and know what the next order should be. That improves timing and precision in execution. Sometimes there will be a third part to an order. It will always be the first part, and it tells you to whom the order is directed. (i.e Detail, (everyone) forward - march... as opposed to Honor Guard, (only the HG) Forward - march!) Note below, the - between the preparatory and executionary parts of the commands. Also note that contrary to the modern military, all marches to the step or cadence are begun and ended on the left foot, not the right.

1.) Marching commands:

ATTENTION Stop fidgeting around, stand still in line and hush!

RIGHT - FACE Pivot on the ball of your right foot and bring the left up alongside the

right.

LEFT - FACE Pivot on the ball of your left foot and bring the right up alongside the left.
BY FILES LEFT - MARCH Keep marching to cadence and turn left behind the guy in front of you.

BY FILES RIGHT - MARCH Keep marching to cadence and turn right behind the guy in front of you

COUNTERMARCH, BY FILES LEFT - MARCH Keep marching to cadence turn left and go back the way you came.

COUNTERMARCH, BY FILES RIGHT - MARCH Keep marching to cadence turn right and go back the way you came.

HALT When you hear this command you should be coming down on your left foot. take one more right then stop on the next left. (Halt 1-2)

POST Return without cadence to your position in line. Basically reverse your route that got you to this point.

MARK TIME - MARCH March to cadence in place. Don't go forward

TO THE REAR IN OPEN ORDER - MARCH Take two steps straight back and halt.

CLOSE ORDER - MARCH Take two steps forward and halt.

EYES - RIGHT Keep marching straight ahead, but snap the head and eyes at a 45 degree angle to the right.

EYES - LEFT Keep marching straight ahead, but snap the head and eyes at a 45 degree angle to the left.

FRONT If marching, snap the head and eyes back to straight ahead. If halted, turn to the left or right to face the DC.

ABOUT - FACE Step right foot to the rear, pivot on the heel of the left, turn to the right 180 degrees and bring the left foot alongside the right

2.) Weapons handling and firing commands:

INSPECTION - ARMS Move the musket to your front as if loading. Draw rammer and drop it down the barrel to "ping" it. Return to order arms and await the inspecting officer.

LOAD See article 5, paragraph 2 - E

READY See article 5, paragraph 2 - E

AIM See article 5, paragraph 2 - E

FIRE See article 5, paragraph 2 - E

RECOVER - ARMS See article 5, paragraph 2 - E

PRIME For muskets, Raise musket to waist level with lockplate over capbox. Raise muzzle to eye level. Move hammer to half cock position and place cap firmly on nipple. Keep lockplate over capbox.

ORDER - ARMS From Shoulder arms, grasp the muzzle with left hand and control the slide to the ground as you release the grip with the right hand.

SHOULDER - ARMS Bring the musket to your right side, grasp the trigger guard with thumb and forefinger, circling it, lower right arm until only a slight bend in the right elbow exists. Muzzle should be firmly against the shoulder.

PRESENT - ARMS Usually done from Shoulder Arms, bring the musket to your front, grasp the stock and fore grip as if preparing to aim, and raise the musket straight up,

slightly away from the body until you are looking straight at the middle or second barrel band of the musket. The left hand should move to just below that band, gripping the forestock with the thumb extended alongside the barrel. Keep musket straight up and down.

FIX - BAYONETS Grasp the musket about the top or first barrel band, with your right hand. Lean it towards your left to about the middle of the body. With your left hand, draw your bayonet and attach it to the barrel, making sure to lock the retaining ring in place. Return the musket to the Order Arms position.

UNFIX - BAYONETS Reverse the fix bayonets procedure.

STACK - ARMS Tricky sometimes but looks great when done correctly. With bayonets attached and on command, take musket from the man to your rear or right and cross the crook of his bayonet over the crook of yours. Rotate your body and both muskets slightly to your right, presenting the "vee" you made with the bayonets to the man next to you. He will place the shaft of his bayonet closely into the neck of the vee, hold it there while you swing the musket in your right hand out approximated 2 -3 feet in front of you and all three rifle butts touch the ground at the same time. If done correctly, a charging rhino can't knock it over.

TAKE - ARMS All three riflemen take hold of their stacked muskets and lift straight up. The muskets will separate easily if lifted straight up.

3.) General orders:

ATTENTION TO ROLL CALL Be at attention and when your veteran's name is called.

Answer; **PRESENT ON THE FIELD OF HONOR SIR!**

PRESENT - ARMS Salute crisply to the forehead or brim of your hat with the palm at a 45 degree angle. Hold it until ordered to Shoulder Arms

REST You may leave the color line or formation and move around freely.

IN PLACE - REST You may speak, drink water, remove your hat, move your left foot from the color line or formation. Keep the right foot planted

PARADE - REST Move the right foot to the rear of, and perpendicular to the left, forming a "tee.". Left hand clasps the right wrist. If under arms, drop the musket muzzle or flagpole into the crook of your right arm. No moving around, no speaking.

7.) Summary:

The procedures and information listed in this guideline are based on Confederate military procedure and terminology, altered when necessary to promote safety, and to comply with the laws of the modern world we live in. These outlined procedures may be altered by the camp as necessary, and at the discretion of the commander when circumstances warrant. We will also strive to conform with the family's wishes whenever possible regarding things they want or don't want done in their ancestor's ceremony. Only the parameters of safety are set in stone. We hope in publishing this guideline to our members that we may bring further honor and recognition to our camp, our cause,

our ancestors, the sacrifices they made, and to their memory.

Deo Vindice!