

Huntington Beach Civil War Days Military Procedures 2024

1. HUNTINGTON BEACH CIVIL WAR DAYS MILITARY PROCEDURES, DOCUMENTATION / FEDERAL AND CONFEDERATE

1.1. Unit Level

1.2. Battalion (Branch) Level – For purposes of this document, the battalion level consists of all units of the same branch (e.g. infantry, artillery, cavalry, dismounted cavalry, band, hospital (off-field), medical (on-field)), and clergy.

1.3. Brigade Level – For purposes of this document, the brigade are all re-enactors falling under the command of the Federal or Confederate command structure.

1.4. Civilian reenactors are essential contributors to the authenticity of historical events. However, their participation on the battlefield requires strict adherence to safety protocols and permissions. They must pass a written safety test and obtain approval from the Reenactor Coordinator before being allowed to participate on the field

2. CARDINAL FIREARMS SAFETY RULES

2.1. Treat all firearms as though they are loaded.

2.2. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

2.3. Never point a firearm at anything you don't intend to shoot. At a reenactment, you must aim slightly to the side or high, never directly at a person or animal.

2.4. Know your target area and what is beyond (same reason as above, don't inadvertently aim at a person or animal beyond your intended target either).

3. EVENT REGISTRATION

3.1. All reenactors must register with the HBHS (Huntington Beach Historical Society). This registration ensures proper documentation of participants and facilitates communication between organizers and reenactors.

3.2. Registration cards will be produced when requested by an officer or NCO within the member's chain of command, by an on-duty provost guard, by the Reenactor Coordinator, or by the Event Host.

4. FORMATIONS

4.1. Brigade formations play a vital role in maintaining order and readiness. Before each battle, brigade formations must be held.

4.2. Brigade formations will include a weapon safety inspection for long guns.

4.2.1. Pistol safety checks will take place before Brigade formations and pistol check cards will be displayed in this formation.

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5. FIREARMS INSPECTION

5.1. Rifle, shoulder-fired firearms, etc. (collectively “long gun”) Inspection.

5.1.1. Inspection of long guns is crucial for safety and functionality. Each unit must inspect all firearms before brigade formation/inspection to ensure all are in good working order and are free from barrel obstructions/projectiles/objects.

5.1.1.1. During brigade weapons inspection an officer or senior NCO (Sergeant Major, First Sergeant, or Ordnance Sergeant) not assigned to the unit being inspected will conduct the firearms inspection and will also verify pistol inspection cards are completed.

5.1.2. Any long gun that has not been used at a reenactment since it was live-fired must undergo a rigorous inspection conducted by the firearm owner’s unit commander at the Huntington Beach event. These firearms shall be identified and included in the unit's morning report and include the owner’s name, firearm serial number, and approximate date and description of the live fire activity. The completion of the inspection shall be certified and signed by the unit commander conducting the inspection. The purpose of this additional inspection is to ensure no objects or obstructions are present in the barrel, certifying the firearm as safe for use on the battlefield.

5.2. Pistol Inspection.

5.2.1. Before taking any pistols onto the battlefield, a designated Pistol Safety Officer, appointed at the Brigade level, shall conduct a thorough inspection of all pistols. This inspection includes all types of pistols, whether they are functioning, nonfunctioning, or prop pistols. No exceptions shall be made in this regard.

5.2.2. The Pistol Safety Officer shall also examine all spare cylinders during the pistol inspection. A Pass/Fail shall be noted on the Pistol Check log and a digital photo shall be taken of each spare cylinder that identifies each spare cylinder brought on the field. These digital photos shall be texted to the reenactor coordinator before each battle.

5.2.3. If an individual does not have their pistol card with the current date and Brigade Pistol Safety Officer’s signature, the pistol will not be allowed on the field.

5.2.4. To maintain accurate records, the Pistol Safety Officer shall prepare a comprehensive Pistol Check log and issue a pistol check card to the user. The log and card shall include the names of firearm users, the date of inspection, and the serial number(s) of the firearms plus a notation of how many spare cylinders the pistol owner is taking on the field. Immediately after the second battle of each day, this log shall be submitted to the Reenactor Coordinator.

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5.2.5. Any pistol that has not been used at a reenactment since it was live-fired must undergo a rigorous inspection conducted by the firearm owner's unit commander at the Huntington Beach event. These firearms shall be identified and included in the unit's morning report and include the owner's name, firearm serial number, and approximate date and description of the live fire activity. The completion of the inspection shall be certified and signed by the unit commander conducting the inspection. The purpose of this additional inspection is to ensure no objects or obstructions are present in the barrel, certifying the firearm as safe for use on the battlefield.

6. ARTILLERY INSPECTION

- 6.1. Artillerymen who plan to bring pistols or long guns onto the battlefield must adhere to the same firearms rules outlined in this document.
- 6.2. Artillery units must possess a comprehensive understanding of the specific procedures and documentation pertaining to their equipment.
- 6.3. Prior to each battle, each artillery commander shall ensure that artillery bores are visually inspected, either with a flashlight or with a mirror (whichever is more effective under the conditions), so as to ensure as much as possible that no foreign objects have been introduced into the bores and that the bores appear to be sound for use during the event.
- 6.4 Artillery units shall ensure before each battle that a 75-foot safety zone is clearly marked with appropriate wood blocks in front of the artillery line so that the artillery safety zone can be recognized by other individuals on the battlefield.
- 6.4. To prevent accidents or mishaps during simulated combat, strict adherence to safety protocols at all times is mandatory.

7. GENERAL.

- 7.1. Each military unit is responsible for developing safety procedures that verify the good working condition of every firearm taken to the field. Furthermore, these procedures must determine the suitability of each firearm for safely firing blank ammunition.
- 7.2. **Unit commanders are responsible for ensuring that their soldiers empty their cartridge boxes and haversacks for inspection before each battle. This precautionary measure aims to eliminate the presence of live rounds.**
- 7.3. Unit commanders will certify and sign their Morning Report that they have followed all the procedures called for in this document. The morning reports will be turned in to the Reenactor Coordinator before the 1st battle of each day.
- 7.4. If a reenactor shows up after the morning report is turned in to the Reenactor Coordinator, an amended Morning Report will be prepared and turned in to the Reenactor Coordinator before the afternoon battle.

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- 7.5. The battalion commander will certify on the battalion morning report that they have followed all procedures called for in this document.
- 7.6. The Brigade commander will certify on the brigade's morning report that they have followed all procedures called for in this document.
- 7.7. It is strictly forbidden to bring live ammunition to the event under any circumstances. Additionally, bullets, slugs, or any other projectile designed for use in firearms shall not be taken to the battlefield during a battle scenario.
- 7.8. If a firearm that has not passed inspection is discovered on the battlefield, the owner may be asked to leave the event.
- 7.9. Late walk-ons
 - 7.9.1. Individuals with firearms must pass a thorough firearm inspection and achieve a perfect score on the written safety test. They must be included on the unit morning report or an amended morning report. If their firearm has not been used at a reenactment since it was live-fired see sections 5.1 and 5.2. No exceptions will be made.
- 7.10. Safety Tests
 - 7.10.1. A written safety test, focusing on the appropriate branch, will be administered to all reenactors participating in the battle scenarios for the first time at the Huntington Beach Event, including new recruits, veteran reenactors, musicians, medical personnel, Vivandières, news reporters, unarmed military reenactors, and civilians participating in a battle scenario. If a reenactor is not affiliated with a military branch, the Infantry test will be given. This test aims to ensure a comprehensive understanding of safety protocols. A 100% pass score is required, and participants may retake the test as many times as necessary to achieve a perfect score. If the reenactor is unable to pass the test with a 100% passing score, they cannot participate in battle scenarios.
- 7.11. Minimum Age of Battlefield Participants
 - 7.11.1. A participant must be 14 years of age as of the date of the event to take the field with a firearm. The participating minor must bring a copy of their birth certificate or an official school I.D. that indicates a birthdate to verify their age.
 - 7.11.2. A functional musician may take the field that is 12 years of age as of the date of the event. They must pass the safety test with a 100% passing score to take the field. The participating minor must bring a copy of their birth certificate or an official school I.D. that indicates a birthdate to verify their age.
 - 7.11.3. A minor must provide a parental or guardian release to participate unless the parent or guardian is present at the event or in the ranks.

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8. SAFETY AFTER ACTION MEETING

8.1. Following the Saturday and Sunday afternoon battle, a Safety After Action Meeting will take place on the battlefield. The Reenactor Coordinator, Event Host, Federal and Confederate Commanders, are required to be present. All safety tests, morning reports, and firearms inspection logs must be brought to this meeting and given to the Reenactor Coordinator. These documents must be reviewed for accurate record-keeping and proper adherence to safety protocols.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1. In conclusion, these military procedures and documentation are essential to maintain order, safety, and effective operations at various levels within the Huntington Beach Civil War Days Event. Each reenactor's adherence to these guidelines ensures a safe, authentic, and well-organized experience.