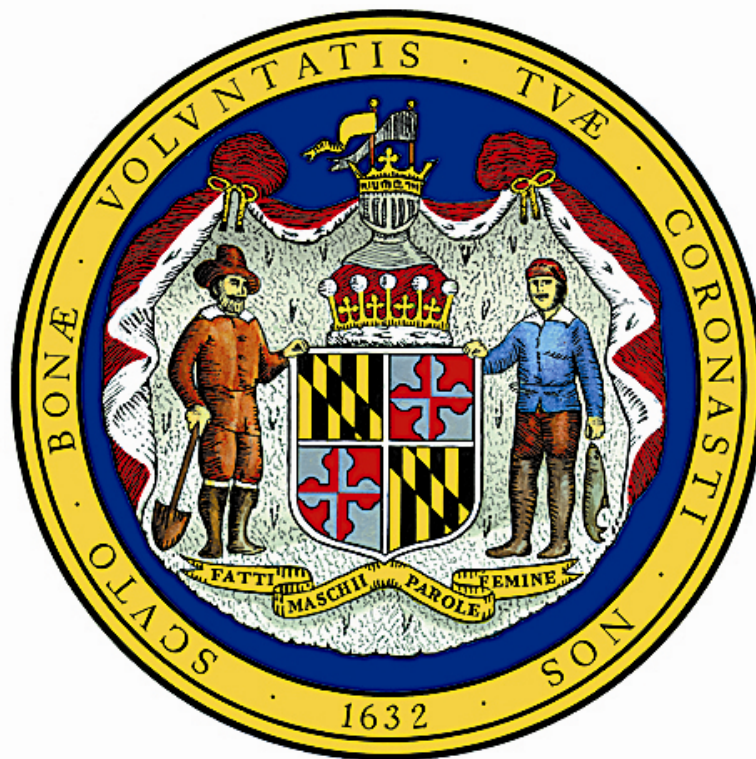


# 7th Maryland Regiment Volunteer Infantry Re-enactors Handbook



*(The following are excerpts from the  
Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1863 )*

**ARTICLE I.**

**MILITARY DISCIPLINE.**

1. ALL inferiors are required to obey strictly, and to execute with alacrity and good faith, the lawful orders of the superiors appointed over them.
2. Military Authority is to be exercised with firmness, but with kindness and justice to inferiors. Punishments shall be strictly conformable to military law.
3. Superiors of every grade are forbidden to injure those under them by tyrannical or capricious conduct, or by abusive language.

**ARTICLE II.**

**RANK AND COMMAND.**

4. Rank of officers and non-commissioned officers :
- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1st. Lieutenant-General. | 10th. Cadet.                                  |
| 2d. Major-General.       | 11th. Sergeant-Major.                         |
| 3d. Brigadier-General.   | 12th. Quartermaster-Sergeant of a Regiment.   |
| 4th. Colonel.            | 13th. Ordnance Sergeant and Hospital Steward. |
| 5th. Lieutenant-Colonel. | 14th. First Sergeant.                         |
| 6th. Major.              | 15th. Sergeant.                               |
| 7th. Captain.            | 16th. Corporal.                               |
| 8th. First Lieutenant.   |   |
| 9th. Second Lieutenant.  |   |
- And in each grade by date of commission or appointment.

**ARTICLE XIII.**

**COMPANIES.**

90. The captain will cause the men of the company to be numbered, in a regular series, including the non-commissioned officers, and divided into four squads, Each to be put under the charge of a non-commissioned officer.
93. The utmost attention will be paid by the commanders of the companies to the cleanliness of their men, as to their persons, clothing, arms, accoutrements, and equipments, and also as to their quarters and tents.

105. All arms in the hands of the troops, whether browned or bright, will be kept in the state in which they are issued by the Ordnance Department. Arms will not be taken to pieces without permission of a commissioned officer. Bright barrels will be kept clean and free from rust without polishing them; care should be taken in rubbing not to bruise or bend the barrel. After firing, wash out the bore; wipe it dry, and then pass a bit of cloth, slightly greased, to the bottom. In these operations, a rod of wood with a loop in one end is to be used instead of the rammer. The barrel when not in use, will be closed with a stopper. For exercise, each soldier should keep himself provided with a piece of sole leather to fit the cup or countersink of the hammer.

**(A coffeepot of hot or boiling water is usually kept at the fire pit for cleaning use after a scenario. Additionally, most ramrods have a threaded end opposite the rammer cup. Several cleaning tools are available which thread onto the end. Troops should have a wire brush attachment, a scraper attachment, the loop attachment and several cleaning patches in their cleaning kits. In lieu of a leather square for the cup or countersink of the hammer, a folded patch works just as well.)**

110. All knapsacks are to be painted black. Those for the artillery will be marked in the centre of the cover with the number of the regiment only, in figures of one inch and a half inch in length, of the character called full face, with yellow paint. Those for infantry will be marked in the same way with white paint...

111. The knapsacks will also be marked upon the inner side with the letter of the company and the number of the soldier, on such part as may be readily observed at inspections.

112. Haversacks will be marked upon the flap with the number and name of the regiment, the letter of the company, and number of the soldier, in black letters and figures. And each soldier must, at all times, be provided with a haversack and canteen, and will exhibit them at all inspections. It will be worn on the left side on marches, guard, and when paraded for detached service—the canteen worn outside the haversack.

**(7th Maryland does not require that regimental numbers and company letters be marked on knapsacks or haversacks, however if you wish to do so, use a white acrylic or oil-based paint and a 1 inch block-letter stencil. Be sure to mark your name on the inside flap as well for identification purposes.)**

## ARTICLE XXIX

### HONORS TO BE PAID BY THE TROOPS

252. All guards and sentinels are to pay the same compliments to the officers of the navy, marines and militia, in the service of the United States, as are directed to be paid the officers of the army, according to their relative ranks.

253. It is equally the duty of non-commissioned officers and soldiers, *at all times* and *in all situations*, to pay the proper compliments to officers of the navy and marines, and to officers of other regiments, when in uniform, as to officers of their own particular regiments and corps.

254. Courtesy among military men is indispensable to discipline. Respect to superiors will not be confined to obedience on duty, but will be extended to all occasions. It is always the duty of the inferior to accost or to offer first the customary salutation, and of the superior to return such

complimentary notice.

255. Sergeants, with swords drawn, will salute by bringing them to a present— with muskets, by bringing the left hand across the body, so as to strike the musket near the right shoulder. Corporals, out of the ranks, and privates not sentries, will carry their muskets at a shoulder as sergeants, and salute in like manner.
256. When a soldier without arms, or with side-arms only, meets an officer, he is to raise his hand to the right side of the visor of his cap, palm to the front, elbow raised as high as the shoulder, looking at the same time in a respectful and soldier-like manner at the officer, who will return the compliment thus offered.
257. A non-commissioned officer or soldier being seated, and without particular occupation, will rise on the approach of an officer, and make the customary salutation. If standing, he will turn toward the officer for the same purpose. If the parties remain in the same place or on the same ground, such compliments need not be repeated.

(The following is excerpted from *Customs of Service* by August V. Kautz)

## DUTIES OF THE SOLDIER

### DEPARTMENT

47. ONE of the first things a soldier has to learn on entering the army, is a proper military deportment towards his superiors in rank: this is nothing more than a military way of performing the courtesies required from a well-bred man in civil life, and a punctual performance of them is as much to his credit as the observance of the ordinary rules of common politeness.
48. (See U.S. Army Regulations 255, above.)
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51. The foregoing regulations should be strictly observed by enlisted men; and their faithful performance will add much to the military reputation of a company or regiment.
52. The following customs are equally binding, though not provided for in Regulations:—  
When soldiers are marching in the ranks, they do not salute, unless ordered to at the time. If employed at any work, they are not expected to discontinue their employment to salute.
53. A soldier or non-commissioned officer, when he addresses an officer, or is spoken to by one, salutes; on receiving the answer or communication from the officer, he again salutes before turning to go away.
54. When a soldier enters an officer's quarters armed, he simply makes the required salute, and does not take off his cap; but without arms, or with side-arm only, he takes off his cap and stands in the position of a soldier, and delivers his message or communicates what he came for in as few words as possible and to the point.

55. A slovenly attitude, frequent changes of position, or much gesticulation, is exceedingly unmilitary, and looks bad. Say what you have to say in a prompt, courageous manner, without diffidence or hesitation; and, if always respectful, no matter what the subject, it is much more likely to be considered than when delivered in a drawling, hesitating, and timid manner.
57. When a soldier enters an officer's quarters, he remains standing in the position of a soldier until invited to sit down. When soldiers are in a room and an officer enters, they should rise and remain standing until invited to sit down.
58. Soldiers should bear in mind that the officer has *his* duties to perform, and that they are more weighty and important than any a soldier can have, and that his leisure time is limited, and they should therefore avoid, as much as possible, troubling him with unimportant matters, or, at least, not be disappointed if they receive short answers.
59. In a company of seventy or eighty men, if each one should go only once a day to his captain with any matter, it is easy to see how annoying such a thing would soon become.
60. Soldiers should learn, as far as possible, to manage their own affairs; and, whilst their company commander is the legitimate person to apply to for any thing needful or when in difficulty, his time should not be trespassed upon with regard to matters they should know themselves.
61. The company commander, through the first sergeant, is the proper person to apply to for all indulgences, such as passes, furloughs, &c., and for clothing, rations, pay, and the adjustment of all differences and difficulties in the company.
62. An application to any other source will most generally be answered by referring the applicant to his company commander, whose duty it is to attend to the wants of his men. Only when the company commander neglects his duty in this respect is a soldier justified in applying to his regimental or post commander.



# Care and Cleaning Of Leather Goods

Your leather accoutrements, and shoes will last seasons longer with the right care and cleaning. Use Mink Oil or Neats-foot Oil to condition and treat your goods.

**Brogans:** Break in your new brogans by wetting them thoroughly then wearing them until they dry. This will "form fit" them to your feet. Another trick is to walk through wet grass with them on then letting them dry, again while wearing them.

After each event or field use you should apply an application of either Mink Oil or Neats-foot Oil. This will also help make your brogans water resistant, but not waterproof! Wipe the brogans with a damp cloth to remove any mud and dirt, then slather the oil on generously making sure all areas of the shoe is coated. Rub oil into the leather well so it is absorbed.

Heel plates should be applied to the heels of your new brogans. The plates provide for longer life of the heel. Care should be taken to make sure that they are firmly attached, and should be applied by the sutler when purchased. Should you ever have to wear your brogans where floor protection is required, you may use duct tape to cover the heel plates of the brogans.

**Accoutrements:** Your leather goods, cartridge box, cap pouch and belts should be wiped clean with a damp cloth and coated with an application of Mink Oil or the Neats-foot Oil. Generally the oil should be applied at the beginning of the season, once or twice during the season, and a final application at the end of the field events season. The more care you offer to your leather goods, the longer they will last you, be more resilient, and last for a longer time.

# Reenactor Health

Civil War reenacting can be a physically demanding avocation. Since most of the campaigns are fought in the spring through the fall, the most exhausting factor can be the summertime heat and humidity.

**Dehydration:** All reenactors are *required* to carry a full canteen while on the field. During the heat and humidity of the summer months it is advisable to carry a full canteen with you at all times, even when visiting the sutlers. Prior to any scheduled event, you should start drinking plenty of water two to three days in advance of the event. This will hydrate you and prepare you for physical demands of the march and battle. During a weekend event, drink as much water as possible. You may even want to carry a small container of a powdered sports drink. Gatorade makes a container of the powder that you can mix with water, either in your canteen or in your cup. Be aware though, that this mixture can react with the tin canteen insides, and cause an off taste.

Limit or curtail your intake of soft drinks during an event as they usually lend in dehydration. By far, the best choice is water. *Have it with you at all times.* Stick a bottle of water in your haversack as a back up. Alcoholic beverages should be taken in moderation while in camp, but are not allowed on the field or in the ranks at any time.

**Smoking:** Smoking of cigarettes is not permitted in the ranks or on the field, *at any time.* If you are a smoker, try switching to cigars or a pipe. If you must smoke a cigarette in camp, do so discreetly, or walk to the sutlers.

**General Health:** Keep fit by walking. Reenacting is a physically demanding “hobby” and should not be taken lightly. Though a physical is not required, you should be examined by a doctor if you are uncertain about you ability to participate in an event. Remember to pack any prescriptions that you take. Inform the Captain if you have a medical condition that may warrant attention. If you have allergies to grasses, insect bites, etc., bring the proper medication with you. During an event, be especially careful to look for ticks. The Deer Tick is very small and sometimes unnoticeable. Wood Ticks are larger and better seen. Be sure to check yourself thoroughly after each event, and if you have removed a Deer Tick, be sure to advise your physician.

## Care of Rifle Musket

The Revised 1861 United States Army Regulations Article XIII paragraph 105:

105. All arms in the hands of troops, whether browned or bright, will be kept in the state in which they are issued by the Ordinance Department. Arms will not be taken to pieces without permission of a commissioned officer. Bright barrels will be kept clean and free of rust without polishing them; care should be taken in rubbing not to bruise, or bend the barrel. After firing, wash out the bore, wipe it dry, and pass a bit of cloth, slightly greased, to the bottom. In these operations, a rod of wood with loop in one end is to be used instead of the rammer. The barrel, when not in use, will be closed with a stopper. For exercise, each soldier should keep himself provided with a piece of sole leather to fit the cup or countersink of the hammer. (For care of arms in service, see Ordinance Manual)

Straight from the manual you can see that the care of your weapon was very simple, or so it seems. As a matter of fact there is more to this than paragraph 105. Another more specific manual describes the removal of the lock and barrel as a normal operation although the only one I have read is for the model 1855. In both instances permission from an officer was required before going any further. The repair of weapons was primarily left to the Ordinance Dept. This repair could be at a Regimental level or higher.

What I am trying to show here, is that the average soldier was limited as to the extent that he worked on his issued weapon. Everyone has their own method of cleaning in the field and off. The goal of the military in any era is to preserve and maintain an accurate and working weapon. Our main goal is to maintain a working and safe weapon. The emphasis on safety cannot be stressed enough. When a weapon is fired using a projectile the bore tends to be cleaner after use than one without. The powder burns much more efficiently when a projectile is used due to the pressure. What this means to us is that the bore will be dirtier, with unburned powder and residue that would not be there under normal firing (with a bullet).

I have seen all means of cleaning in the field, from the minimal to the complete stripping of the weapon. The goal here is to get the bore clear of debris that can become a projectile, as well as make the weapon reliable. Improper cleaning can lead to malfunctions that in the hands of a novice could cause a dangerous situation. Undetected misfires come to mind!

A simple "field" cleaning can keep your weapon in safe working order. This is what many will do at an event after an action. What follows is the minimal cleaning to ensure a working piece.

Remove the spent cap from the cone and place a piece of cloth over the cone, lower the hammer down on the cone. Using water (warm works the best... old coffee?) carefully pour the water down the bore. Try not to let any run down the outside as this can eventually cause damage to the stock, plug the bore and shake the weapon back and forth to try to get the water to loosen residue. Pour the water out and repeat until clear. It is suggested at this point that you run your rammer down the bore tulip end first to check for any obstructions, if the rammer dose not go smoothly down to the breach repeat washing with warm water and let soak between rinses, if none are found, swab the bore with patches until dry. Once dry take a patch and apply just a little oil and run this down the bore to lightly lubricate. Remove the cloth from the cone, inspect for debris if clogged clear with a pick, place another piece of cloth or leather over cone and replace hammer. If you have a stopper place it in the bore if not lightly place a piece of cloth in the end. At this point the weapon is ready for action. If you are done with the piece for the day lightly swab the metal with an oil, many use olive oil for all lubrication.

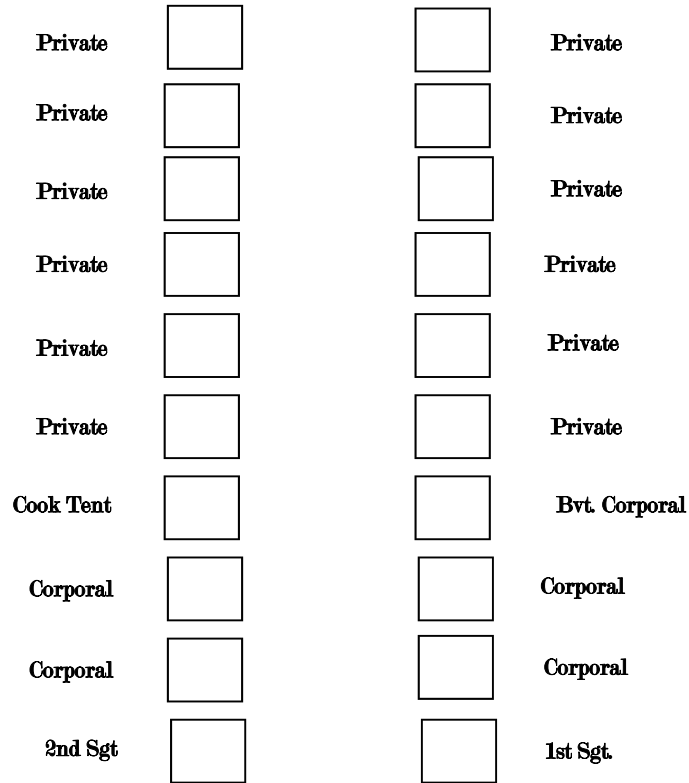
What has been described is the minimum that should be done to maintain a safe weapon. There are some that go much further breaking the piece down to its basic parts. But care must be taken, parts can be lost in tall grass. This full cleaning **should** be done at home after every event, where all parts can be kept track of and plenty of time can be devoted.

So what do you need to do the minimum to ensure a clean weapon? Not really that much. In my cleaning kit there is a couple of cleaning jags, one that has a loop to place a patch through, one that has two prongs of heavy wire to retrieve a patch if it were to end up down the bore and a bore brush all of these fit the threaded end of the rammer. Two other tools include a combination wrench and screwdriver often called a sergeant's wrench and a pick. All of these items fit into a very small housewife. Don't forget some patches, I carry probably 20 to 30 all of the time.

The main thing to keep in mind is that not only are you trying to protect probably the largest investment you will have in a kit you are also trying to make it safe for you as well as others. Proper field cleaning is as important now as it was during the war only now you own the weapon and everyone is supposed to walk away un-hurt.



# Company Street Layout



Fire Pit

