

Article for the Brigade Courier:

A Note from the Inspector: Safety First!

With the Campaign season fast approaching, I want to take time to remind Brigade members of some of our safety regulations that have helped the Brigade maintain a high level of safe operations for more than 50 years. This becomes even more important due to the fact that we will have several Brigade Invitational, or Sanctioned events that will involve non-B.A.R. units. At all B.A.R. events, B.A.R. safety regulations are in force for all participants whether or not they belong to the Brigade.

The following are taken from the Soldier's Manual: Section II Safety Regulations. All members should familiarize themselves with them before the School of The Soldier:

IV. Inspections

A. First formation of each day (usually during *the Troop*)

B. Ram rods shall be sprung immediately before and after all TWD's in the manner described herein:

In keeping with the Brigade's policy of safety first, the following instructions shall remain in force at all times. These instructions are subject to change by the Safety Officer or the B.A.R. Board of Directors as required. The inspection should be done in an 18th century manner as much as possible. All deficiencies must be corrected. Any man failing inspection is prohibited from participation until all problems have been corrected and another inspection performed by the Safety Officer or his designee.

C. Safety Inspection:

Upon the order from the Field Commander to the unit commanders to inspect their men and call the rolls (see Standing Orders), the unit commanders will order:

*Take Care for Arms Inspection,
Fix your Bayonets!
Shoulder your Arms!
Search Arms!*

N.B.: It is assumed that each soldier will have his piece at half cock and pan closed.

Each Soldier will come to the *Recover* and level his firelock(the Priming position). He then opens his pan, casts about as if to *Load*, and withdraws his rammer and places it in the barrel of his piece.

As the Inspecting Officer or NCO comes to each soldier, the soldier will spring his rammer, and upon approval of the inspector, will return the rammer to its pipes. The inspector will, at this time, inspect the bayonet to insure that it fits the barrel snugly and that the bayonet lug engages the bayonet properly so as to prevent the bayonet from flying off. The inspector will then order the soldier to *Shoulder Arms* and then to *Poise Arms*

The inspector will examine the lock and condition of the piece per the instructions detailed below. He will then take the piece from the soldier, shut the pan and pull hard upon the trigger and slap the butt of the firelock sharply with the palm of his hand to assure that the half cock position is sound. The inspector will then return the firelock and the soldier will *Shoulder Arms*. After the inspector has passed along the front of the ran he will go to the rear and inspect

the men's pouches, bayonet scabbards and other accouterments according to the instructions detailed below. After each soldier has been completely inspected he will go to the position of *Support Firelocks* to signal that he has been inspected. This will allow the commanding Field Officer to gauge the progress of the inspection.

When the Commanding Field Officer sees that all the units have been inspected he will then order the unit commanders to report (see Standing Orders)

D. Inspection Details

1. Firelocks: The inspector will check for the following:
 - a. Overall appearance of the Firelock: Note condition of cleanliness, rust, etc. Check for missing parts (Barrel pins, Barrel bands, Lock screws, etc). Check fit of lock to barrel. Check condition of stock (splits, cracks, repairs, etc.)
 - b. Flashguard: Check to see that is of heavy enough material. Check for fit and tightness. [Flashguards are supposed to have two points of contact with the lock to prevent them from slipping down in use.]
 - c. Hammerstall (Frizzen Cover): Check to see that it is attached and fits snugly enough on the hammer so that it won't fall off when the firelock is handled. Make sure the leather is heavy enough [to withstand impact of a flint without splitting]
2. Accouterments: The inspector will check for the following:
 - a. Powder Horns: Check to see all main horns are empty and that all powder horns contain no more than two (2) ounces of powder.
 - b. Cartridge Box/Pouch: Check to see that the flap can be secured, that there is no loose powder, and that there are no projectiles of any kind.
 - c. Cartridges: Check to see that they have been properly rolled, that the ends are secure (twisted, folded over, tied) and that there are no staples.
 - d. Bayonet Scabbard: Make sure that the point of the bayonet does not protrude from the scabbard. Make sure that the scabbard is secure.
 - e. Edged Weapons (including knives, axes, swords): Insure that the edges are protected by a sturdy sheath, and that the weapon and sheath are well secured.

E. Morning Report:

NCOs must fill out a morning report, legibly and completely with names, and turn it in to the Adjutant prior to the first TWD of the day. The morning report is for the use primarily by the Safety Officer, but may be used as a unit's official troop return.

F. Morning Reports will be kept on file with the Adjutant after the event.

V. Regulations for Tactical Weapons Demonstrations (TWD)

- A. Tactical demonstrations are, without exception, to be planned and executed in ways that have the spectators at a safe distance at right angles to the forces engaged.
- B. All unit commanders will be adequately briefed on procedures and unusual physical features of the lay of the land prior to the TWD.

- C. Weapons inspections must be conducted immediately prior to and immediately following each TWD. Muskets to be searched (rammers sprung) at these times.
 - 1. Following inspections and prior to the TWD the use of bore protectors (i.e., tompions) is prohibited.
- D. Troops will be at least 35 yards [105 feet] from the spectators during firings.
- E. Weapons may be discharged at opposing forces only if aimed over the participants' heads [at proper safe distances, this will appear to be a slight elevation above level, aimed just above the hats of the opposing forces] Absolutely NO levelled weapons.
- F. Opposing Forces must cease fire when they approach within 35 yards of each other.
 - 1. Forces advancing on Artillery must adhere to regulations governing Artillery firing.
- G. No wadding or ramming [of musket charges] at any time.
- H. Ram rods will not be removed from their channel in the weapon unless prescribed by special event.
- I. Under special circumstances, bayonets may be fixed for Tactical Weapons Demonstrations:
 - 1. They may be only fixed in a Tactical Weapons Demonstration if it has been pre-approved by the Board for a specific scenario and agreed upon by both sides in advance, with all unit NCOs notified. Likewise, they are not to be fixed in any scenario other than that which was previously agreed.
 - 2. Under no circumstances are bayonets to be ordered fixed by any unit commander on his own initiative. Individual men-at-arms are never to fix bayonets except under order.
 - 3. Bayonets are never to be fixed during a Tactical Exercise, i.e., wargaming training exercise.
 - 4. When simulating casualties, falling troops must take extreme care to see that their weapons land in a position not to threaten themselves or other personnel.
- J. No hand-to-hand combat; special demonstrations excepted.
- K. No troop shall go among, alongside, or behind the spectators for any reason.
- L. No independent activity by individuals or units unless authorized by the Field Commander.
- M. Artillery firings shall be done according to proper B.A.R. Procedures under a qualified Master Gunner. No gun shall fire when advancing forces are at a distance of less than 35 yards.
- N. Special cavalry regulations to be determined by the Board of Directors for each event (see Cavalry section)
- O. Policing the area must be conducted after each TWD. All live blank cartridges and cartridge papers must be picked up.
- P. All site rules and regulations must be followed.

VI. General Camp Safety

A. Regulations and Cautions of Safety for Non-Military Activities:

The Brigade was founded upon two working principles that stand unshaken after a half century: They are *Safety* and *Historical Authenticity*, in that order. Here are the collected regulations and cautions of safety for non-military activities.

These rules are actively in force at all times.

FIRE SAFETY

1. A bucket full of water and a wool blanket must be kept at each fire. The water in the bucket is not to be used for any other purpose than extinguishing fire. [a camp kettle may also be used for this purpose, but only if it can be used exclusively for that purpose.]
2. If a rope barrier is not provided one should be created between a cooking fire and the public. Use a table, bench, firewood, cooking equipment or anything else at hand to create a physical barrier or at least a psychological barrier.
3. Every fire must be tended at all times by an adult. [If the Brigade Inspector finds a fire left unattended, he has the authority to have the fire extinguished in such a manner as to insure that it will not flare up or re-ignite in any way, usually with lots of water]
4. Fires are never to be placed closer than thirty feet from any tent (fly tents excepted)
5. Persons tending fires should always have another adult nearby in case of an emergency.
6. Persons working an open fire should wear tightly woven garments of wool or linen, since these are least likely to flare or burn vigorously if ignited.
7. Use the "Stop, Drop, and Roll" technique if your clothing catches fire.
8. If someone's clothing catches fire, help them to "Stop Drop, and Roll", and smother the burning clothing with the wool blanket present for that purpose.
9. In the event of a clothing fire, a third person should be sent to summon medical aid.
10. If a person with burn injuries goes into shock, have them lie down, elevate their feet, keep them warm, shade them from the sun, and do not handle the burned areas or attempt further treatment, but await qualified medical personnel.

TENT SAFETY

1. No lit candles are permitted in a tent with a straw bed or floor. No lit candles are permitted in a soldier's or wedge-type tents unless the tent is free of straw and the candle is securely mounted in an all metal lantern that has a door with a secure fastening mechanism.
2. In the event of a tent fire, immediately determine if anyone is in the burning tent.
3. At the same time the cry of "Fire, Fire" is to be raised to summon aid.
4. If the fire seems likely to spread down a row of tents, move a few tents away from the fire and collapse a tent to slow the fire's progress. Knock out the upright poles to collapse a tent quickly. Collapse more than one tent if needed.