

2009 Cavalry Safety Regulations.

- 1) **Scope**. The Cavalry Safety Regulations are herewith defined as the governing authority covering all operations, mounted and dismounted, within all cavalry units comprising the Army of Northern Virginia, both in camp and on the field. Their use is recommended for all equestrian activities within the Army of Northern Virginia, including but not limited to mounted infantry officers and horse-drawn artillery.
- 2) **Purpose**. Establish safety guidance that provides a reasonably safe environment for re-enactors, horses, and spectators.
- 3) **Applicability**. These regulations apply to all cavalry companies within the ANV, both at battle re-enactment events and at living history events.

4) **Organization and Functions**

a) Battalion

- i) **General**. Battalion commanders will appoint a Safety Officer as a staff officer attached to the battalion headquarters. The appointment to Safety Officer will carry the rank of Captain. This position may not be left unfilled. At least one alternate will be identified. This may be an additional duty appointment for the Alternate Safety Officer. The Alternate Safety Officer will assume all duties and responsibilities of the Safety Officer in the absence of the latter.
- ii) **Publication**. Orders appointing the Safety Officer and the Alternate Safety Officer shall be published and copies issued to the ANV Safety Officer and to each of the subordinate company commanders. Changes must be published within 72 hours of appointment.
- iii) **Administration**. The Safety Officer will receive orders appointing Safety NCO/Officers from the subordinate companies and maintain these in a file.
- iv) **Function**.
 - (1) The Safety Officer will advise the Commander on all matters relating to safety as it affects troopers, civilians, and horses both in camp and on the field.
 - (2) Areas of concern will include but are not limited to heat, humidity, cold, fire safety, horses, tack, and firearms.

- (3) The Safety Officer will assess risks involving at least these factors, recommend mitigating strategies to the commander, and implement the commander's decisions relevant to organizational safety.
 - (4) Assess Company Safety NCO performance and develop training programs to provide a common baseline of capability across the battalion. Provide remedial training for Company NCO where necessary.
- v) Qualification. This requires a seasoned re-enactor that understands cavalry tactics, maneuver, fires, and melee as well as a highly capable horseman that can safely interpose himself between two combatants, if necessary. The ideal candidate will be perceptive enough to rapidly detect problems and have the maturity to quickly decide on a corrective course of action, implement the corrective action, and assess the results while maintain overall situational awareness to prioritize and respond to other problems on the field.

b) Company

- i) General. Company commanders will appoint a Safety NCO as an additional duty. This additional duty must be assigned to a Sergeant or Lieutenant. At least one alternate will be identified. This may also be an additional duty appointment for the Alternate Safety NCO/Officer. The Alternate Safety NCO/Officer will assume all duties and responsibilities of the Safety NCO/Officer in the absence of the latter.
 - ii) Publication. Orders appointing the Safety NCO/Officer and Alternate Safety NCO/Officer shall be published and a copy furnished to the Battalion Safety Officer. Changes must be published within 72 hours of appointment.
 - iii) Administration. Company Safety NCO will maintain a unit safety log. Significant actions will be recorded. Significant actions include, but are not limited to, injuries to personnel or horses, damage to equipment exceeding \$50 valuation, firearms safety infractions, and significant findings during the conduct of safety inspections.
- iv) Function.
- (1) The Safety NCO will advise the Commander on all matters relating to safety as it affects troopers, civilians, and horses both in camp and o the field.
 - (2) Areas of concern will include but are not limited to heat, humidity, cold, fire safety, horses, tack, and firearms.

- (3) The Safety NCO will assist the Battalion Safety Officer by implementing the mitigating strategies approved by the Battalion Commander.
- (4) Assess individual trooper safety-oriented behaviors, develop unit training plans to establish a common baseline, and provide remedial training where necessary.
- v) Qualification. Requires an existing appointment as a sergeant. An Ordnance Sergeant or a Fourth Sergeant are equally acceptable for appointment to this additional duty. A lieutenant may also be assigned this duty. Irrespective of the rank of the appointee, he must be a highly capable horseman that can safely interpose himself between two combatants, if necessary. The ideal candidate will be perceptive enough to rapidly detect problems and have the maturity to quickly decide on a corrective course of action, implement the corrective action, and assess the results while maintain overall situational awareness to prioritize and respond to other problems on the field.

c) Procedures

- i) Appointment orders will be published as described in subheads a.ii and b.ii of this section.
- ii) Unit safety personnel (Company Safety NCO and Battalion Safety Officer) will be identified each day on the Morning Report.
- iii) The Battalion Safety Officer will confirm that company safety personnel have been properly appointed.
- iv) Company Safety NCO/Officers will conduct a weapons safety inspection between reveille and drill every morning. Commanders will at least spot-check weapons. Results will be included in the morning report.
- v) The Company Commander or First Sergeant will provide a safety briefing with the assistance of the Company Safety NCO/Officers. The safety briefing should touch on relevant factors such as those listed at paragraph 4b.iv(3). This is also a good opportunity to check canteens, apply sunscreen, check life-alert badges, and take other personal protective measures. The morning report will be so annotated at the conclusion of the brief.
- vi) Depending on how the event is laid out, a battalion-level weapons inspection should be conducted in one of two ways:

- (1) each Company will conduct an independent inspection with a safety officer or NCO present. -WCB
 - (2) Battalions will parade for inspection and each company commander will inspect with Bdn Safety officer and NCOs-WCB
- vii) Company Commanders will ensure that the First Sergeant, Ordnance Sergeant, and/or Safety NCO/Officer inspects horses, tack, and other equipment on a daily basis.

d) Field Task Organization

- i) The assigning authority shall be, The Bdn commander or his designate, with the advise and consent of the Bdn Safety officer
- ii) The assigning authority will maintain a duty roster and select sufficient unit safety NCO/officer to serve as mounted provost or observer/controllers for the day. Sufficiency is defined, at minimum, as:
 - (1) 0 for 8 or fewer troopers per side.
 - (2) 1 for 8 to 24 troopers per side
 - (3) 2 for more than 24 troopers per side
 - (4) Additional mounted provosts are encouraged if the Battalion Safety Officer deems that the situation warrants them, subject to the Battalion Commander's approval.
- iii) Provosts will be identified with a provosts badge
- iv) Mounted provost will arrange a meeting with their Union counterparts to discuss areas of mutual concern, division of labor, and make any relevant pre-arrangements any time between the battalion-level weapons inspection and the afternoon battle.
- v) Any mounted provost should not adhere to a fixed location on the field or in reference to the cavalry formations. The principal considerations in performing this duty are the ability to see what is going on between cavalry forces and being in a position to intervene, if necessary. In achieving this end, mounted provosts must monitor and take corrective action against any violations of the regulations contained herein or the regulations imposed by the sponsors of any given event. Intervention

may include removing persons or units from the field, depending on the severity of the infraction.

- vi) Provosts will maintain an activity log enumerating the infractions, corrective actions taken, and the effects achieved.
- vii) Mounted provosts will provide an after action report at the conclusion of each day's battle which shall include their activity log and general observations relevant to the conduct of the battle. The AAR will be submitted in duplicate to the Battalion Commander and to the Battalion Safety Officer.

5) General Safety Provisions.

- a) All participants must be 16 years of age or older to carry any weapon, i.e., rifle, musket, carbine, pistol or edged weapon, on the battlefield at both living histories or battle re-enactments.
- b) Participants between the ages of 16 up to 18 years of age must have parental consent in writing and/or a parent present on the field in order to take part in events. Parental consent must be filed with Unit Ordnance/Safety Officer with a copy forwarded to Battalion Ordnance/Safety Officer.

6) Horse Safety Considerations

- a) *No portion of these regulations will be construed to limit or modify the Equine Activity Inherent Risk Laws in Virginia and other states which have them.*
- b) All horses brought to any event are required to have a current Coggins certificate, *in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia, as well as an immunization record which includes at least a current five-way series, which will be checked by the Cavalry Commander or his designate.*
- c) horses will only be picketed in areas designated by event sponsors. When allowed, command and staff mounts will be as close to Headquarters as terrain and safety permits, *subject to the commander's discretion.*

7) Horse Tack

The intent of this section is to balance safety with historical accuracy.

- a) Required equipment will be headstall, halter, lead line- *and* reins. A surcingle will be used on appropriate saddles as was used in the 1861-1865 period. Breast straps, *link straps*, and cruppers are optional.
 - b) Company commanders will ensure that the First Sergeant, Ordnance Sergeant, Safety Sergeant, or Safety Officer inspects all saddles for serviceability.
 - c) Each company should establish a riding proficiency criteria .
 - d) Stallions are not permitted on the field
- 8) questionable equipment will be inspected at the cavalry commander and or the senior NCO in the camp for acceptance. The decision of the inspecting officers will govern the use of equipment in question.

Section B

1.) Weapon Safety

- a) Company Commanders are responsible for ensuring that all weapons are inspected for safety and serviceability each morning.
 - i) *Firearms inspection will include and are not limited to the following:*
 - (1) *Visual inspection.*
 - (2) *Ram-rodged.*
 - (3) *Function check.*
 - (4) *Capped off.*
 - ii) *Ammunition will be inspected to ensure that:*
 - (1) *No projectiles are contained in cartridge pouches.*
 - (2) *No foreign objects are attached to cartridges.*
 - (3) *Appropriate loads are carried.*
 - (4) *Serviceability.*
 - iii) *Sabers and other edged weapons:*
 - (1) *Blades firmly attached to hilt/staff without wiggling.*
 - (2) *Blades show no obvious signs of deterioration.*
- b) Non period firearms of any kind whether rifle, pistol or shotgun are prohibited.
- c) LIVE AMMUNITION IS PROHIBITED AT ALL EVENTS. Cartridges must be of lightweight paper, in period style. NO penny wrappers, staples, wonder wads, etc. as these become projectiles if loaded.
- d) Recommended loading charges are:
 - i) 54-58 cal - load 60 grains
 - ii) 69 cal - load 80-90 grains
 - iii) carbines - load 60 grains

- iv) pistols - load 30 grains
- e) *All long arms will be capped off prior to departing the camp area for drill, the battle, and at the end of the event.*
- f) FIREARMS WILL NEVER BE AIMED DIRECTLY AT ANY PERSON OR ANIMAL.
- g) Firearms will not be discharged at a range inside 25 yards. Inside 40 yards, ALL FIRINGS WILL BE ELEVATED so as not to endanger any combatant or animal.
- h) No gunfire *is permitted* in camps unless on orders of authorized officers or *unless a scripted portion of the event.*
- i) *The proper position for the trigger finger when maneuvering on the field is outside the trigger guard until ready to fire. Only at the point of delivering fire should the trigger finger enter the trigger guard.*
- j) Fouled muskets will be taken 20 paces to the rear of the line of file closers with the unit sergeant/safety NCO to clear.
- k) Ramrods WILL NOT be drawn on the battlefield as they become projectiles if left in the barrel. ONLY the file closer/safety NCO may draw a ramrod to check a firearm on the field.
- l) Tompions will be left in camp. Any tompion found during safety inspections will be taken and given to your overall commander. You may reclaim it after the event.
- m) No sheath knives will be worn or carried into battle.
- n) Fireworks, of any type, are prohibited.
- o) *At the conclusion of any event involving weapons fire and prior to return to camp all long arms will be primed and discharged (capped off) on command to insure that no unburned powder remains in firing chambers.*

9) Standing Rules of Engagement.

- 1) The use of excessive force *which poses a credible threat to riders and or horses* will not be tolerated.
 - a) Excessive force is define as using force with the intent of knocking a weapon out of ones hand or trying to unhorse a rider

- 2) No homemade weapons will be allowed on the field. Modified commercial weapons or commercial kit weapons will be allowed assuming they pass inspection.
- 3) Period Weapons assuming they pass inspection are discouraged for combat use on the field.
- 4) No-one will allow a drawn saber blade to drop beyond 45 degrees from the vertical when at 25 yards or less to the opposing force, *unless scripted and previously rehearsed and arranged.*
- 5) Striking an opponent horse or rider with any weapon is prohibited.
- 6) Grabbing or holding any portion of an opponent's person, uniform or horse equipment is prohibited.
- 7) Intentional Ramming an opponent's horse *with another horse or multiple horses with the intent of trying to dislodge a rider is prohibited.*
- 8) When asked to disengage both parties will disengage and move away from each other. *The request to disengage may be issued by one of the parties, a unit Safety NCO/Officer, a Provost, or a commander.*
- 9) Bring any weapon other than a saber (i.e. firearms) to bear upon a saber *contestant* in close *quarters* is prohibited
- 10) Carbines and revolvers will be elevated above the opponent's head when *discharged* at ranges of 40 yards or less.
- 11) No mounted troops should *approach to* within 20 yards of dismounted troops *unless scripted, arranged, and rehearsed* before the battle and subject to approval by the cavalry and other commander (infantry or artillery).
- 12) During dismounted engagements, no troopers (mounted or dismounted) will charge horse holders or otherwise engage in activities that may spook horses linked together. Nor will they attack while troopers are mounting, *unless previously scripted, arranged, and rehearsed.*
- 13) All cavalry combatants, both mounted and dismounted, shall obey the commands of the cavalry commander and his designated leaders.
- 14) No cavalry combatant will deliver weapons fire within 50 feet of an artillery piece or limber, *unless previously scripted, arranged, and rehearsed.*

INCIDENT PROTOCOL

GENERAL.

1. The ANV and USV, in keeping with their position on the Civil War Re-enactors Liaison Committee, have agreed to participate with the other major living history/re-enacting organizations in developing and implementing this protocol to provide a standard procedure for accident/incident reporting.
2. For the purposes of the incident protocol, all references to Company Commander, Battalion Commander and Brigade Commander will assume the involvement of the requisite Unit Safety Officer/NCO.
3. At the call for "MEDIC", only the qualified medical personnel, i.e. Doctor, Nurse or EMT will respond. "MEDIC" is the word for a real emergency.
4. Each unit will maintain a roster of qualified medical personnel within its ranks and at each attended event, submit a list of those personnel in attendance to the Cavalry Adjutant therefore allowing their rapid deployment in the event of a real emergency.

INCIDENT PROTOCOL PROCEDURE.

- 1) On discovery of a safety infraction, the incident should be reported to the mounted provost and or senior cavalry Cmdr. or his designate. They will determine the seriousness of the incident and make a preliminary determination as to its cause.
- 2) The senior cavalry commander or his designate has the authority to stop all action and remove the person, parties or unit that has violated the established safety regulations
- 3) If the mounted provost witnesses a combatant that is intentionally attempting to harm a horse or rider, the mounted provost has the authority to immediately ask the combatant to stand down and or remove the combatant from the field. The mounted provost shall immediately report the incident to the senior cavalry commander on the field. A written report of said violations will be submitted to the respective senior cavalry commanders by the mounted provosts at the end of the event. This report will include:
 - i. Description of the incident
 - ii. Parties involved
 - iii. Actions taken on the field

- 4) Any person, party or cavalry unit that commits a safety violation with the intent to harm or commits repeated violations of the rules may be disciplined including suspension from the ANV or USV, or outright expulsion. If so suspended or expelled, said offenders will be banned from attending any event sponsored by the ANV and or USV. Said offenders have the right to appeal to the respective organizational commanders for a hearing whereby they may present their position why discipline is unwarranted. Said hearing will be before the Senior Officers of the USV and ANV.