

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Vol 4  
Color Guard Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)  
24 August 2024

---



Standing Operating Procedure (SOP)  
for  
Color Guard

**Compatriot Major Richard D. Bishop, USA (Ret)**  
**Revised by Lt Col Gary O. Green, USAF (Ret)**  
**Revised by SMSgt George K. Strunk, USAF (Ret) and Stephen McKee**  
**Revised by Stephen McKee**

## Table of Contents

Foreword	2
Getting Started as a Color Guardsman	3
North Carolina State Color Guard Command Structure	4
Planning a Color Guard Event	6
Black Powder Procedures	7
Firelock Safety Check	8
Artillery Safety Check	9
North Carolina SAR Black Powder Certification Program	10
General Safety Regulations	12
Musket Firing Commands	14
Firelock Misfire Procedure	15
Artillery Firing Commands	16
Artillery Misfire Procedure	20
Artillery Safety and Maintenance / Inspection Checklist	Attachment 1
State Color Guard Commander Change of Command Template	Attachment 2
National Events set by NS SAR	Appendix A
State Events	Appendix A
Chapter Events	Appendix A
NC Recipients - National Color Guardsman of the Year	Appendix A
NC Color Guard Commanders	Appendix A
North Carolina Color Guardsmen of the Year	Appendix A
Suppliers of Color Guard Uniforms and Accoutrements	Appendix B

## Foreword

Welcome to the North Carolina Color Guard!! Whether at parades, gravemarkings, or performing presentations at schools or other groups, we are the most visual representation of our Patriot ancestors and provide the public with a “face” to put with our organization. We also have the solemn responsibility of presenting, posting, retiring, and safeguarding the Colors of our Nation. With that in mind, we should strive to perform our role in a manner befitting the responsibility we have to the Colors as well as the SAR.

These instructions are additional to the NS SAR Color Guard Handbook, found on the SAR Website. All Chapters within the NC SAR are encouraged to form color guards, within their means, and to participate in color guard ceremonies at the chapter level, which include posting the colors at meetings, grave markings, patriotic parades, as well as wreath laying ceremonies as part of a combined State and/or National Color Guard.

To accomplish this, the recommended basic color guard element at the chapter level would be: two color bearers and one Compatriot bearing arms (Musket, Flintlock Rifle, or Fowling Piece).

The Chapter Color Guard Commander may fill any of these positions.

Again, welcome to the Color Guard!

## Getting started as a Color Guardsman

Getting started in the Color Guard is easy!! The first thing to do is approach your Chapter Color Guard Commander with interest and the willingness to serve!

The next step is to acquire a color guard uniform - portraying either a soldier of the Continental Line, a member of the Militia, or in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Civilian Dress.

The North Carolina Society encourages each Compatriot to accurately portray their ancestor, but this is not a requirement to participate in the Color Guard. The Society also provides a new Color Guardsmen a \$100.00 reimbursement for beginning to acquire his uniform.

Militia/civilian dress is often the least costly pathway to a uniform owing to the lack of a need for a Regimental coat. The minimum components of each uniform are listed below:

### Militia/Civilian Dress

Black Cocked or Round Hat  
18<sup>th</sup> Century Work Shirt  
Waistcoat  
Knee Breeches or Trousers  
Stockings w/ garters  
Neckstock  
Buckle shoes\*  
Civilian Frock coat, hunting frock, etc\*\*

### Continental Line

Black Cocked Hat w/White Trim  
18<sup>th</sup> Century Work Shirt  
White Waistcoat  
White Knee Breeches or Gaitered Trousers  
Stockings w/ garters  
Black Neckstock  
Buckle shoes\*  
Regimental Coat (wool)

### Continental Artillery

Black Cocked Hat w/Yellow Trim  
18<sup>th</sup> Century Work Shirt  
White Waistcoat  
White Knee Breeches  
White Stockings w/Garters  
White Neckstock  
Buckle Shoes\*  
Artillery Coat

\*Buckle shoes are recommended but not required. A pair of plain, black leather loafers or dress shoes will work.

\*\*Outerwear (frock coat, hunting frock, hunting shirt) is not required to get started as a Color Guardsman and participate in Color Guard activities, but should be acquired to complete a uniform. This is especially important in colder weather.

Other simple equipment a Color Guardsman may find useful in or desire to carry include a sword, tomahawk, or bayonet on the appropriate shoulder belt, an 18<sup>th</sup> century canteen, knapsack or haversack, etc. A detailed sutler list where all items – from clothing and uniforms to equipment and accoutrements - may be obtained can be found in Appendix A.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

**Firelocks (Muskets, Rifles, and Fowlers)**

Suitable museum-quality non-firing weapons of the Revolutionary War Period may also be found on-line, in addition to period reproduction black powder weapons, slings and equipment. Bear in mind, a firelock is NOT REQUIRED to perform basic Color Guard detail activities - i.e. post the colors at a chapter meeting or event (in which case only the National Colors (50-Star American flag or Betsy Ross), the State of North Carolina flag, and/or the Chapter S.A.R. flag would be used).

**North Carolina State Color Guard Command Structure**

The State Color Guard Commander is the head of the North Carolina SAR Color Guard and serves as the Chairman of the NC SAR Color Guard Committee.

The State Color Guard Commander is assisted in his duties by an Eastern and Western Color Guard Adjutant. The role of the Adjutants is to assist the State Color Guard Commander in commanding the Combined North Carolina Color Guard, as well as acting as the State Color Guard Commander at events where he is absent or unable to attend. The Adjutants coordinate Color Guard activities in their respective Districts of the State.

A State Safety Officer/Inspector General shall be head of the Firelock Training and Certification program and is the Certifying Official for the Credentialing of Black Powder Certification.

At the discretion of the State Color Guard Commander, Regional Color Guard Commanders may be appointed by the State Color Guard Commander to oversee activities in the respective Regions of the State (Northeast Region, Southeast Region, Piedmont Region, Foothills Region, Mountain Region). They will also assist the State Adjutants and State Commander in commanding the Combined North Carolina Color Guard at events.

If the Chapter Chaplain, State Chaplain, or National Chaplain General is in period attire, he may march at the head of the Color Guard just behind the Color Guard Commander – and may carry the Bible during the procession.

There is no standing NC SAR Color Guard. For most events, including grave markings, the color detail will consist of members of the chapter in period dress along with Compatriots of other chapter color guards to make up a Combined Color Guard detail.

This Combined Color Guard will post the Colors and provide rifle escorts to participants who wish to present wreaths as part of the ceremony.

A protocol has been established within the NC SAR in which notice of the event is posted by the hosting chapter with details on the date, time, and location of the event on the State Website calendar. Additionally, participants may be invited through the use of email or flyers.

In most cases, participants should notify the hosting chapter of intent to participate as a member of the Color Guard, and whether or not a participant will present a wreath. Such invitations should be answered by the date indicated by the hosting chapter. For planning an event, the host should check the SAR Calendar to assure that the planned event does not conflict with a key event that appears on the NS SAR web site calendar. Chapters should utilize their own assets first and then coordinate with the State Color Guard Commander, their District Adjutant(s), and respective Regional Commanders for support from the State Color Guard, be it for additional Guardsmen or the use of State Color Guard flag per the inventory on the next page.

## **Inventory of Flags – State Color Guard Commander AND Adjutants:**

State Color Guard Inventory of Flags (under charge of the State Color Guard Commander and each Adjutant) should be sleeved and on 8-foot oak poles or extendable aluminum poles. Also in inventory are at least four indoor flag stands and at least four spiked outdoor flag supports.

- U.S. 50 Star flag, fringed, topped by an Eagle.
- Betsy Ross 13 Star flag, topped with wooden period knob.
- State of North Carolina flag, fringed, topped w/spike
- State S.A.R. flag, fringed, topped w/ spike.
- Grand Union (a.k.a. Continental Colors or Cambridge) flag, topped w/spike.
- Guilford Courthouse flag, topped w/spike.
- Gadsden (Don't Tread On Me) flag, topped w/spike.
- New England (Red Pine Tree) flag, topped w/spike
- Hornet's Nest Flag (Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence), topped w/spike
- Bladen and Brunswick Militia Rattlesnake Flag, topped w/spike.
- Any additional Historic Flags
- SAR 250th Anniversary Flag

## **Color Guard Medals and Awards**

The NC Society uses the *event system* for determination of eligibility for SAR Color Guard medals.

- The Bronze Medal is purchased and awarded by the Chapter.
- The Silver Medal is purchased and awarded by the State Society.
- The Von Steuben Medal is provided and awarded by the National Society.
- The Youth Color Guard Medal is purchased and awarded by either the Chapter or State Society

The wearing of neck ribbons, medals and name tags on colonial uniforms is not in keeping with the tradition of the Revolutionary War era and as a matter of policy SHALL NOT be worn. The time and place for the wearing of such awards include on a blue blazer, tuxedo, dinner jacket or formal military uniform, dress mess, service whites, dress blues, but NOT when in period dress as an SAR Color Guardsmen.

## **References**

1. The Illustrated Drill Manual and Regulation for the American Soldier of the Revolutionary War, First Edition ISBN: 0.913150.47.9 Edited by A.N. Schultz -Illustrated by R. T. Coleman. Available: [Revolutionary War Drill Manual - Wikisource](#), the free online library or for purchase: check Amazon or Abe Books.

2. The SAR Color Guard Handbook: found on the National Sar Web site – Member tab – Committees – Color Guard

3. North Carolina SAR Handbook, Vol 4 Color Guard Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 17 April 2024

## **Planning a Color Guard Event**

1. The Chapter commits to an event and plans to use its own Color Guard assets to The event. The Chapter may request assistance from other Chapters to complement a combined color guardby posting the date, time, and location of the event on the Calendar of Events on the State Website, or contacting the State Commander, the District Adjutant(s), or Regional Color Guard Commander(s).
2. If the host chapter plans to give streamers to participants, they must be ordered well in advance.
3. It is standard protocol that if the National Color Guard Commander or his Vice Commander(s), or the State Color Guard Commander or his Adjutant(s) attend an event that they are invited by the Chapter Color Guard Commander to take command for the event. At the discretion of the National or State Command staff present, they may defer command to the Chapter Color Guard Commander. If command is deferred, the National and/or State Commander will march at the head of the Color Guard with the Chapter Color Guard Commander.
4. The Chapter President or his designated officer should submit an event report: [Forms, Fees & Dues – North Carolina SAR \(ncssar.org\)](#) upon completion of the event.
5. The State Color Guard Commander, with the assistance of the Adjutant(s) and Regional Commanders, will record participation at the National, District and State Color Guard events. This data will be presented semi-annually to the Board of Managers. Recommendations for award of the Bronze Color Guard Medal, the Silver Color Guard Medal or the Von Steuben Color Guard medal will be coordinated with the State Color Guard Commander. Recommendations for the award of State medals will be forwarded to the NC SAR Awards Committee Chair for presentation at a state, district or national meeting, as appropriate.
6. The Chapter Color Guard Commander or the Chapter President should maintain a log of chapter member participation in color guard activities for presentation of the Chapter Bronze Color Guard Medal (and as a back up to the annual Chapter Americanism Report). The report of Color Guard activities should be sent via e-mail State Color Guard Commander and the Regional Vice President. Award of the Chapter Bronze Color Guard Medal should be coordinated with the NC SAR Color Guard Commander. Additionally, the NC SAR Color Guard Commander or Adjutant should be invited to present the medal at an appropriate chapter venue.
7. Individual Guardsmen should also keep a log or journal of all qualifying Color Guard events in which they participate as a guide for the time they plan to submit their request for the Bronze or Silver Color Guard Medals, or the National Von Steuben Medal as defined in the SAR Handbook.
8. Honor Guard: During the Presentation of Wreaths, utilizing two Guardsmen under arms with Firelocks adds a special reverence for the Rendering of Honors. At the beginning of the Wreath Laying Ceremony, these two Guardsmen shall march in line at SHOULDER FIRELOCKS to the place from which honors will be rendered and halt. The left Guardsman will LEFT FACE at the same time the right Guardsman will RIGHT FACE. Both Guardsmen shall march 5 paces and halt, then ABOUT FACE. As each person rendering honors approaches, the Guardsmen shall both PRESENT ARMS, returning to SHOULDER FIRELOCKS after each person renders honors. At the end of the ceremony, the Guardsmen shall march off in column.

## **Black Powder Procedures**

Use of Firelocks and/or Field Artillery - On certain occasions a musket/rifle or artillery salute is deemed appropriate and shall be conducted according to the following guidelines:

1. All participants must be insured and the property owner provided a copy of the Certificate of Insurance if requested. The State has liability insurance policies provided by Lockton and is available by request from State.
2. All participants must be trained and certified IAW the State Firelock Certification Course. A compatriot may only use black powder weaponry for which he is certified. Certifications are valid for three (3) years upon which time recertification is required.
3. No compatriot may participate in a firing detail while wearing synthetic material (Polyester, etc) clothing.
4. ALL Firing Detail Compatriots must be a minimum of 16 years of age. Any Compatriot under 18 years of age participating in the Firing Element must have written consent of a parent or legal guardian **AND** the parent or legal guardian must be present at the event.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

**Color Guard Commander (or Firing Element Commander, if designated by Color Guard Commander):** responsible for overall command of the Color Guard and will issue all firing commands. Independently observes and verifies Safety Inspection of all firelocks performed by the Safety Officer. Responsible for designating the position of the Firing Element of the Color Guard

**Safety Officer:** Color Guardsman designated by the Color Guard Commander and assists the Color Guard Commander in maintaining safety for both the Color Guard and spectators. Conducts Safety Checks of all firelocks under the supervision of the Color Guard Commander. Maintains area around firing element clear of spectators and observes area downrange of Color Guard to maintain safety. SAFETY OFFICER does not participate in Live Fire. SAFETY OFFICER is responsible for the security and issuance of BLANK CARTIRIDGES for use in volleys.

**Firing Element:** that portion of the Color Guard that will participate in Volleys/firing demonstrations. Responsible for the safe handling of all firelocks by themselves and others, as well as maintaining their personal fitness for Safe Firing and obeying the orders of the Color Guard Commander during the event.

## **Firelock Safety Check**

SAFETY CHECK begins 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the event. LATE ARRIVALS may only be permitted with the express permission of the Color Guard Commander and *will be the exception* rather than the rule.

The Safety Officer, under supervision of the Color Guard Commander (or Firing Element Commander) will perform a safety inspection of firearms prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

The Safety Inspection SHALL be conducted as follows:

1. Ensure the physical and mental alertness of each firing Guardsmen for safely handling their Firelocks. This includes verifying Guardsman is not under the influence of any substances that may adversely affect his physical or mental alertness.
2. Ensure Guardmen is NOT wearing synthetic fibers. All clothing must be linen, cotton, or wool.
3. Ensure each Guardsmen's cartridge box is EMPTY.
4. Physical examination of firelock for excessive corrosion and mechanical soundness. This physical examination shall ensure a properly installed and secured flashguard.
5. The rammer should be pinged to show that the weapon is clear
6. Place the firelock on HALF-COCK and hang from trigger/pull trigger on HALF-COCK to ensure mechanical safety is functional.
7. Place firelock on FULL COCK, close the frizzen, point at ground and ensure adequate spark from flint to ensure pan ignition.
8. Replace hammerstall and shoulder firelock until inspection of entire Firing Element is complete.
9. Validate Color Guardsman's Certification Credential for "Rifle/Musket" and/or "Pistol" certification as appropriate.

## **Field Artillery Safety Check**

SAFETY CHECK begins 1 hour prior to the beginning of the event. LATE ARRIVALS may only be permitted with the express permission of the Color Guard Commander and *will be the exception* rather than the rule.

The Safety Officer, under supervision of the Color Guard Commander (or Firing Element Commander) will perform a safety inspection of field pieces prior to the beginning of the ceremony. Only 18<sup>th</sup>-century style reproduction field pieces may be used.

The Safety Inspection SHALL be conducted IAW Checklist and will verify the following:

1. Ensure the physical and mental alertness of each Guardsmen who will participate as a member of the gun crew(s). This includes verifying Guardsman is not under the influence of any substances that may adversely affect his physical or mental alertness. A complete gun crew consists of 6 gunners per piece for field artillery.
2. Ensure Guardsmen is NOT wearing synthetic fibers. All clothing must be linen, cotton, or wool.
3. Physical examination of artillery piece for excessive corrosion and mechanical soundness. This physical examination shall include a borescope inspection of the bore of the piece looking for flaws in the metal surface.
  - a. For BRONZE pieces, inside of the bore should be inspected for flaws, gouges, holes, and cracks
  - b. For any IRON pieces, steel liner is REQUIRED. Bore scope inspection will also inspect the weld on the breechplate to ensure no excessive corrosion or degradation that violates the integrity of the pressure boundary of the piece. Liner specifications are as follows:
    - i. 3/8" DOM steel tubing for all bore sizes less than 4 inches
    - ii. 1/2" DOM steel tubing for all bore sizes greater than 4 inches
4. Examine the Firing Log. Any iron tube that exceeds 2000 shots in its log must be resleeved before it may be used again, at which point a new Log Book is instituted.
5. Examine the implements of the piece to include wrym/wadhook, spongeram, vent pick, thumbstall, and linstock to ensure implements on good order. Examine leather gauntlets of Positions 1 and 2 for physical soundness. Examine the charges to ensure they are sized appropriately for the piece. Examine quickfire tubes.
6. Inspect the gun drill of the crew. Each gunner should be proficient in his duties for the position assigned and safely perform those duties.
7. Replace tampion and vent cover on piece until inspection of entire Artillery Firing Element is complete.
8. Validate each Color Guardsman's Certification Credential for certification of "ARTILLERY".

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

The Color Guard Commander (or Firing Element Commander) directly observes and independently verifies all elements of the SAFETY CHECK for all members of all Firing Element participants and is the Final Certification of Firing Element Readiness.

Once SAFETY CHECK is COMPLETE, blank cartridges/charges will be issued or inspected (if Color Guardsmen provide their own cartridges) to ensure only BLANK Cartridges are used (enough for planned number of shots in volley + 1) and placed securely in their Cartridge boxes. **NO SMOKING shall occur once cartridges/charges are in cartridge boxes/trail boxes.**

**Firing Element Position:** As determined by the Color Guard Commander, with the consent of the Event Coordinator, the Firing Element will be positioned in such a manner as to:

- Maintain the Safety of the Element and all Spectators
- Firelocks shall be aimed in a direction which protects against all possible injury to persons and property, clear of persons, animals, and occupied dwellings for at least 40 yards downrange.
- FIRING ELEMENT POSITION will be maintained clear of spectators by SAFETY OFFICER during event.

### **North Carolina SAR Black Powder Certification Program:**

All guardsmen who are assigned to fire black powder arms shall be certified as to their competency by the NC SAR Color Guard Commander, Adjutant or Safety Officer/Inspector General, based upon the following criteria:

#### **Longarms (Muskets, Rifles, Fowlers)**

1. Demonstrated knowledge of and competency in the safe handling of firelock and black powder weaponry
2. Demonstrated efficiency in breaking down, cleaning and assembling musket.
3. Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing a musket. No one may join a firing line unless they had been taken to the range for live fire and volley practice.
4. Participation in at least two (2) volleys at 2 separate events in the preceding 12 months will maintain Certification.\*

#### **Pistols (Flintlock pistols & blunderbus)**

1. Demonstrated knowledge of and competency in the safe handling of firelock and black powder weaponry
2. Demonstrated efficiency in breaking down, cleaning and assembling pistol or blunderbus.
3. Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing pistol or blunderbus. No one may join a firing line unless they had been taken to the range for live fire and volley practice.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

4. Participation in at least two (2) volleys at 2 separate events in the preceding 12 months will maintain Certification.\*

**Artillery (Field cannon, howitzers, mortars)**

1. Demonstrated knowledge of and competency in the safety considerations of 18<sup>th</sup> century artillery pieces
2. Demonstrated proficiency in each of the 5 gunners positions for field artillery .
3. Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing 18<sup>th</sup> century reproduction field artillery pieces. No one may join a gun crew unless they had been taken to the range for live fire.
4. Participation in at least two (2) volleys at 2 separate events in the preceding 12 months will maintain Certification.\*

Notice of participation should be provided to the State Color Guard Commander or Adjutant(s) by Chapter Color Guard Commanders.

The State shall hold at least 2 Certification Clinics per year at times and locations conducive to certifying Guardsmen from around the State efficiently and expeditiously.

Physical credentials of Firelock Certification will be presented following successful completion of Certification Requirements. Additionally, the State Safety Officer/Inspector General will maintain a database of Certified Compatriots and make that list available to the State Color Guard Commander for reporting twice per year to the State Board of Managers.

**Certification Elements:**

**Flintlock Weaponry:**

1. Guardsmen must fire their firelock 5 to 10 times the powder load appropriate for individual firelock IAW the chart below:

**RIFLES:**

Bore size	2F (or FFg)	3F (or FFFg)
32 caliber .....	50 grains .....	30 grains
45 caliber .....	65 grains .....	45 grains
50 caliber .....	75 grains .....	50 grains
54 caliber .....	80 grains .....	55 grains

**MUSKETS:**

69 caliber .....	100 grains .....	90 grains
72 caliber .....	120 grains .....	110 grains
75 caliber .....	120 grains .....	110 grains

2. Guardsmen will be taught and be competent in the manual of arms with a firelock following the Steuben Drill Manual of 1780
3. Guardsmen will be provided a copy or link to the pertinent elements of the manual of arms so they can practice at home.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

4. Guardsmen will be taught and be competent in firing a volley with others inline and by command, to ensure knowing each command and action to be taken as part of the firing sequence.
5. Guardsmen must be able to maintain discipline, safety and stay in line during the ceremony.
6. After training is COMPLETE, the Instructor must certify the shooter as safe to the State Safety Officer/Inspector General
7. The Color Guard Commander is responsible for all live fire activities and will ensure discipline and safety of all concerned.
8. A listing of CERTIFIED Guardsmen will be maintained in a database by the State Safety Officer/Inspector General and be available on the State Website. Each Guardsman shall be issued a Certificate indicating the completion of the training as well as a Certification Credential card to be presented as proof of Certification.

**Field Artillery:**

1. Guardsmen must fire field artillery as part of a gun crew.
2. Guardsmen will be taught and be competent in the manning and firing artillery using the modified Stevens Gun Drill.
3. Guardsmen will be competent in the following crew positions:
  - Runner/Powder Monkey
  - Wurm/Wadhook
  - Spongeram
  - Bombardier (Pick and Prime)
  - Linstock
4. Guardsmen will be taught and be competent in firing a field piece by the numbers and also through battlefield command, to ensure knowing each command and action to be taken as part of the firing sequence.
5. Guardsmen must be able to maintain discipline, safety and stay in line during the ceremony.
6. After training is COMPLETE, the Instructor must certify the shooter as safe to the State Safety Officer/Inspector General
7. The Color Guard Commander is responsible for all live fire activities and will ensure discipline and safety of all concerned.
8. A listing of CERTIFIED Guardsmen will be maintained in a database by the State Safety Officer/Inspector General and be available on the State Website. Each Guardsman shall be issued a Certificate indicating the completion of the training as well as a Certification Credential card to be presented as proof of Certification.

**GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**Making a Firelock SAFE** – each firelock will be transported to and from the event in the following condition:

- The rifle or musket must have a hammer stall ON the frizzen
- No unburnt powder in the barrel (firelock not loaded)
- Flashpan OPEN

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

- Firelock de-cocked
- There shall be no powder in the horn or elsewhere about the shooter North Carolina
- Bayonet – NOT FIXED

NOTE: All muskets, rifles, & fowlers are to be fitted with a proper METAL flashguard and LEATHER hammerstall (also called frizzen covers or hammer stalls). The Color Guard Commander or Safety Officer have the authority to exclude anyone carrying a weapon without both of these items from Firing Element at an event.

**Making a Field Artillery Piece Safe**— each field piece will be transported to and from the event in the following condition:

- The cannon, howitzer, or mortar **MUST** have a tampion and vent cover installed.
- No unburnt powder/charge in the barrel (piece not loaded)
- Vent verified CLEAR
- Bore verified CLEAR via searching the piece with wrym/wadhook
- There shall be no powder/charges in sideboxes, trailbox, or pass bag. All powder locked in fireproof magazine.

Any field piece in which the barrel, carriage, or other component cannot be verified safe to the inspecting officer's satisfaction, or any other condition considered by the inspecting officer to be unsafe for whatever reason is to be excluded from any firing demonstration **without exception**.

Weapons which show signs of severe corrosion or show signs of damage from poor maintenance are to be excluded from any Firing Element use.

The local law enforcement agency must be informed of the volley by the Event Coordinator. The Color Guard Commander, Safety Officer, or Firing Element Members must be able to call off the volley any time an unsafe condition exists. **ALL MEMBERS** own the **CEASE FIRE** command.

At ANY time CEASE FIRE is called, ALL Firing Element members will render their firelocks by spilling the powder from their barrels AND their flashpans, installing hammerfalls, de-cocking the firelock and shouldering arms, and await further instructions.

Artillery crews will cross implements across the gun if the piece is loaded, the vent will be covered by the Bombardier's hat, and the linstock extinguished. If the gun is empty, the crew will search the piece, sponge the piece, and reinstall the tampion and vent cover.

NEVER allow firelocks to be handled by a spectator/visitor without maintaining direct control over the firelock (Guardsmen maintain one hand on the firelock at ALL times).

Spectators **MAY NEVER** fire or flash the pans at an event. No spectators may fire an artillery piece. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

**ALWAYS** keep the muzzles of firelocks at an elevated angle when firing.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

NEVER load your firelock and/or field piece unless given the command to load. All black powder weapons are to remain UNLOADED at all times unless actively engaged in volley firing under the command of the Color Guard Commander.

**Alcohol and Medication Policy-** For safety and liability reasons there is no alcohol consumption prior to the handling and firing of weapons. Additionally, substances or medications which impair an individual's ability to concentrate, focus, or handle firelocks safety may not be used prior to Firing Element participation. The Color Guard Commander is responsible for ensuring the Fitness for Duty of all Firing Element participants.

**Musket Firing Commands**

To ensure uniformity and to prevent confusion on a Firing Detail, the following Commands are to be used by the Color Guard Commander (or Firing Element Commander) for Musket Salutes/Memorial Volleys.

- SHOULDER, Firelocks!**      The Guardsman brings the firelock crispy to the LEFT Shoulder.
- PRIME and LOAD!**      The Guardsman ensures the firelock is in the HALF-COCK position and brings the firelock to the loading position. The Guardsman removes a cartridge from his cartridge pouch or shooting bag, bites it open, and primes the pan – shutting the pan once primed. The firelock is cast about and the remaining powder from the cartridge is poured down the barrel. **DO NOT RAM PAPER CARTRIDGE.** Once primed and loaded, the Guardsman returns the firelock to his LEFT shoulder.
- MAKE READY!**      The Guardsman brings the musket to the POISE position, then turns the firelock such that the top of the barrel is towards his face and the trigger guard pointing away from him. He seizes the cock with his right thumb and places the firelock into the FULL COCK position.
- TAKE AIM!**      The Guardsman lowers his musket into the firing position, taking a half step back with his right foot and making an “L” with his feet.
- FIRE!**      Guardsmen pulls the trigger briskly to the rear (no “squeeze” as in modern shooting). Once the firelock discharges, the Guardsmen draws his right foot back up and recovers the firelock to the loading position to await further instructions.

Each shot in the volley shall be fired in this manner.

Upon the completion of all firing, the commands shall be:

- SHOULDER, Firelocks!**      The Guardsman brings the firelock crispy to the LEFT Shoulder.
- SECURE, Firelocks!**      The Guardsman ensures his pan is OPN and inverts the firelock, dumping all powder from the pan and barrel.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

**SHOULDER, Firelocks!** The Guardsman brings the firelock crispy to the LEFT Shoulder.

**ORDER, Firelocks!** The Guardsmen orders his firelock from his left shoulder and the firing is complete.

### **Firelock Misfire Procedures**

In the event a firelock misfires, the following procedur(s) should be followed, as applicable:

- **Failure to Ignite Priming Charge** – visually check pan for powder; if powder remains in pan, return to half-cock, shut pan, and return to the shoulder for next shot. If powder is no longer in the pan, reprime, shut pan, and return to the shoulder for next shot. DO NOT DOUBLE CHARGE the main charge.
- **Flash in the Pan** – visually check pan for powder. Ensure vent is clear with pick/brush burnt powder from pan with brush. Return to half-cock, reprime, and return to the shoulder for next shot. DO NOT DOUBLE CHARGE the main charge. IF VENT IS OBSTRUCTED AND CANNOT BE CLEARED, IMMEDIATELY SECURE THE FIRELOCK (dump powder) and return to the shoulder. Remain at SHOULDER, FIRELOCK for the remainder of the volleys.
- **Insufficient spark/Complete Failure of Ignition** - IMMEDIATELY SECURE THE FIRELOCK (dump powder) and return to the shoulder. Remain at SHOULDER, FIRELOCK for the remainder of the volleys.

All Guardsmen should ensure their firelocks are secured and safe for transport at the end of the volley. This is especially important when there are misfires, as the condition of the firelock may require additional steps to ensure safe transport. If at ANY TIME the Guardsman is unsure of the condition of his firelock, he should IMMEDIATELY report to the Firing Detail Commander or Color Guard Commander for additional assistance.

**Artillery Firing Commands (Cannons and Howitzers) – 6 Man Gun Crew**

To ensure uniformity and to prevent confusion among crews serving as Gunners on Cannons and Howitzers, the following Commands are to be used by the Color Guard Gun Commander for Artillery Salutes. These are the commands if firing the piece By the Numbers:

<b>ADVANCE WYRM!</b>	The No. 1 Position places the wurm/wadhook at the muzzle of the piece.
<b>SEARCH PIECE!</b>	The No. 1 Position searches the entirety of the piece using the wurm/wadhook to ensure the piece is CLEAR. The No. 1 Position withdraws the wurm/wadhook and passes it to the No. 4 Position (Linstock).
<b>ADVANCE SPONGE!</b>	The No. 2 Position places the sponge side of the spongeram at the muzzle of the piece.
<b>TEND VENT!</b>	The No. 3 Position places his thumb (with thumbstall) over the vent of the gun, ensuring the vent is sealed and no air will escape.
<b>SPONGE PIECE!</b>	With the vent still covered by the No. 3 Position, the No. 2 Position rams the wetted sponge down the bore to the back of the piece, then withdraws the sponge. The No. 2 Position reverses the implement and places the rammer at the muzzle of the piece. The No. 4 position places the linstock between the runners of the trail before moving the charge.
<b>HANDLE CHARGE!</b>	The No. 5 Position removes a charge from the trail box, places it in the pass pouch, and brisky takes it to the No. 1 Position. The No. 1 Position takes the charge, and the No. 5 Position returns to the trailbox.
<b>CHARGE PIECE!</b>	The No. 1 Position places the charge into the gun.
<b>RAM DOWN CHARGE!</b>	The No. 2 Position fully rams down the charge to the back of the tube, while making eye contact with the No. 3 Position to ensure a good ram.
<b>PRIME!!</b>	The No. 3 Position, who has maintained the vent covered, removes his thumb from the vent and rams the pick down the vent to puncture the charge. The No. 3 Position then inserts a quickfire tube to prime the piece and reports to the gun commander “Gun is ready to fire, Sir!” The No. 4 Position ensures the slowmatch in the linstock is burning hot.

The gun commander has supervised the entire loading process, checks final gun alignment, and

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

draws his sword.

**GIVE FIRE!!** The No. 4 Position is watching the gun commander's sword; when it drops, the No. 4 Position places the linstock to the vent and fires the piece.

Each shot is fired in the same manner. However, IF the gun crew is proficient and well practiced, for subsequent shots the commands can consist only of **LOAD!** (where each position does his step in sequence without further command) and **FIRE!** Whereby the piece is discharged. If this manner of command is to be used, then the gun commander must provide the Preparatory Command of "Battlefield Commands!"

Upon the completion of all firing, the commands shall be:

**ADVANCE WYRM!** The No. 1 Position places the wurm/wadhook at the muzzle of the piece.

**SEARCH PIECE!** The No. 1 Position searches the entirety of the piece using the wurm/wadhook to ensure the piece is CLEAR. The No. 1 Position withdraws the wurm/wadhook and passes it to the No. 4 Position (Linstock).

**ADVANCE SPONGE!** The No. 2 Position places the sponge side of the spongeram at the muzzle of the piece.

**TEND VENT!** The No. 3 Position places his thumb (with thumbstall) over the vent of the gun, ensuring the vent is sealed and no air will escape.

**SPONGE PIECE!** With the vent still covered by the No. 3 Position, the No. 2 Position rams the wetted sponge down the bore to the back of the piece, then withdraws the sponge. The No. 2 Position reverses the implement and places the rammer at the muzzle of the piece. The No. 3 position places the linstock between the cheeks of the trail before moving the charge.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

**Artillery Firing Commands (Coehorn Mortars and Swivel Guns) – 4 Man Gun Crew**

To ensure uniformity and to prevent confusion among crews serving as Gunners on Coehorn Mortars or Swivel Guns, the following Commands are to be used by the Gun Commander Commander for such Artillery Salutes. These are the commands if firing the piece By the Numbers:

<b>ADVANCE WYRM!</b>	The No. 1 Position places the wurm/wadhook at the muzzle of the piece.
<b>SEARCH PIECE!</b>	The No. 1 Position searches the entirety of the piece using the wurm/wadhook to ensure the piece is CLEAR. The No. 1 Position withdraws the wurm/wadhook and passes it to the No. 4 Position (Linstock).
<b>ADVANCE SPONGE!</b>	The No. 2 Position places the sponge side of the spongeram at the muzzle of the piece.
<b>TEND VENT!</b>	The No. 3 Position places his thumb (with thumbstall) over the vent of the gun, ensuring the vent is sealed and no air will escape.
<b>SPONGE PIECE!</b>	With the vent still covered by the No. 3 Position, the No. 2 Position rams the wetted sponge down the bore to the back of the piece, then withdraws the sponge. The No. 2 Position reverses the implement and places the rammer at the muzzle of the piece. The No. 3 position places the linstock between the cheeks of the trail before moving the charge.
<b>CHARGE PIECE!</b>	The No. 1 Position removes a charge from the trail box, places it in the pass pouch, and briskly takes it to muzzle of the gun. The No. 1 Position removes the charge from the pouch and places the charge into the gun.
<b>RAM DOWN CHARGE!</b>	The No. 2 Position fully rams down the charge to the back of the tube, while making eye contact with the No. 3 Position to ensure a good ram.
<b>PRIME!!</b>	The No. 3 Position, who has maintained the vent covered, removes his thumb from the vent and rams the pick down the vent to puncture the charge. The No. 3 Position then inserts a quickfire tube to prime the piece and reports to the gun commander “Gun is ready to fire, Sir!” The No. 4 Position ensures the slowmatch in the linstock is burning hot.

The gun commander has supervised the entire loading process, checks final gun alignment, and draws his sword.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

**GIVE FIRE!!**

The No. 4 Position is watching the gun commander's sword; when it drops, the No. 4 Position places the linstock to the vent and fires the piece.

Each shot is fired in the same manner. However, IF the gun crew is proficient and well practiced, for subsequent shots the commands can consist only of **LOAD!** (where each position does his step in sequence without further command) and **FIRE!** Whereby the piece is discharged. If this manner of command is to be used, then the gun commander must provide the Preparatory Command of "Battlefield Commands!"

Upon the completion of all firing, the commands shall be:

**ADVANCE WYRM!**

The No. 1 Position places the wurm/wadhook at the muzzle of the piece.

**SEARCH PIECE!**

The No. 1 Position searches the entirety of the piece using the wurm/wadhook to ensure the piece is CLEAR. The No. 1 Position withdraws the wurm/wadhook and passes it to the No. 4 Position (Linstock).

**ADVANCE SPONGE!**

The No. 2 Position places the sponge side of the spongeram at the muzzle of the piece.

**TEND VENT!**

The No. 3 Position places his thumb (with thumbstall) over the vent of the gun, ensuring the vent is sealed and no air will escape.

**SPONGE PIECE!**

With the vent still covered by the No. 3 Position, the No. 2 Position rams the wetted sponge down the bore to the back of the piece, then withdraws the sponge. The No. 2 Position reverses the implement and places the rammer at the muzzle of the piece. The No. 3 position places the linstock between the cheeks of the trail before moving the charge.

## **Artillery Misfire Procedures**

### **Types of Misfires**

**Level I Misfire** – a misfire of a simple nature that can be cleared by the gun crew and firing continued

*Examples: Quill/primer failure to ignite, incomplete ignition of charge*

**Level II Misfire** – a more complicated misfire that cannot be safely cleared during the course of fire and requires additional safety measures to clear.

*Examples: charge rammed down backwards, charge not fully rammed to breech, obstruction in vent and/or bore*

### **Level I Misfire Response:**

When a misfire occurs, the judgment, experience and coolness of the Gun Captain is essential. In some cases, such as smoke coming from the vent, it may be prudent to wait more than three minutes, but in no case shall the waiting time be less than that.

***Note: In the event of a smoking vent, the 3-minute count will not begin wii no smoke is observed coming from the vent and/or muzzle. If smoke is observed at any time during the 3-minute count, stop and restart the count when the smoke has stopped.***

The Gun Commander will be alert during the repriming that all members of the detachment perform their duties safely and correctly.

All gunners not mentioned in the drill below, will remain in their "Give Fire!" positions until the Gun Commander determines that sufficient time has elapsed and gives the command:

### **REPRIME PIECE!**

The No. 3 Position shall withdraw any remnants of the spent primer using the vent pick. The No. 3 will re-pick the charge and insert another quill/priming tube and inform the Gun Commander "Gun is ready to fire, Sir!"

***NOTE: When re-picking the vent, if LF cannot feel the cartridge, he must notify the gun commander, who will cancel any further demonstration. AT NO TIME WILL THE CARTRIDGE BE RAMMED AGAIN ONCE FIRING HAS BEEN ATTEMPTED.***

Once re-primed, the Gun Commander issues the Command:

### **GIVE FIRE!**

If after three (3) attempts to clear the misfire have failed, the charge **MUST BE REMOVED** using the Level II Misfire Procedure.

**NOTE:** If the gun commander feels that firing cannot clear the misfire, he can stop the demonstration before three attempts. However, three (3) attempts to clear are the limit.

**Level II Misfire Response:**

When the piece has failed to fire after three primers have been expended, and the primers are igniting properly, then it is evident that there is a serious problem with the cartridge.

In most cases, the cartridge was inserted backwards or the cartridge tumbled in the bore. In these circumstances, the piece will have to be unloaded administratively.

The following equipment will be necessary to safely unload the piece from the muzzle.

- Gauntlets
- Priming Wire
- Water Supply (May be brought in Buckets)
- Two (2) 60 cc veterinary syringes
- Worm
- Sponge Bucket

The No. 4 Position EXTINGUISHES the slowmatch of the linstock.

Ensure the muzzle of the gun is pointed in a safe direction/maintain downrange clear of people.

**10 MINUTES MUST ELAPSE PRIOR TO BEGINNING THIS PROCEDURE.**

The No. 3 Position takes a syringe full of water and injects it into the vent. He will repeat the process two more times.

The No. 3 Position will insert the priming wire into the vent and re-prick the charge.

The No. 3 Position will continuously inject water into the vent until it is overflowing. He will then quit his position to a safe location.

The No. 4 Position will manipulate the elevating device until the muzzle is fully elevated.

The No. 2 Position will fill the entire bore with water using buckets or a hose until water spills from the bore.

Once the gun is flooded, wait at least five (5) minutes before attempting to remove the cartridge.

The No. 1 Position wearing the welder's gauntlets will use the worm to remove the round

The cartridge is placed in the sponge bucket and broken up to dissolve the powder.

The fouled water is disposed of as prescribed by the written misfire plan and the sponge bucket is re-filled.

Depress the muzzle and allow excess water to drain from the bore.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

The Gun Commander shall then secure the piece by command:

- ADVANCE WYRM!** The No. 1 Position places the wyrm/wadhook at the muzzle of the piece.
- SEARCH PIECE!** The No. 1 Position searches the entirety of the piece using the wyrm/wadhook to ensure the piece is CLEAR. The No. 1 Position withdraws the wyrm/wadhook and passes it to the No. 4 Position (Linstock).
- ADVANCE SPONGE!** The No. 2 Position places the sponge side of the spongeram at the muzzle of the piece.
- TEND VENT!** The No. 3 Position places his thumb (with thumbstall) over the vent of the gun, ensuring the vent is sealed and no air will escape.
- SPONGE PIECE!** With the vent still covered by the No. 3 Position, the No. 2 Position rams the wetted sponge down the bore to the back of the piece, then withdraws the sponge. The No. 2 Position reverses the implement and places the rammer at the muzzle of the piece. The No. 3 position places the linstock between the cheeks of the trail before moving the charge.

Prepared By RICHARD D. BISHOP, Major, U.S. Army (Retired) (2010) Revised by GARY O. GREEN, Lt Col, USAF (Retired) (2014) Revised by GEORGE K. STRUNK, SMSgt, USAF (Retired) and Stephen McKee (2021) Revised by Stephen McKee (2024) for the betterment of the North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

**Attachment 1**

**Artillery Inspection and Maintenance**

**Frequency of Inspections.**

The piece should be inspected before demonstrations and after the final cleaning on that particular day. Ordnance in storage should be periodically checked.

**Problems Encountered During Inspections.**

1. **Overall poor cleaning:** If the piece is not cleaned immediately after use, the residue will harden in the bore, particularly in small voids or pits. This is very dangerous, as, in subsequent firings, this residue can retain a spark or smolder and ignite the cartridge breaks during ramming.
2. **Overall poor maintenance:** Be especially aware of cracks and checks on the cheeks and trail of the carriage since these areas receive the shock of recoil.

The **wheels** are the most critical and important part of the carriage. They should be tight and roll freely and straight. **Spokes** should give a “ring” when tapped with a wooden mallet. Flat sounds indicate the presence of rot. Spokes that jiggle or move when grasped indicate shrinkage of the wood and the manufacturer should be notified for retightening or replacement. The wheels should be rotated frequently to prevent rot of the felloes, especially if the piece is left on the field for appreciable amounts of time. Any wheel that has to be kept wet in order to be tight is unsound, and should be repaired or replaced.

**Rot and insect infestation** can be detected by looking for blisters in the paint, a softness of the wood, tiny holes bored into the paint and evidence of fungus. Areas where water can be harbored, such as between the spokes on the wheels, the prolong hooks, the lunette and the felloes of the wheels if stored in soft ground or grass especially susceptible to rot.

**Wooden implements** should be free from serious cracks and splinters. Sponges should be inspected closely for soundness.

The **chest** should be properly made, having non-sparking materials on the inside. All nails are countersunk and the heads puttied over. The lid should fit snugly and be provided with a **lock**. The chest is to be kept locked when not serving ammunition. The chest is clean and free of spilled powder. All equipment and ammunition are neatly and securely stored in the chest.

3. **Enlarged vent:** Bore and vent measurements are taken annually and recorded in the Gun Book. Vents were originally 0.2” in diameter. A vent in excess of 0.25” in diameter should not be used as this may cause misfires. On reproduction guns, an extra vent piece should be purchased with the gun.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

4. **Condition of the bore:** Injuries to bronze guns is minimal, except for the bending of the trunnions after long service or heavy charges. Internal injuries are caused by the action of the firing of the gun. The *lodgement* if the shot is a compression of the metal on the lower side of the bore, at the seat of the shot, caused by the pressure of the gas in escaping over the top of the shot. There is a corresponding *burr* in front of the lodgement, and the motion thereby given to the shot caused it to strike alternately on the top and bottom of the bore, producing other *enlargements*, generally three in number. *Scratches* in the bore are caused by fragments of a broken shot or the roughness of an imperfect one.

The entrance of the vent should be checked during inspections for corrosion. The bottom of the bore under the vent should be checked for pits caused by the priming wire striking the bottom of the bore during drill.

Iron guns will display the above defects in a less degree than bronze, except for corrosion of the metal. The principle cause of injury in iron guns is from the rusting of the metal. Iron guns that have liners cast in place will have a slight narrowing of the bore at the cascable. Extra care should be taken if firing projectiles to ensure adequate windage as a shot may be fused-welded in the bore.

The following checklist should be used when inspecting individual pieces. Newly purchased ordnance should be inspected using this checklist prior to placing into service.

Recommended tools for inspections include:

- Rawhide mallet
- Craft knife (“X-Acto”) knife, or a pocket knife with a thin blade
- Pocket Mirror and flashlight
- Vent gauge/micrometer

## Artillery Inspection Checklist

Your overall first impression is favorable.

### **The Cannon:**

- Is clean and free of rust or corrosion
- No sign of external damage or strain (dents, cracks, etc.)
- Inside of the bore is clean and relatively smooth
- No internal signs of damage (bulges, lodgments, pits, etc.)
- No sign of corrosion damage at breech of the bore
- On iron guns with liners, the liner is secure
- The vent is clear and of acceptable size, no greater than .25 inches.
- No signs of cracks or bending around the trunnions
- No signs of weakness at the chaplets on bronze re-production tubes

### **The Carriage:**

- Wheels are tight and free of rot and insect infestation
- Body of the carriage is free of rot and insect infestation
- No pieces or parts missing, cracked, bent or broken

### **Sponge Rammer:**

- Sponge head is not loose
- Sponge cover is oak-tanned sheep skin or 100% brussels wool carpet
- Tacks are copper/brass and are not protruding
- Rammer head is not loose
- Staff is free of cracks or splintering

### **Worm:**

- Prongs are not bent
- Worm head is not loose
- Staff is free of cracks and splintering

### **Sponge bucket:**

- Made of wood or leather and does not leak

### **Tube pouch/box:**

- Leather, flap closes, can be secured and has an inner flap -OR- metal box with top that closes securely

### **Thumbstall:**

- Leather, no extreme wear

### **Priming wire:**

- Brass, not bent, long enough to puncture cartridge

- Wheels move freely
- Elevating mechanism or quoin works smoothly and properly
- None of the ironwork is coming loose
- Tube rotates freely on its trunnions
- Cap squares fit snugly and are properly keyed
- Lids of side boxes and limber chests fit snugly
- Limber chests and side boxes are clean and free of spilled powder
- Wood generally free of serious checking and splintering
- Wheel hub does not gouge the end of the axletree
- Linch pin is not digging into the wheel hub

### **Equipment:**

- All necessary equipment is present
- Sponge is in good condition and fitted to the bore
- Rammer head is secure and free of cracks
- Small items in good condition (linstock, thumbstall, buckets, etc.)
- Prongs of the worm are sharp and not bent
- Haversack is clean and free of spilled powder
- The gun book is being kept up to date

### **Gunner's Haversack:**

- Leather, flap can be secured

### **Trail handspike:**

- Must fit pointing rings snugly and have key

### **Linstock:**

- Linstock head is not loose
- Handle free of cracks and splinters

### **Ammunition chest:**

- Interior is made of non-sparking materials
- Nails are countersunk and puttied over
- Lid fits snugly and is provided with a lock
- Interior is free of loose powder

### **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT**

Quill primers, slow match, sufficient for planned firing demonstration(s) plus possible misfires; misfire kit : a large syringe [60 cc], hose and funnel.

**Attachment 2**

**NCSSAR State Color Guard Commander Change of Command Template**

The Color Guard should post the colors and execute a facing movement to look out to the audience.

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT** takes the podium for this activity.

**SGT/Color Guard Adjutant** stands in center a step behind **PRESIDENT** and carries the Gorget.

**OUTGOING COMMANDER** and **INCOMING COMMANDER** are facing **PRESIDENT** each with their sides to the audience.

**VICE PRESIDENT** says: A **change of command** is an SAR tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one commanding officer to another. The passing of spontoon from an outgoing commander to an incoming one ensures that the unit is never without official leadership, a continuation of trust, and also signifies an allegiance of soldiers to their unit's commander. **Attention to Orders!**

**OUTGOING COMMANDER** calls the color guard to attention.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** By order of President of the North Carolina SAR, \_\_\_\_\_, Compatriot **INCOMING COMMANDER** will assume command of the North Carolina SAR Color Guard on \_\_\_\_\_.

**PRESIDENT** says: Color Guard Commander, Post

**OUTGOING COMMANDER** steps forward with the spontoon and passes the spontoon to **PRESIDENT**; **PRESIDENT** passes the spontoon to **SGT/Color Guard Adjutant**.

**OUTGOING COMMANDER** says: “Sir, I forswear command.”

**PRESIDENT** commands: Post (**OUTGOING COMMANDER** steps to the side and walks to stand at the left of the color guard to lead the color guard out of the front of the room)

**INCOMING COMMANDER** steps forward and says: “Sir, I assume command.”

**PRESIDENT** takes the Gorget from places the Gorget around **INCOMING COMMANDER**'s neck and passes the spontoon to **INCOMING COMMANDER**; the **SGT/Color Guard Adjutant** returns to the Color Guard ranks at the right end of the color guard.

**PRESIDENT** commands: “Carry On!”

**INCOMING COMMANDER:** “Color Guard, by my command, To the Right, Face. To the Front March” March the color guard off.

Appendix A

**National, District and NC SAR Area Color Guard Events**

\*Check State and National Calendars for specific dates.

**National Events set by NS SAR.** See latest edition of the SAR Color Guard Magazine on SAR website: Member tab – Committees – Color Guard as well as the National Calendar of Events.

**District Events:** District Meetings. State/Chapter events become District Events when the National Society SAR South Atlantic District Vice President General attends.

**State Events:**

Date (Typical)	Event
January/February	Winter Board of Managers Meeting
April	Annual Convention
May	Patriot's Day at Alamance Battleground, Alamance, NC
May	Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (Meck Dec) Day, Charlotte, NC
August	House in the Horseshoe, Sanford, NC
August	Remembrance of Tryon Resolves, Bessemer City, NC
August	New Bern Resolves, New Bern, NC
August	Summer Board of Managers Meeting
October	Battle of Shallow Ford, Winston-Salem, NC

**Chapter Events:**

Date	Event
February	President's Day Community Dinner, Mecklenburg Chapter
July	Battle of Colson's Mill, Norwood, NC
July	Battle of Rock Fish, Wallace, NC
September	Battle of Elizabethtown, Elizabethtown, NC
September	Revolutionary War Weekend, Morganton, NC
November	33 Patriots, Huntersville, NC
December	Christmas Parades in Fayetteville, Raleigh or Roanoke Rapids
Throughout the Year	Patriot and compatriot Grave Markings Chapter Meetings North Carolina SAR

There will be other Chapter Events that occur, as hosted by individual Chapters.

Participation in events outside the state of North Carolina may be included in the determination of the Bronze Color Guard medal at the chapter level. The Chapter Color Guard Commander will determine the veracity of the participation.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

**National Society SAR Color Guardsmen of the Year – from North Carolina**

2014	Dr. Samuel C. Powell
2019	Lt. Col Gary O. Green, USAF (Ret)
2021	SMSgt. George K. Strunk, USAF (Ret)

**North Carolina Society SAR Color Guard Commanders**

2002 – 2004	Paul Callanan
2004 – 2005	Larry Brown
2005	Alex Long
2005 – 2009	Tim Berly
2009 – 2010	Dan Jutson
2010 – 2014	Maj. Richard Bishop, USA (Ret)
2014 – 2016	Lt. Col. Gary O. Green, USAF (Ret)
2016 – 2018	John Thornhill
2018 – 2019	MSgt. Ken Wilson, USAF (Ret)
2019	Lt. Col. Gary O. Green, USAF (Ret)
2019 – 2022	SMSgt. George K. Strunk, USAF (Ret)
2022 – 2024	Stephen P. McKee
2024 –	SSG Gary C. Spencer, NCNG

**North Carolina Society SAR Color Guardsmen of the Year**

2014	Samuel Powell
2015	No one selected
2016	Kenneth Luckey
2017	Lt Col. Gary O Green, USAF (Ret)
2018	James Tatum
2019	Rolf Marris
2020	SMSgt. George K. Strunk, USAF (Ret)
2021	Rear Admiral Jay DeLoach, USN (Ret)
2022	Robert Patton IV
2023	Fred Learned

## **Appendix B – Sutler and Vendor List**

### **Basic Uniform, Continental Line Coat**

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Revolutionary War Coat RC-152***

<https://www.townsend.us/revolutionary-coat-rc152-p-1032.html>

This item can be made to order, with custom colors. Made to order cannot be returned, however.

-OR-

#### ***Sampson Historical Regimental Coats***

Blue with Red Facings

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/products/regimental-blue-with-red-facings>

Blue with White Facings

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/products/regimental-blue-with-white-facings>

-OR-

#### ***G. Gedney Godwin Regimental Coats\****

[https://www.gggodwin.com/Regimental-Coats\\_c\\_50-2.html](https://www.gggodwin.com/Regimental-Coats_c_50-2.html)

**\*NOTE:** Anytime you order online from Godwin, CALL TO SEE IF HE HAS THE ITEM IN STOCK. Online sales are hit or miss with regards to quick shipping, and while his product quality is high and his prices reasonable, it can be a headache to get things shipped in a timely manner. He can usually be found at major reenactments and you can buy direct that way.

## **Waistcoat**

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 1770s Waistcoat in Linen SW-130***

<https://www.townsend.us/1770s-waistcoat-linen-sw130-p-499.html>

Also available in wool or cotton canvas for the same price. For White, select White Linen or Stark White. Only available in Off-White in wool. Linen or wool is more period correct.

-OR-

#### ***Sampson Historical 1770s Waistcoats***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/products/rev-war-waistcoat>

## **Shirt**

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 18<sup>th</sup> Century Workshirt SH-124***

<https://www.townsend.us/18th-century-workshirt-cotton-sh124-p-491-8230.html>

Also available in Linen (LH-124), but for over twice the price. I have both and wear both.

-OR-

If ruffled shirts are more your style (as would have been worn by the more affluent members of society), they are also available.

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 18<sup>th</sup> Century Shirt with Ruffles RF-124***

<https://www.townsend.us/18th-century-shirt-with-ruffles-rf124-p-493.html>

-OR-

### ***Sampson Historical Shirts***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/shirts>

## **Neckwear**

### **Neck Sock**

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Black Linen Neck Sock LS-375***

<https://www.townsend.us/black-linen-neck-stock-ls375-p-489.html>

Also available in white (LS-376)

-OR-

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons White Ruffle Neck Sock (RS-373)***

<https://www.townsend.us/white-ruffled-neck-stock-rs373-p-490.html>

Similar to above, but with ruffles for a dressier look.

-OR-

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Silk Neckerchief***

<https://www.townsend.us/collections/mens-neckwear/products/mens-silk-neckerchief-sn367-p-1179>

-OR-

### ***Sampson Historical Neckware***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/mens-accessories>

## **Breeches**

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Fall Front Knee Breeches in Colored Cotton Canvas CP-128***

<https://www.townsend.us/fall-front-knee-breeches-colored-cotton-canvas-cp128-p-1600.html>

Select “Stark White” in the color selection if you want a bright white, though other colors are also available. Off-white (SP-128) are also available for \$5 less.

-OR-

### ***Sampson Historical Breeches***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/breeches>

## **Stockings**

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Cotton Stockings SP-754***

<https://www.townsend.us/cotton-stockings-sp754-p-238.html>

Thicker stockings, about like hiking socks. I wear these either alone or under the silk stockings (not to get too personal, but leg hair sticks out of the silk ones by themselves. Plus, the shoes fit better with the cottons)

-AND/OR-

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Mens Off White Plain Silk Stockings S-3300***

<https://www.townsend.us/mens-white-plain-silk-stockings-s3300-p-950.html>

Silk, for a more refined appearance. However, prone to get runs (think pantyhose) – something I never anticipated having to concern myself with as a 41 year old man.

\*While not required, you will likely want to get a pair of garters to go with your stockings to help hold the blasted things up. I bought some after the first 5 or 6 times wearing the uniform and constantly pulling the stockings up over the course of the event. I went with the leather ones and trimmed them to fit.

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Leather Garters GA-753***

<https://www.townsend.us/leather-garters-ga753-p-245.html>

-OR-

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Hand Woven Garters GA-118***

<https://www.townsend.us/hand-woven-garters-ga118-p-794-8247.html>

-OR-

### ***Sampson Historical Stockings***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/products/cotton-stockings-1>

## **Shoes and Shoe Accessories**

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 18<sup>th</sup> Century Buckle Shoes CS-925***

<https://www.townsend.us/mens-18th-century-buckle-shoes-cs925-p-244.html>

These are fully leather uppers and soles. These are straight-lasted, which means no left or right – you have to determine which one fits which foot best. No matter how you choose, it will appear they are on the wrong feet, but one will fit each foot better than the other. How you determine which one is which is by how you attach the shoe buckles.

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Shoe Buckles***

<https://www.townsend.us/clothing-c-72/shoes-buckles-stockings-c-72-5/shoe-buckles-c-72-5-98.html>

Choose a style. I went with the Men's Shoe Buckles Plain Brass CS-926

-OR-

### ***Fugawee-Shoes***

<https://www.fugawee.com/foot-wear/colonial/mens/shoes/>

I don't have any personal experience with Fugawee, but they are highly, highly regarded in Reenactor circles for the quality of their products, both in authenticity and in how well they are made. They offer both straight-lasted and specific left-and-right-shoe style varieties. A friend of mine who got shoes from Fugawee said they fit a lot more snug for the selected size and had to order a size larger than normal.

### ***Fugawee Shoe Buckles***

<https://www.fugawee.com/buckles/shoe/>

Same as above – but to fit Fugawee shoes.

-OR-

### ***Sampson Historical Shoes and Buckles***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/shoes-buckles>

## **Cocked Hat**

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Black Heavy Wool Felt Tricorn HW-916***

<https://www.townsend.us/black-heavy-wool-felt-tricorn-hw916-p-1496-8253.html>

Nice heavy wool-felt tricorn , equal in weight to the premium Rabbit-fur felt hats but more economical. I own one of these for my civilian and militia impressions.

-OR-

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Black Round Hat Standard Wool Felt TH-914***

<https://www.townsend.us/collections/mens-hats/products/round-hat-wool-felt-tricorn-black-th-905>

Nice round hat, brim up on the left side. Excellent for militia or Rifle Company impressions. I have one of these hats. Fit and finish is excellent.

-OR-

### ***Dirty Billy's Hats***

<http://www.dirtybillyshats.com>

I found this vendor at Mount Vernon's Rev War Reenactment on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and just ordered a custom Continental Artillery hat from him. High quality workmanship – comparable prices to Townsends depending upon what options you wish to exercise. He is also local.

-OR-

### ***M. Brenkle, Hatter***

Find him at this name on Facebook. The finest 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century hats on the market.

## **Basic Uniform, Militia (Civilian Coats or Hunting Shirts/Frocks)**

### **Coats and Frocks**

#### ***Jas. Townsend 1770s Civilian Wool Frock Coat MC-150***

<https://www.townsend.us/collections/coats-frocks-and-jackets/products/mens-18th-century-wool-civilian-coat-mc-150>

#### ***Jas. Townsend Premium Hunting Frock FR-100***

<https://www.townsend.us/collections/coats-frocks-and-jackets/products/premium-hunting-frock-in-canvas-fr-100>

#### ***Crazy Crow Linen-Looking Cloth Hunting Frock***

<https://www.crazycrow.com/mountain-men-clothing/riflemans-hunting-frock-linen-look-cloth>

#### ***Crazy Crow Fustian Rifleman's Hunting Frock***

<https://www.crazycrow.com/mountain-men-clothing/fustian-riflemans-hunting-frock>

### **Waistcoat**

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 1770s Waistcoat in Linen SW-130***

<https://www.townsend.us/1770s-waistcoat-linen-sw130-p-499.html> Also available in wool or cotton canvas for the same price. For White, select White Linen or Stark White. Only available in Off-White in wool. Linen or wool is more period correct.

-OR-

#### ***Sampson Historical 1770s Waistcoats***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/products/rev-war-waistcoat>

### **Shirt**

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 18<sup>th</sup> Century Workshirt SH-124***

<https://www.townsend.us/18th-century-workshirt-cotton-sh124-p-491-8230.html>

Also available in Linen (LH-124), but for over twice the price. I have both and wear both.

-OR-

If ruffled shirts are more your style (as would have been worn by the more affluent members of society), they are also available.

#### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 18<sup>th</sup> Century Shirt with Ruffles RF-124***

<https://www.townsend.us/18th-century-shirt-with-ruffles-rf124-p-493.html>

-OR-

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

***Sampson Historical Shirts***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/shirts>

**Neckwear**

**Neck Sock**

***Jas. Townsend and Sons Black Linen Neck Sock LS-375***

<https://www.townsend.us/black-linen-neck-stock-ls375-p-489.html>

Also available in white (LS-376)

-OR-

***Jas. Townsend and Sons White Ruffle Neck Sock (RS-373)***

<https://www.townsend.us/white-ruffled-neck-stock-rs373-p-490.html>

Similar to above, but with ruffles for a dressier look.

-OR-

***Jas. Townsend and Sons Silk Neckerchief***

<https://www.townsend.us/collections/mens-neckwear/products/mens-silk-neckerchief-sn367-p-1179>

-OR-

***Sampson Historical Neckware***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/mens-accessories>

**Breeches**

***Jas. Townsend and Sons Fall Front Knee Breeches in Colored Cotton Canvas CP-128***

<https://www.townsend.us/fall-front-knee-breeches-colored-cotton-canvas-cp128-p-1600.html>

Select "Stark White" in the color selection if you want a bright white, though other colors are also available. Off-white (SP-128) are also available for \$5 less.

-OR-

***Sampson Historical Breeches***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/breeches>

## **Stockings**

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Cotton Stockings SP-754***

<https://www.townsend.us/cotton-stockings-sp754-p-238.html>

Thicker stockings, about like hiking socks. I wear these either alone or under the silk stockings (not to get too personal, but leg hair sticks out of the silk ones by themselves. Plus, the shoes fit better with the cottons)

-AND/OR-

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Mens Off White Plain Silk Stockings S-3300***

<https://www.townsend.us/mens-white-plain-silk-stockings-s3300-p-950.html>

Silk, for a more refined appearance. However, prone to get runs (think pantyhose) – something I never anticipated having to concern myself with as a 41 year old man.

\*While not required, you will likely want to get a pair of garters to go with your stockings to help hold the blasted things up. I bought some after the first 5 or 6 times wearing the uniform and constantly pulling the stockings up over the course of the event. I went with the leather ones and trimmed them to fit.

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Leather Garters GA-753***

<https://www.townsend.us/leather-garters-ga753-p-245.html>

-OR-

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons Hand Woven Garters GA-118***

<https://www.townsend.us/hand-woven-garters-ga118-p-794-8247.html>

-OR-

### ***Sampson Historical Stockings***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/products/cotton-stockings-1>

## **Shoes and Shoe Accessories**

### ***Jas. Townsend and Sons 18<sup>th</sup> Century Buckle Shoes CS-925***

<https://www.townsend.us/mens-18th-century-buckle-shoes-cs925-p-244.html>

These are fully leather uppers and soles. These are straight-lasted, which means no left or right – you have to determine which one fits which foot best. No matter how you choose, it will appear they are on the wrong feet, but one will fit each foot better than the other. How you determine which one is which is by how you attach the shoe buckles.

North Carolina SAR Handbook, Volume 4  
Color Guard Standard Operation Procedure (SOP)

***Jas. Townsend and Sons Shoe Buckles***

<https://www.townsend.us/clothing-c-72/shoes-buckles-stockings-c-72-5/shoe-buckles-c-72-5-98.html>

Choose a style. I went with the Men's Shoe Buckles Plain Brass CS-926

-OR-

***Sampson Historical Shoes and Buckles***

<https://www.samsonhistorical.com/collections/shoes-buckles>

**Cocked Hat**

***Jas. Townsend and Sons Black Heavy Wool Felt Tricorn HW-916***

<https://www.townsend.us/black-heavy-wool-felt-tricorn-hw916-p-1496-8253.html>

Nice heavy wool-felt tricorn, equal in weight to the premium Rabbit-fur felt hats but more economical. I own one of these for my civilian and militia impressions.

-OR-

***Jas. Townsend and Sons Black Round Hat Standard Wool Felt TH-914***

<https://www.townsend.us/collections/mens-hats/products/round-hat-wool-felt-tricorn-black-th-905>

Nice round hat, brim up on the left side. Excellent for militia or Rifle Company impressions. I have one of these hats. Fit and finish is excellent.

-OR-

***Dirty Billy's Hats***

<http://www.dirtybillyshats.com>

I found this vendor at Mount Vernon's Rev War Reenactment on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and just ordered a custom Continental Artillery hat from him. High quality workmanship – comparable prices to Townsends depending upon what options you wish to exercise. He is also local.

-OR-

***M. Brenkle, Hatter***

Find him at this name on Facebook. The finest 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century hats on the market.

## **Muskets and Firelocks**

### ***Veteran Arms, LLC***

[www.veteranarms.com](http://www.veteranarms.com)

Purveyors of all manner of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century firelocks and associated Equipment. Indian Reproductions ready to go from the manufacturer.

### ***Loyalist Arms and Repairs***

[www.loyalistarms.ca](http://www.loyalistarms.ca)

Fabricates, imports, and exports historical reproductions and replicas. Also does restoration work on antique arms.

### ***Davide Pedersoli & C.***

[davide-pedersoli.com](http://davide-pedersoli.com)

Italian manufacture of fine reproduction historic arms. You will need to find a Stateside vendor to purchase.

Other manufacturers and kits are available. If you have questions, ask the State Color Guard Command Staff.