



# THE NEW MEXICO SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

COLOR GUARD  
STANDARD PRACTICE AND REFERENCE  
HANDBOOK



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	2
Purpose .....	3
Standard New Mexico SAR Color Guard .....	3
Uniforms and Accoutrements .....	4
Color Guard Equipment .....	6
Flag Precedence .....	9
Color Guard Commander’s Advance Preparations .....	10
Use of Commands .....	11
Indoor Ceremonies .....	11
Outdoor Ceremonies .....	11
Street Parades .....	12
Color Guard Standard Commands .....	15
Parade the Colors .....	16
Post the Colors .....	17
Retire the Colors .....	19
Additional Guidance .....	20
Period Drill Commands .....	21
ANNEX A: Safety Policy .....	22
ANNEX B: Safety Checklist .....	24
ANNEX C: Firing Party Commands .....	28
ANNEX D: Color Guard Medals .....	30
ANNEX E: NMSSAR Color Guard Organization .....	31
ANNEX F: NMSSAR Flag Order of Precedence .....	33

## Purpose

The *New Mexico SAR (NMSSAR) Color Guard Handbook* provides information and guidance to chapter color guard (CG) leaders and members of the New Mexico CG. This amplifies the current *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook*. The senior CG member will always be in command and take responsibility for the conduct of the CG. This material is guidance except for flag protocol, which is subject to U.S. Code. **Adherence to correct safety procedures is mandatory.**

(This handbook was edited by Robert E. Vance and adapted, with permission, from the Virginia Society Color Guard Standard Practice and Reference Handbook and the North Carolina Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Color Guard. (Thank you Compatriots Chris Melhuish of the Virginia SAR and George Strunk of the North Carolina SAR). Much of this handbook will not necessarily apply, since currently we have very few members who are able and willing to become guardsmen. However, including these sections now will allow us to grow and not have to amend the handbook to address those issues later.)

## Standard New Mexico SAR Color Guard

All Chapters within the NM 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 musketeer. The chapter color guard commander may fill any of these positions. If personnel are available, the color guard should be four SAR compatriots. Two will be designated as color bearers and the other two as color guards (hereafter referred to as 'musketeers'). However, it is recognized that in small chapters and state societies such as New Mexico, there may be instances when this recommended minimum cannot be mustered. In that case, one member in uniform may be joined by other members wearing blue blazers and ties who may not have period clothing. Additionally, in keeping with the spirit of the rule, a lone uniformed guardsman may engage in color guard activities such as: presenting and posting (standing beside) the colors during the Pledge of Allegiance, the SAR Pledge, and the invocation, or carrying an approved SAR flag while marching in a parade. In all cases, only compatriots in uniform can claim color guard credit for the event.

The composition of a CG may be expanded as necessary to include additional color bearers (state and organizational flags). In this case, it may be more practicable for the CG commander to be separate from the core CG formation to provide best oversight.

Chapters should be aware that there is no standing New Mexico SAR Color Guard. For most events, including grave markings, the color detail will consist of members of the chapter in period dress with invited members of other chapter color guardsmen to make up a combined Color Guard detail. The senior CG member will always be in command and take responsibility for the conduct of the CG. It is standard protocol that if the National or State Color Guard Commander or his adjutant attend an event that they are invited by the Chapter Color guard Commander to take command for the event.

## Uniforms and Accoutrements

*Color Guard Uniforms:* Period Regimental or Militia uniforms as outlined in the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook, revised 12 SEP 2020, pages 5-6, are the preferred, but not exclusive, attire for the New Mexico SAR CG. Compatriots are encouraged to accurately portray their ancestor. For example, in New Mexico, compatriots may have ancestors linked to Spain and the Spanish Presidios. In this case the wearing of the Spanish Presidio uniform would be allowed. In the event that weapons are to be fired, firing party participants must wear natural fiber, long-sleeved outer garments, or full uniforms, as appropriate to avoid flash burns and melted fabric. Where circumstances dictate, **Compatriots may wear appropriate civilian attire (i.e., coat and tie) as the Society is a civilian, not military organization.** Compatriots in civilian attire will not accrue credit towards the CG medal.

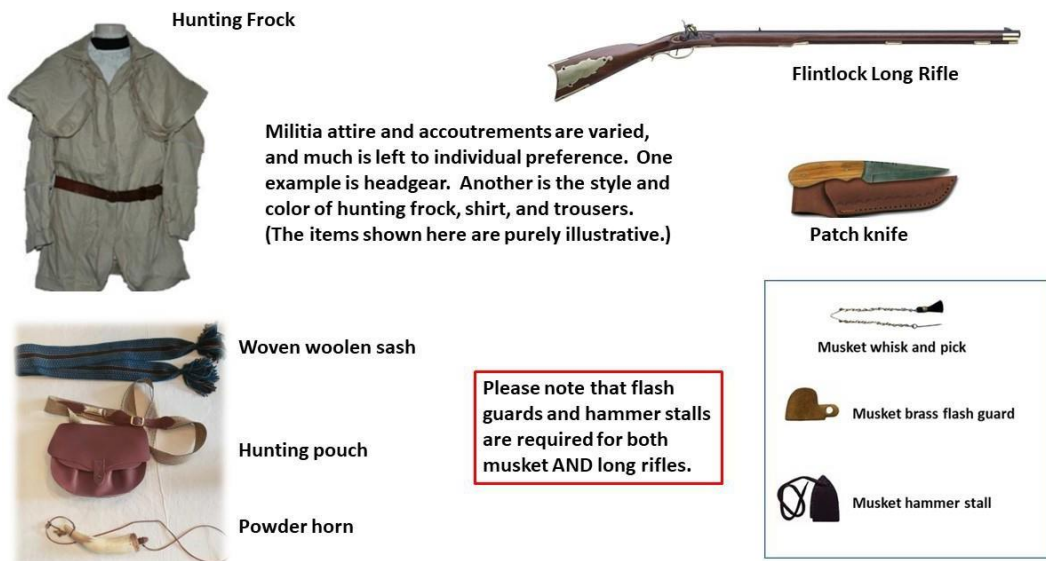


**Figure 3: Example of a VASSAR Regimental Uniform (For illustrative purposes only)**

- *Gloves:* The CG commander will give instructions for the use of gloves. Standardization is important. Usually, it should be all white gloves or none. Militia may wear period gloves or none. Militia should not wear white gloves.
- *Sunglasses:* Sunglasses should not be worn indoors. If needed for medical reasons, they may be worn outdoors.
- *Footwear:* Period footwear is recommended. However, in lieu of period footwear, black slip-on (non-laced) shoes may be used.
- *CG Equipment:* When NMSSAR CG equipment is needed, such as flags, stakes, harnesses, etc., the NMSSAR CG commander has limited funds available to purchase some equipment. In general, NMSSAR Chapters should make every effort to fund their Chapter CG gear.
- *Headgear:* Headgear such as the tricorne, continental marine hat, gaucho hat or others should be worn to correspond with the chosen uniform.



**Figure 4: Regimental accoutrements**



**Figure 5: Variation of Militia attire and accoutrements**

The selection of Militia attire and accoutrements shown in Figure 5 above is purely representational of a wide range of Militia attire and accoutrements. Given the range of acceptable Militia headgear, none are displayed here in the interest of brevity. A point of clarification: flintlock long rifles **MUST** be equipped with flash guards and hammer stalls. It is appreciated that the installation of a flash guard on some long rifles may be difficult due to the lock mechanism, but still must be accomplished to meet NMSSAR firelock safety standards.

## NMSSAR Policy – No medals on Uniforms

- The wearing of medals on uniforms is not in keeping with the tradition of the Revolutionary War era.
- 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 dressing out as an SAR Color Guardsman.
- The official NM policy is not to wear medals, including the SAR neck ribbon. No insignia should be worn on any uniform that is not of the era being depicted. This includes name tags, SAR Blazer Insignia, and similar badges.

Uniform ideas may be gleaned from the selection of items offered by vendors such as: Jas. Townsend & Son (<http://www.townsend.us>), Sampson Historical (<http://www.samsonhistorical.com>), G. Gedney Godwin (<https://www.ggodwin.com.3dcartstores.com>), C&D Jarnagin ([jarnaginco.com](http://www.jarnaginco.com)), Fugawee Historical Footware (<https://www.fugawee.com/>), American Heritage Clothing (<http://www.colonialuniforms.com/>), Bethlehem Trading Post (<http://bethlehemtradingpost.com/>).

This list is not all inclusive and is noted for informational purposes only. It should not be construed as an endorsement of any individual vendors by the NMSSAR or NSSAR.

## Color Guard Equipment

*U.S. Flag (50-star) Flagpole topping ornament shall be the Eagle.*

- Preferred U.S. flag dimensions: 4' 4" hoist (height) x 5' 6" fly length
- Fringe and cord/tassel are viewed as decorations to the U.S. flag and are therefore optional for civilian CGs like the SAR.

*Historical U.S. Flag(s):* Hopkinson: 15-star, Betsy Ross etc.

- Flagpole topping ornament (New Mexico SAR) preference is the flat spear point.
- No flag will be larger/taller than the 50-star U.S. flag.
- No cord/tassel or fringe will normally be displayed on U.S. historical flags.

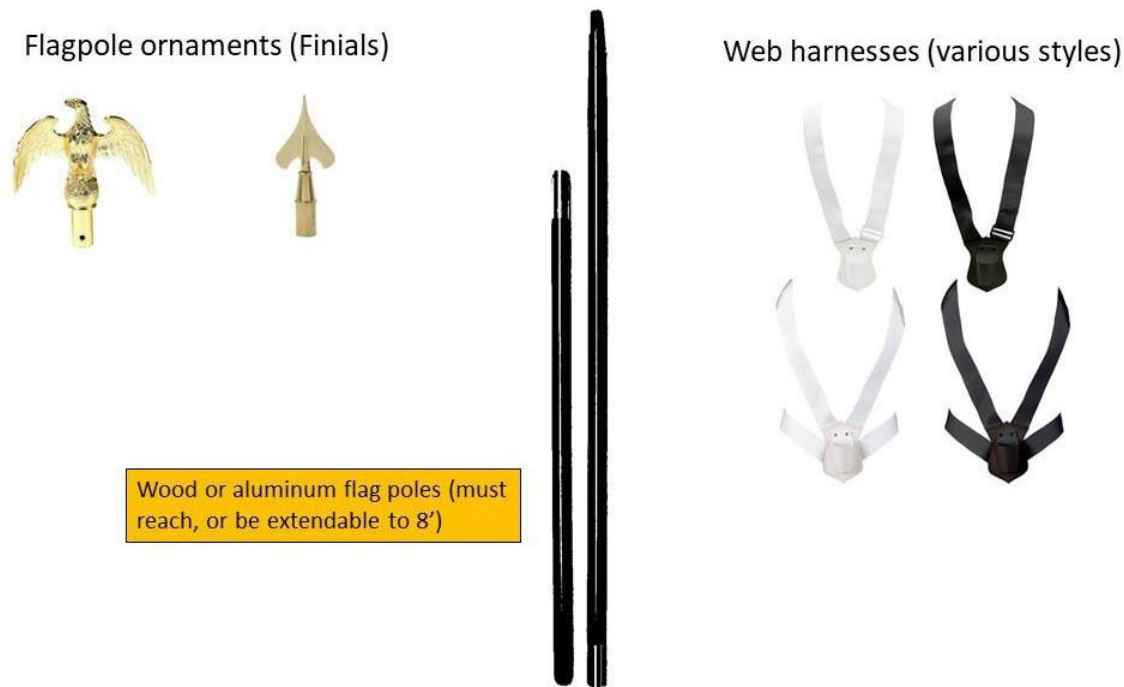
*NM State and Organizational Flags:*

- The flagpole topping ornament for the New Mexico SAR is the flat spear point.
- The cord/tassel for the NM State flag is not prescribed.
- Flag dimensions should not be larger than the U.S flag.
- Flag should not be carried higher than the U.S. flag.

*Casing Flags:*

- CG flags should be properly stowed in flag cases.
-





**Figure 5: Additional CG equipment** (Flag poles may be 7' or 8')

## References

- Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution – Color Guard Standard Practice and Reference Handbook Version 7.2  
[http://www.virginiasar.org/uploads/5/7/1/8/57187791/vassar\\_cg\\_handbook\\_ver\\_8.0.pdf](http://www.virginiasar.org/uploads/5/7/1/8/57187791/vassar_cg_handbook_ver_8.0.pdf)
- North Carolina SAR Handbook, Vol. 4 – Color Guard Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 20 January 2021  
<https://ncssar.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NC-SAR-Handbook-Vol-4-Color-Guard-SOP-2021.pdf>
- *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook and SAR Color Guardsman Magazine*: provides general information about Color Guards.  
<https://www.sar.org/committees/color-guard-committee/>
- *Title 4 U. S. Code §6: Position and Manner of Display*: “The flag when carried in procession with another flag or flags should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag’s own right, or if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold a position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the possession of honor at the clergyman’s or speaker’s right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.”
- U.S. Army, *Drill and Ceremonies Manual*, TC 3-21.5, 2012.
- U.S. Army Color Guard Drill Instructional Videos:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oZl8ny6r0A>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5fWy4R3W7Y>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV8p13\\_csSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV8p13_csSA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEDCYbg9qIM>

- U.S. Marine Corps, *Drill and Ceremonies Manual*, MCO P5060.20, 2003.
- Ernest W. Peterkin, *The Exercise of Arms in the Continental Infantry*, 1988.
- Read von Steuben Manual of Arms  
[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Revolutionary\\_War\\_Drill\\_Manual](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Revolutionary_War_Drill_Manual)
  - Preparatory Commands
  - Commands of Execution
- Review Manual of Arms video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs1A5Q45FgM>

***“The Baron Steuben mentioned when he was here that he would settle with your Excellency some Plan as to the Colours. It was intended that every Regiment should have two Colours—one the Standard of the United States which should be the same throughout the Army & the other a Regimental Colour which should vary according to the facings of the Regiments. But it is not yet settled what the Standard of the U. States is. If your Excellency will therefore favor us with your Opinion on the Subject we will report to Congress & request them to establish a Standard & so soon as this is done we will endeavour to get Materials & order a Number made sufficient for the Army. Neither can we tell what should be the Regimental Colours as the Uniforms were by a late resolution of Congress to be settled by your Excellency.”***

*The Board of War to General Washington, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1779*



## Flag Precedence

The National, state, and organizational flags carried by the color guard are called the Colors. When used singularly, the term Color refers to the National flag.<sup>1</sup>

In accordance with U.S. Flag Code, and as amplified by the *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook*, the National Color (i.e., U.S. 50-star flag) will always be carried and posted to the right of any flag or flags carried (e.g., the state flag or the SAR flag).<sup>2</sup> If a period (historic) U.S. flag is to be carried in addition to the current 50-star flag, it will be carried immediately next in precedence to the 50-star flag.<sup>3</sup> If more than one historic U.S. flag is carried, the order of precedence shall be as noted in the *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook* (i.e., the Hopkinson flag takes precedence over the Betsy Ross flag).<sup>4</sup> See Figure 1: *Correct Positions of Displaying Flags*.

On rare occasions where a foreign national flag is to be displayed, it shall be carried and posted in deference to the U.S. 50-star flag, that is, to the left of the U.S. flag. If carried in a parade, the appropriate protocol is for the foreign flag to be carried separately, and with its own color guardsmen flanking it.<sup>5</sup> Consideration should be given about displaying period versus contemporary national flags. For example, if the color guard carries the U.S. 50-star flag in a parade, then the most proper French flag carried should be the modern French Tricolor. If the pre-French revolution Bourbon White Fleur-de-Lis flag is to be carried instead, then the appropriate U.S. counterpart would be a period U.S. national flag.



**Figure 1: Correct Positions of Displaying Flags**

<sup>1</sup> Per U.S. Army Drill and Ceremonies Manual, TC 3-21.5.

<sup>2</sup> Title 4 U.S. Code §6 refers.

<sup>3</sup> *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook*, p.9

<sup>4</sup> *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook*, p.9

<sup>5</sup> Per U.S. Marine Corps *Drill and Ceremonies Manual*, paragraph 7004.5.

## CG Commander's Advance Preparations

- *Liaise with event coordinator:* The CG commander will liaise with the event coordinator to discuss and agree on CG support. This will include how the Colors will be paraded, posted, and retrieved, music (live or recorded) etc. Other details such as how the National Anthem; and the Pledge of Allegiance, etc., will be discussed. Ideally, advance preparations should occur prior to the date to ensure the event coordinator's schedule of events is as seamless as possible.
- *Liaise with CAR & DAR (as applicable):* The CG commander will determine expectations if participation with the SAR CG is desired.
- *Site safety review:* The CG commander must evaluate the event site safety (obstructions, weather, topography, need for road guards, etc.). If necessary, the CG commander has the authority to modify or cancel CG participation in an event if he deems the situation unsafe (e.g., proximity of lightning during an outdoor event).
- *Muster CG members:* The CG commander will muster the CG members at a mutually agreed time prior to the commencement of the ceremony. He will verify adequate support for the event (numbers of color bearers and musketmen), and adjust plans as necessary, while keeping the event coordinator informed. The CG commander (or a properly trained subordinate) will ensure that names and Chapters of the CG are recorded.
- *Conduct weapons safety check:* The CG commander must ensure that a safety check of all firearms is conducted in accordance with annex B (Safety Checklist) of this handbook. This may be delegated to the NMSSAR CG Safety Officer.
- *Check CG uniforms and related CG gear:* The CG commander will inspect CG participants' uniforms and related CG gear. This will include white gloves for the CG; proper lay of flag harnesses; straps for bayonet and cartridge pouches; proper alignment of tricorns; and adjustment of flagpoles to ensure proper height alignment.
- *Brief the CG on the scheme of maneuver:* The CG commander will brief the CG on the planned movement of the CG during the event. He will review verbal commands that he will give to ensure CG familiarity with the terminology. This is essential if non-SAR CG members are included in the CG.
- *Conduct a walk-through with the CG:* The CG commander should rehearse the CG's planned movement prior to the commencement of the event to ensure all members of the CG have a solid grasp of the ceremony that includes their respective positions and movements. The walk-through is important and should be done, whenever possible.
- *Assess special needs:* The CG commander will assess any special needs of any CG

participants.

- *Confirm documentation arrangements:* The CG commander will ensure, where feasible, that arrangements for photographs of the CG's participation are in place prior to the event. Photographs will be submitted after the event to the New Mexico SAR CG commander, or his designated representative. Some of the documentation may include approval by appropriate local authorities to conduct live (blank) firing volleys, for example. *Communicate to the event coordinator when the CG is ready:* The CG commander will signal to the event coordinator when the CG is ready. This is usually accomplished by a prearranged signal (e.g., unsheathing of the CG commander's sword, or by calling the CG to 'Attention').
- There may be occasions where the designated CG commander should consider delegating some of the above responsibilities – such as weapon safety checks per annexes A and B of this handbook – to members of the color guard to ensure the CG commander maintains control and full situational awareness.

## Use of Commands

The subject of whether to use contemporary, period or 'hybrid' commands to a color guard is a matter of debate. In general, the NMSSAR preference is to use contemporary commands as described in this handbook. The overall intent is to keep things simple and consistent with best practice.

## Indoor Ceremonies

Indoor ceremonies typically involve the CG parading the Colors. The Colors may or may not be posted. Note that there is no requirement to post the Colors. For example, if flagpole stands are not available, or if a U.S. flag is already in place (properly, to the speaker's right), then posting the Colors may be omitted. If the Colors are posted, there is no requirement to retrieve them before the event concludes, and they may be left in the stands. Sometimes this arrangement offers a backdrop for post-event photographs, as desired. Bayonets will not be fixed for indoor events. For events conducted in a religious place of worship, the CG commander should ascertain if the carrying of weapons is unacceptable and adjust the CG composition accordingly. Generally, carrying arms in places of worship is not an issue, however it should be noted that the Military Services do not parade armed CGs in places of worship. Finally, the CG commander should be attentive to any overhead obstructions such as beams, light fixtures, etc., and ensure the CG participants are fully briefed on their location. If necessary, Colors and firelocks can be carried at the 'Trail'.

## Outdoor Ceremonies

Outdoor ceremonies generally offer more room to maneuver the CG. The CG commander should be sensitive to practical issues involving outdoor activities. The most obvious is the weather and temperature. It does not take long for a guardsman in full woolen regimental uniform to overheat in an outdoor ceremony, particularly if made to stand at attention during a long ceremony. CG commanders will review the event program to determine how long the CG

may be required to stand, and if necessary, consult with the event coordinator to modify the CG's movements. When lightning is in the proximity, the CG commander should suspend CG participation.

## Street Parades

Parades present one of the most visible and colorful events for NMSSAR CG participation. The CG commander needs to be mindful that the CG is under public scrutiny and prepare accordingly. He should be attentive to details such as the flagpole height, proper lay of harnesses and straps, uniforms, and of course, the correct arrangement of flags. Unless he has the order of flag precedence memorized, a prepared CG commander should have a copy of the precedence readily available.

The basic marching unit is the CG itself. This is bounded in size by the number of participating color bearers and musketmen. The CG commander is solely responsible for this unit. Two other components may also form up around the CG unit. In the van (front) may be a SAR dignitary component (that may include the NSSAR President General). In the rear of the CG unit other SAR participants may decide to form up and march behind the CG in civilian or period attire. These two additional components should form up with sufficient distance between them allowing the CG to be a distinct unit. The established interval shall be 6 paces in front and 6 paces behind the CG respectively. Members of the CG will generally be at 'Close Interval', unless directed otherwise by the CG commander.

- If the NSSAR President General is marching at the head of the SAR unit, his personal flag shall be carried  $1\frac{1}{2}$  paces to his rear and 1 pace to his right. The personal flag bearer will dip this flag when EYES RIGHT/LEFT commands are given.

The CG commander should review the parade route in advance and being mindful of anyone in his CG that may require special needs, or physical limitations. He shall note any overhead obstructions that might interfere with the carrying of the Colors and muskets carried at 'Shoulder Arms'. Equipping the CG with harnesses to carry flags is strongly encouraged. The CG commander should also review the drill commands of SUPPORT ARMS and ADVANCE ARMS, and practice these with the CG musketmen prior to the parade step-off.

- It can be challenging to establish a regular measured marching step. As noted later in this handbook, the preferred cadence is the 'Common Step', which is 75 paces to the minute. More importantly, the length of stride needs to consider the different heights of guardsmen. Therefore, taking a slightly shorter step will help keep the unit aligned and in step. One way of providing a visual cue is for the CG commander to place himself a few paces to the front of the unit's right-hand file. His pace should be visible to the front rank, which adjusts its own accordingly. This is then picked up by subsequent rank and file in the unit. The CG commander will point out who will set the pace and ensure

the CG knows who this is. The pace setter should concentrate on maintaining a steady pace.

- Feet shall not be stamped. Guardsmen shall refrain from doing so. This is not professional, and none of the U.S. military services do so.
- In cases where the size of the marching unit is large, the CG commander may deputize a knowledgeable and experienced member present to assist in marshalling the group into correct marching order.
- The CG commander should ensure that the interval between guardsmen is 'Close', not 'Normal'. This will help keep ranks in line during the parade.
- Bayonets are generally fixed in formation just before the parade commences. If confident that musketmen can execute this drill movement smartly, this maneuver is visually interesting after the CG is formed. Otherwise, this command may be issued discretely and musketmen fix bayonets in an informal fashion. In the interests of safety, bayonets should be unfixed on completion of the parade and while guardsmen are still in formation.

Standard CG commands used during the parade include:

**ATTENTION:** Color guard comes to attention, stands with heels about two inches apart. Color bearers will hold their flags at their right side with the bottom of the flagpole resting on the ground next to the right foot. Musketmen will assume the same position but with the butt of their firelocks resting on the ground next to the right foot.

**CARRY ARMS:** Color bearers hoist the flagpoles in one movement and insert the bottom of the flagpole into the flag harness. The right hand grasps the flagpole at eye level, the left hand drops to the left side. If flag harnesses are not used the left hand grasps the bottom of the flagpole. In windy weather, both hands may grasp the flagpole at eye level (only if flag harnesses are used). Musketmen shall go to 'Shoulder Arms' when CARRY ARMS is ordered.

**FIX BAYONETS:** Formally, the command to FIX BAYONETS is given from the 'Shoulder Arms' position. On completion, the guardsmen will have their closed right palm in front of the musket barrel, right forearm parallel to the ground. The next command will be SHOULDER ARMS, when muskets return to the 'Shoulder Arms' position.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** All start this movement with the left foot. Without moving their heads, CG members glance down to ensure steps are synchronized. The MARK TIME MARCH command may be omitted by the CG commander if desired.

**FORWARD MARCH:** The CG will march forward, stepping off with the left foot. Arms are not swung, but instead kept loosely at the sides with fingers extended, not curled.

**ADVANCE ARMS:** This command is given from the 'Shoulder Arms' position and is a drill movement in four counts. On completion the musket is carried on the right side with the lock facing to the right, and the fingers of the right hand curled around the stock and trigger guard. The command after ADVANCE ARMS is SHOULDER ARMS and is a drill movement in four counts

to return to the shoulder arms position.

**SUPPORT ARMS:** As with ADVANCE ARMS this command is given from the 'Shoulder Arms' position and is a drill movement in two counts. On completion, the left arm is folded horizontally across the body, parallel to the ground, with the musket's lock resting in the crook of the elbow. The right arm is folded under the left, with the right hand grasping the stock under the trigger guard (i.e., the swell). The command after SUPPORT ARMS is SHOULDER ARMS and is a drill movement in two counts to return to the shoulder arms position.

**EYES RIGHT/LEFT:** The command is given when the front of the marching unit is six paces from the Reviewing Official. Everyone except guardsmen in the inboard column closest to the Reviewing Official executes an 'Eyes Right or Left', which involves moving the head to the direction indicated.

All flags -- except for the U.S. 50-star and any historic U.S. flags -- will be dipped.

Compatriots marching in formation do not render salutes.

Sword salutes are carried out per contemporary sword drill, going from the 'Carry' to 'Present Arms'. Note: Hand salutes are not given in addition to a sword salute; the left hand is kept by the side.

Musketmen remain at 'Shoulder Arms' or 'Advance Arms', but not at 'Support Arms'.

A Guardsman carrying a spontoon/halberd/pike will execute period-correct drill and salutes with this weapon.

If the SAR marching unit has a group of VIPs marching in front of the CG (for example, the President General) then that group will decide how their members will salute the Reviewing Official (i.e., hand salute, or tipping the tricorne, or sword salute). Note: This is not the responsibility of the CG commander to decide.

**READY FRONT:** The command will be given when the last rank of the marching unit is six paces past the Reviewing Official. All flags will be raised to the vertical. Drawn swords will go to the 'Carry' position.

**HALT:** To halt from marching, the command is HALT, given as either foot strikes the ground. On the command HALT one additional step is taken then the trailing foot is brought smartly alongside the leading foot. The CG formation will stand at 'Attention' waiting for the next command.

**UNFIX BAYONETS:** The command UNFIX BAYONETS is normally given from the 'Shoulder Arms' position. On completion, the guardsmen will have their closed right palm in front of the musket barrel, right forearm parallel to the ground. The next command will be SHOULDER ARMS, when muskets return to the 'Shoulder Arms' position.

**ORDER ARMS:** From 'Shoulder Arms' with the right hand, reach across and grasp the musket at the swell above the lock. Lower the musket while turning the lock to the right and so the butt



of the musket comes to rest to the right of the right foot.

**FALL OUT:** From 'Attention', the CG executes a 'Right About Face' and leaves the formation. The CG members will relax and retire as directed.

## Color Guard Standard Commands

The following portion of this handbook deals with standard commands to be used by the NM SAR CG Commander, where feasible. In consonance with the *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook*, these commands are not prescriptive. Individual CG units also are free to use commands authentic to the Revolutionary War period, as long as the overall effect is professional and dignified. The commands articulated in this handbook are contemporary in the interest of simplicity. Given that the majority of SAR CG period uniforms are not related to the Sea Services (i.e., they are derived from the Continental Army or Militia), contemporary SAR CG commands should therefore be linked to the U.S. Army's *Drill and Ceremonies Manual* (TC 3-21.5), as modified by the *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook*. In appreciation of the fact that some CG members have military backgrounds and who may recall different commands, it should be noted that there are minor differences between the Military Services drill manuals relating to Color Guards.



"Order Arms"



"Carry Arms"



"Present Arms"



"Present Arms"  
(Side view)



"Trail Arms"



"Trail Arms"  
(Side view)

**Figure 2: Basic CG Commands**

## “PARADE THE COLORS” Sequence and Commands

This is generally the easiest and least complicated CG drill to perform. The Colors are paraded in front of an audience and remain through the playing of the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance (if part of the program), and Invocation. On completion of the opening activities, the Colors are then marched off. The order to the CG commander is given as **COLOR GUARD COMMANDER, PARADE [OR ADVANCE] THE COLORS!** The CG Commander then sequences through the following commands:

**ATTENTION:** Color guard comes to attention, stands with heels about two inches apart. Color Bearers will hold their flags at their right side with the bottom of the flagpole resting on the ground next to the right foot. Musketmen assume the same position but with the butt of their firelocks resting on the ground next to the right foot.

**CARRY ARMS:** Color Bearers hoist the flagpoles in one movement and insert the bottom of the flagpole into the flag harness. The right hand grasps the flagpole at eye level; the left hand drops to the left side. If flag harnesses are not used the left hand grasps the bottom of the flagpole. In windy weather, both hands may grasp the flagpole at eye level (only if flag harnesses are used). Musketmen go to ‘Shoulder Arms’ when CARRY ARMS is ordered.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** All start this movement with the left foot. Without moving their heads, CG members glance down to ensure steps are synchronized. This drill movement may be omitted if the CG Commander opts to go directly to ‘forward march’.

**FORWARD MARCH:** The CG will march forward, stepping off with the left foot.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** The CG immediately steps in place until the order HALT is given.

**HALT:** To halt from marching, the command is HALT, given as either foot strikes the ground. On the command HALT one additional step is taken then the trailing foot is brought smartly alongside the leading foot. The CG formation will stand at ‘Attention’ waiting for the next command.

**LEFT/RIGHT FACE:** The CG will perform a left/right facing turn towards the viewers. Heels are not clicked, and feet are not stamped.

**PRESENT ARMS:** All flag poles, except those carrying U.S. flags – 50-star and historic, are inclined to a 45-degree angle. Musketmen go to ‘Present Arms’ in a three-count movement. If carrying a sword, the CG commander will render the proper sword salute.

**ORDER ARMS:** The Color bearers will raise their flags to the vertical position. Musketmen will return to the ‘Shoulder Arms’ position. Sword bearers will return their swords to the ‘Carry’ position. Note: This command is directly cited from US Army’s TC 3-21.5 *Drill and Ceremonies Manual*, and it is understood that the weapon bearers go to the “Shoulder Arms” position, and the Colors to the “Carry”. However, since this may cause confusion with some CG members, the CG commander may choose to use the less ambiguous command SHOULDER ARMS instead. In any event, the CG should be briefed ahead of time what the commands will be.

**LEFT/RIGHT FACE:** The CG will face left/right to revert from line to column formation.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** The CG formation will stand, stepping in place.

**FORWARD MARCH:** The CG will march forward until the CG commander issues the next command which will usually be HALT.

**HALT:** To halt from marching, the command is HALT, given as either foot strikes the ground. On the command HALT one additional step is taken then the trailing foot is brought smartly alongside the leading foot. The CG formation will stand at 'Attention' waiting for the next command.

**FALL OUT:** From 'Attention', the CG executes a 'Right About Face' and leaves the formation. The CG members will relax and retire as directed.

### "POST THE COLORS" Sequence and Commands

In this drill, the Colors are presented in front of the audience and remain through the playing of the National Anthem, and Pledge of Allegiance (if part of the program), and Invocation. On completion of the opening activities, the Colors are then posted to their respective flag stands or stakes behind the speaker. The order to the CG commander is given as **COLOR GUARD COMMANDER, POST THE COLORS!** The CG commander then sequences through the following commands:

**ATTENTION:** Color guard comes to attention, stands with heels about two inches apart. Color Bearers will hold their flags at their right side with the bottom of the flagpole resting on the ground next to the right foot. Musketmen will assume the same position but with the butt of their firelocks resting on the ground next to the right foot.

**CARRY ARMS:** Color bearers hoist the flagpoles in one movement and insert the bottom of the flagpole into the flag harness. The right hand grasps the flagpole at eye level; the left hand drops to the left side. If flag harnesses are not used, the left hand grasps the bottom of the flagpole. In windy weather, both hands may grasp the flagpole at eye level (only if flag harnesses are used). Musketmen go to 'Shoulder Arms' when CARRY ARMS is ordered.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** All start this movement with the left foot. Without moving their heads, CG members glance down to ensure steps are synchronized. This drill movement may be omitted by the CG commander if desired.

**FORWARD MARCH:** The CG will march forward, stepping off with the left foot.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** The CG immediately steps in place until the order HALT is given.

**HALT:** The order is given when the right foot hits the ground.

**LEFT/RIGHT FACE:** The CG will perform a left/right facing turn towards the viewers. Heels are not clicked.

**PRESENT ARMS:** All flag poles, except those carrying U.S. flags – 50-star and historic, are inclined to a 45-degree angle. Musketmen go to 'Present Arms' in a three-count movement. If carrying a sword, the CG commander will render the proper sword salute.

**ORDER ARMS:** The color bearers will raise their flags to the vertical position. The musketmen will return to the 'Shoulder Arms' position. Sword bearers will return their swords to the 'Carry' position. Note: This command is directly cited from US Army's TC 3-21.5 *Drill and Ceremonies Manual*, and it is understood that the weapon bearers go to the "Shoulder Arms" position, and the Colors to the "Carry". However, since this may cause confusion with some CG members, the CG commander may choose to use the less ambiguous command SHOULDER ARMS instead. In any event, the CG should be briefed ahead of time what the commands will be.

**RIGHT ABOUT FACE:** All members of the CG conduct an 'Right About Face'. It is poor protocol for a CG member to have his back towards the National Color, therefore all must turn to face the Colors.

**POST THE COLORS:** All color bearers step forward (generally 1-2 paces) and place their flags at the same time into the designated flag stands/stakes. The color bearer carrying the U.S. flag should look up to ensure the Eagle is facing in the proper direction. Without command, all color bearers step back to be aligned with the musketmen who have not moved.

**PRESENT ARMS:** All CG members go to 'Present Arms'. Musketmen go to 'Present Arms' in a three-count movement. Color bearers render a modern (i.e., closed palm) hand salute. However, if agreed by the CG Commander prior to the ceremony, the period salute (raising of the tricorne) may be substituted. In the interest of uniformity, either salute may be given by members of the CG but not both. (Sword salute is rendered if sword is carried.)

**PROPER HAND SALUTE:**

- The NSSAR adopted a recommended salute to be used at ceremonies based on the salute used by the Continental Army.
- To salute, raise your cover slightly over your head and render a slight bow of your head, then replace cover.
- At no time will a formal bow be considered acceptable.
- The general public may not recognize this salute. However, this is an opportunity to engage the public to discuss this gesture in context of the American Revolution.
- No bowing, genuflecting, or doffing of hat during a sword salute.

**ORDER ARMS:** Musketmen go to 'Shoulder Arms'; Color bearers drop their salutes (tricorn or hand); sword bearer to the 'Carry'. Note: This command is directly cited from US Army's TC 3-21.5 *Drill and Ceremonies Manual*, and it is understood that the weapon bearers go to the "Shoulder Arms" position, and the Colors to the "Carry". However, since this may cause confusion with some CG members, the CG commander may choose to use the less ambiguous command SHOULDER ARMS instead. In any event, the CG should be briefed ahead of time what the commands will be.

**RIGHT/LEFT FACE:** The CG formation do a right/left facing turn.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** The CG steps in place awaiting the next command.

**FORWARD MARCH:** The CG steps off.

**HALT:** To halt from marching, the command is HALT, given as either foot strikes the ground. On

the command HALT one additional step is taken then the trailing foot is brought smartly alongside the leading foot. The CG formation will stand at 'Attention' waiting for the next command.

**FALL OUT:** From 'Attention', the CG executes a 'Right About Face' and leaves the formation. The CG will relax and retire as directed.

### "RETIRE THE COLORS" Sequence of Commands

When the Colors have previously been posted and the event coordinator or CG commander deem it appropriate to formally retire the Colors as part of the overall ceremony, the CG may be directed to retire the Colors. The order to the CG commander is given as **COLOR GUARD COMMANDER, RETIRE THE COLORS!** The CG commander then sequences through the following commands:

**ATTENTION:** Color Guard comes to attention, stands with heels about two inches apart. Musketmen will have the butt of their firelocks resting on the ground next to the right foot.

**SHOULDER ARMS:** Musketmen go to 'Shoulder Arms'.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** All start this movement with the left foot. Without moving their heads, CG members glance down to ensure steps are synchronized. This movement may be omitted by the CG Commander if desired.

**FORWARD MARCH:** The CG will march forward, stepping off with the left foot.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** The CG immediately steps in place until the order HALT is given.

**HALT:** The order is given when the right foot hits the ground.

**LEFT/RIGHT FACE:** The CG will perform a left/right facing turn towards the Colors. Heels are not clicked.

**PRESENT ARMS:** Musketmen go to 'Present Arms'; color bearers execute a salute (tricorn or hand); sword bearer renders the proper sword salute.

**ORDER ARMS:** Musketmen go to 'Shoulder Arms'; color bearers drop salutes (tricorn or hand); sword bearer goes to the 'Carry'.

**RETRIEVE THE COLORS:** The color bearers step forward; retrieve all flags at the same time; and lift flagpoles vertically into harnesses. The color bearer carrying the U.S. flag should glance up to ensure the Eagle is facing in the correct position.

**LEFT/RIGHT FACE:** The CG will execute a left/right facing turn.

**MARK TIME MARCH:** The CG will step in place awaiting the next command.

**FORWARD MARCH:** The CG will march forward following the CG commander until the next order, which is usually HALT.

**HALT:** To halt from marching, the command is HALT, given as either foot strikes the ground. On the command HALT one additional step is taken then the trailing foot is brought smartly alongside the leading foot. The CG formation will stand at 'Attention' waiting for the next

command.

**FALL OUT:** From 'Attention', the CG executes a 'Right About Face' and leaves the formation. The CG will relax and retire as directed.

### Additional Guidance

- *Cadence:* In line with period instruction, one second will be counted between each motion. For example: 'Present Arms' from 'Shoulder Arms' is a three-count movement.
- *Marching Step:* The Common Step (75 paces/minute) should be used. Arms are not swung and are instead kept at the side. Feet should not be stamped when marching.
- *Sword Salutes:* Sword salutes are the same as contemporary U.S. military style.
- *Hand Salutes:* No hand salute is given with the sword salute. Hand salutes are the same as contemporary U.S. military style. Per NSSAR guidance the period salute is defined as raising the tricorn slightly and inclining the head (not bowing).
- *Sword Salutes:* Sword drill has remained essentially unchanged since the Revolutionary War. Basic sword commands and movements are simplified as follows:
  - **DRAW SWORD:** Sword is withdrawn from its scabbard with the right hand.
  - **CARRY SWORD:** Back of sword blade rests against the shoulder. Blade is held nearly perpendicular, with the right hand at waist height. Blade should point forward.
  - **PRESENT ARMS:** From the 'Carry', the sword hilt is raised to be even with the face; right elbow tucked into the side; the flat of the blade facing forward, and the blade tilted forward about six inches off the perpendicular. The next movement immediately follows, with the right hand dropping to the right leg; the blade remains facing out, and the finger guard of the sword hilt should rest against the leg. The sword should be pointed slightly to the right, but not extremely so. The sword tip should be about six inches off the ground.
  - **ORDER ARMS:** At ORDER, the sword hilt is rotated down so the blade faces the ground. At ARMS, the sword is brought smoothly to the "Carry" position – being careful to avoid hitting the tricorn, if worn.
  - **RETURN SWORD:** Guardsman looks down at the sword sheath and in one movement inserts sword and pushes it home. This is a little different from modern sword drill and is intentionally simplified here. The effect remains the same.
- *Bayonets:* Bayonets will not be fixed for indoor events.
- *'Advance Arms' and 'Support Arms':* In parades 'Advance Arms' and Support Arms' may be ordered for ease in carrying a musket.
- *Special needs accommodation:* The CG commander will make all possible necessary



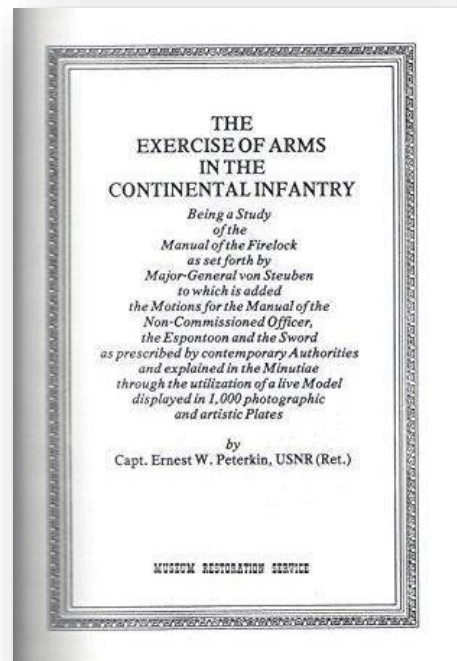
accommodations to enable CG members with special concerns to participate. These may include marching, standing, and other concerns.

- *Acknowledgement of Society Presidents:* When the SAR State President or NSSAR President-General are present at an event with a SAR CG participation, the CG shall form line at a position of 'Attention'. The CG commander will then present himself to the respective President; render a hand or sword salute and request the honor of presenting the CG to the President. The President walks down the line escorted on his left by the CG commander. The President may either: (1) return to his seat or, (2) take a place of honor at the head of the CG. Note: Orders to the CG will be given by the CG commander throughout the event. Commands given by the President will be addressed to the CG commander, not to the CG. Note: The CG inspection described above may be foregone with the mutual agreement of the President and CG commander.

## Period Drill Commands

The following select period drill commands are offered for consideration and are extracted from Peterkin's, *The Exercise of Arms in the Continental Infantry*.

- **REST**
- **ATTENTION**
- **ORDER – FIRELOCK**
- **SHOULDER – FIRELOCK**
- **ADVANCE – ARMS**
- **TO THE FRONT – MARCH**
- **OBLIQUELY – TO THE RIGHT/LEFT**
- **HALT**
- **PRESENT – ARMS**
- **TO THE RIGHT/LEFT – FACE**
- **TO THE RIGHT – ABOUT FACE**
- **FIX – BAYONET**
- **UNFIX – BAYONET**
- **SUPPORT – ARMS**
- **EASE – ARMS**
- **SLOPE – ARMS**
- **TRAIL – ARMS**



## ANNEX A: SAFETY POLICY

### Responsibility

The color guard commander, or a qualified designate, shall be responsible for enforcing all policies as much as practical; however, each compatriot is ultimately responsible for his own health and safety including, but not limited to, obtaining the necessary liability insurance.

Each compatriot is ultimately responsible for his own health and safety including, but not limited to, obtaining the necessary liability insurance.

It is the compatriot's personal responsibility to be aware of his physical limitations and to excuse themselves from parades or events that will exceed their capabilities.

The color guard commander, or his designee, shall be responsible for confirming proper permits for an event have been obtained.

### Policy

#### A. Insurance:

1. NMSSAR has General Liability Insurance that covers all of its members in good standing, and the NMSSAR Color Guard, to include the firing of Black Powder from muskets and long rifles (but not cannon).

#### B. Training:

1. All compatriots assigned to fire a weapon shall be certified as to their competency by the State Society color guard commander, his designee, or the safety officer, based upon the certification training criteria outlined in Annex B, Sections I & J:

#### C. Firearm(s):

1. As the historical period being portrayed is the American Revolutionary War only muskets and rifles of that period, including but not limited to the British Brown Bess musket, the French Charleville musket, the Spanish M1752 musket and the American long rifle, are allowed.
2. Only reproductions that are manufactured for black powder shall be fired. Firing original firearms is expressly prohibited.
  - a. Firearms shall have a flash protector and frizzen/hammer stall cover.
  - b. Firearms shall always be pointed in a safe direction. At no time shall a weapon be pointed at another person.
  - c. Firearms shall remain unloaded until instructed to load.

- d. A finger shall never be on the trigger unless firing the weapon.
- e. Charged firearms shall be carried at half-cock.
- f. A safety inspection must be performed prior to any event and immediately after an event.
- g. The minimum age to fire a weapon is eighteen (18) years.
- h. A member of the general public shall not be allowed to handle a weapon that has been fired until it has been cleaned and undergone a safety inspection.
- i. Members of the general public may handle a weapon that has not been fired or has been cleared after a firing provided that the compatriot maintains positive control of the weapon by keeping in positive contact with the weapon or its shoulder strap.

*D. Powder:*

1. Powder loaded into a weapon shall be in accordance with the table listed in Annex B, Section J, 1, a. If the guardsman's rifle / firelock is not referenced in the table, the powder load should be no more than 1.5 times the caliber of the weapon with a maximum load of 100 grains.
2. Powder shall only be kept in paper cartridges which should be discarded after usage and never reused as wadding.
3. The use of powder horns and/or plastic cartridges shall not be allowed due to the danger of potential static electrical charges that can build on plastic.
4. A ball or other projectile shall never be loaded into firearm.
  - a. Blank cartridges only
  - b. Wadding/patches are never to be used for color guard purposes.
  - c. Ramrods and/or other objects **must not be inserted into charged barrels.**
  - d. No loose ball should be carried in cartridge box, shot pouch. Rifleman will not be permitted to carry a "speed loader" or bullet board hanging from their shot pouches that has ball with greased patches for loading rifles.
2. Compatriots participating in a gun salute must keep the powder cartridges in a leather covered pouch or box with a flap that completely covers the opening. The pouch or box should be worn external to the compatriot's clothing (i.e., no cartridges will be kept in pockets or under coats).

*E. Edged Weapons:*

1. All edged weapons, including but not limited to swords, bayonets, and tomahawks/hatchets, must be kept in their scabbards until appropriate time for use.
2. All edged weapons shall NOT be sharpened. Any sharpened weapon will not be allowed at an SAR event.
3. At no time will an edged weapon be pointed at an individual.
4. Bayonets will only be fixed on muskets during outdoor ceremonies and parades.
5. Spontoons, halberds and pikes must be carried in the upright position and only pointed at the ground during a salute.

*F. Personal Safety*

1. Only natural fiber fabrics or leather will be worn if a color guard member is firing or is next to a member that is firing. No clothing shall contain any gabardine, polyester or polyester like material that can easily melt.
2. Firing participants are recommended to have eye and hearing protection.

*G. Record Retention*

1. Lists of trainers and those trained shall be updated annually with the date that they are updated being cited on the report

## ANNEX B: SAFETY CHECKLIST

**A. Site Safety**

1. Check weather forecasts for the period of the event.
2. Check the event for hazards and potential obstructions (e.g., low hanging branches).
3. If conducting a live fire (musket salute) event, ensure:
  - a. Firing detail line of fire is at least 150 feet away from event attendees and the public.
  - b. Ground is free of combustibles (e.g., dried leaves).
  - c. A safety observer is appointed.

**B. Musket Procedures:**

1. All participants must be insured, and the property owner provided a copy of the Certificate of Insurance if requested. The State has an insurance policy with
2. All participants must be trained and certified. (Section 5 below).
3. All 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.

**C. Roles and responsibilities:**

1. **Color Guard Commander (or Firing Element Commander):** is 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.
2. **Safety Officer:** Color Guardsman designated by the Color Guard Commander and assists the CGC in maintaining safety for both the Color Guard and Spectators. Conducts safety checks of all firelocks under the supervision of the CGC. Maintains area around firing element clear of spectators and observes area downrange to maintain safety. Safety Officer does not participate in live fire. Safety Officer is responsible for the security and issuance of blank cartridges for use in volleys.
3. **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.

**D. Pre-Event:**

1. *Firearm Inspection / Safety Check:*

- a. **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.**
  - b. The color guard commander, or his designate, shall inspect every firearm brought to the event. Any firearm failing safety check will be immediately removed from the site and secured. It may not be used or carried during the event.
2. Ensure the physical and mental alertness of each firing Guardsman for safely handling their firelocks.
  3. Ensure that each Guardsman's cartridge box is **EMPTY**.
  4. Order all musketeers to fall into a single line; muskets at the 'Order Arms' (i.e., right side of the guardsmen, butt of musket resting on the ground).
  5. Order SHOULDER FIRELOCKS, then SECURE FIRELOCKS. Check that barrels are free of loose material.

6. Order SEARCH FIRELOCKS (aka “**ping check**”) to verify barrels are empty.
7. Order SHOULDER ARMS; then POISE FIRELOCK and place muskets at half-cock.
8. Inspect muskets to ensure each meet the following:
  - a. Flash guard and hammer stall are fitted.
  - b. Half-cock position works properly.
  - c. Flint is secured by leather or lead.
  - d. Place firelock on full cock, close the frizzen, point at ground and pull trigger and ensure adequate spark from flint to ensure pan ignition.
  - e. Replace hammerstall and shoulder firelock until inspection of entire firing element is complete.
  - f. Weapon is visually in good material condition (e.g., no missing pins or screws, barrel not cracked, parts fit properly fit together, etc.).
9. The Color Guard Commander (or Firing Element Commander) directly observes and independently verifies all elements of the SAFETY CHECK for all members of the Firing Element and is the final certification of firing element readiness.
10. Once the safety check is complete, blank cartridges will be issued to each guardsman (enough for planned number of shots in volley +1) and placed securely in their cartridge boxes. **NO SMOKING** shall occur once cartridges are issued.
11. *Do not allow late arrivals to bypass any of these safety checks.*

**E. 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:

1. Maintain the safety of the element and all spectators.
2. 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.
3. Firing Element Position will be physically marked by small red flag markers prior to the event beginning and will be maintained clear of spectators by the Safety Officer during event.

**F. Post Event**

1. Form musketmen back in a single line.
2. Ensure all muskets are at half-cock.
3. Conduct ‘Secure Firelocks’ followed by ‘Search Firelocks’ as during pre-event inspection.

**G. Misfire and Ping Check Failures**



1. During a firing detail, if a musket misfires, the musketeer will wait five seconds with his weapon pointed as before, then (with the barrel pointed in a safe direction), half-cock his musket, and go to 'Shoulder Arms'. This will signal the Safety Observer of a misfire. The weapon is assumed to be loaded.
2. If a musket fails a ping check, the musket is assumed to be loaded. The ramrod will be removed, and the musket immediately placed in the 'Shoulder Arms' position. The Safety Observer shall obtain a blank cartridge from a Guardsman whose musket successfully discharged.
3. After all other weapons are checked and deemed safe, the safety observer shall escort the Musketeer with the charged weapon to a safe location to initiate weapons clearing. This will be done as follows:
  - a. With the pan verified clear of powder and pointed in a safe direction ensure the flint sparks.
  - b. Prime, cock, and fire the musket. Do not pour powder down the barrel.
  - c. If the prime does not flash, the pan will be whisked clear of powder.
  - d. Re-prime using powder from the safety observer's blank cartridge.
  - e. Cock and fire the musket.
  - f. If misfire occurs (either prime and/or main charge fail to ignite).
    - i. Half-cock musket
    - ii. Whisk pan clear of powder.
    - iii. Pour a measure of water down the barrel and touch hole.
    - iv. After short wait, invert barrel and pour out powder sludge

#### H. Certification Training:

1. All guardsmen who are assigned to fire muskets shall be certified as to their competency by the NMSSAR Color Guard Commander, Adjutant or designated safety officer, based on the following criteria:
  - a. Demonstrated knowledge of and competency in the safe handling of firelock and black powder weaponry.
  - b. Demonstrated efficiency in breaking down, cleaning and assembling musket.
  - c. Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing a musket. (No one can join a firing line unless they have been taken to the range for live fire and volley practice).
  - d. Participation in at least two (2) volleys at 2 separate events in the preceding 12 months will maintain certification.
  - e. Notice of participation should be provided to the State Color Guard Commander or Adjutant(s) by Chapter Color Guard Commanders.
- I. The State shall hold certification clinics as necessary at times and locations conducive to certifying guardsmen from around the state efficiently and expeditiously.

#### 1. Certification Elements:

- a. Guardsmen must fire their firelock 5 to 10 times under supervision. The table below shows the powder load appropriate for the individual firelock.

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

- b. Guardsmen will be taught and be competent in the manual of arms with a firelock following the Steuben Drill Manual of 1780
- c. Guardsmen will be provided a copy or link to the pertinent elements of the manual of arms so they can practice at home.
- d. Guardsmen will be taught and be competent in firing a volley with others inline and by command.
- e. Guardsmen must be able to maintain discipline, safety and stay in line during the ceremony.
- f. After training is complete, the Color Guard Commander must certify the shooter as safe.
- g. The Color Guard Commander is responsible for all live fire activities and will ensure discipline and safety of all concerned.
- h. A listing of certified Guardsmen will recorded by the Color Guard Commander and each musketeer issued a certification card to be presented as proof of certification.

## ANNEX C: FIRING PARTY COMMANDS

### Guidance

To minimize confusion between those compatriots who are regular Revolutionary War re-enactors intimately familiar with period musket drill, and compatriots who are not, the safest policy to adopt is one of consistency. Loading and firing period firelocks is not the same as how the military services conduct live firing as part of a firing party detail (e.g., military funerals) with modern weapons. Therefore, when muskets are fired at SAR events every effort will be made to study and employ period (vice contemporary) weapon commands.

The following commands are derived from Peterkin's *"The Exercise of Arms in the Continental Infantry"*.

**ATTENTION:** Firing party detail comes to 'Attention', stands with heels about two inches apart. Musketeers will have the butt of their firelocks resting on the ground next to the right foot. All muskets must be unloaded. Musketeers will be one arm's length apart, and not at close interval. ***The safety observer shall be attentive that all muskets will be at the half-cock position at this point.*** Musketeers

will be told what their aiming point will be (for example, a distant tree-top) to ensure uniformity of barrel elevation when firing.

**SHOULDER FIRELOCKS:** Musketmen go to 'Shoulder Arms'. Hammer stalls should remain on.

**PRIME AND LOAD:** Muskets are brought to the 'Recover', and with a brief motion, to the 'Prime' position. A blank cartridge is removed from the cartridge box. Musketmen bite off the top of the paper cartridge and pour a measure of powder into the pan. The frizzen is then closed over the pan. Muskets are then cast about (rotated) so that they are held by the left hand, the butt not touching the ground, and barrel pointed up. With the right hand, the remaining powder in the cartridge is poured down the muzzle. The empty paper cartridge is then discarded. Ramrods shall not be drawn and used. The musket then is placed in the 'Shoulder Arms' position without further command. [This is a visual signal that the musket is loaded.]

**MAKE READY:** The musket is brought to the 'Recover'. Hammer stalls should be removed. With his right thumb, the musketeer goes to full cock.

**TAKE AIM:** The musket is brought to the firing position and the right foot moved back. The barrel should be elevated to about 45 degrees above horizontal.

**FIRE:** Musket is fired, then immediately brought to the 'Prime' position.

**HALF-COCK FIRELOCK:** The musket is placed at half-cock.

**PRIME AND LOAD....** [The sequence above is repeated until all volleys are complete.]

On completion of the volley fire the Musketmen go to 'Shoulder Firelock'.

On completion of all firing, the following two safety checks will be performed for all muskets in the squad.

**SECURE FIRELOCK:** From the position of 'Shoulder Firelock', the musket will be rotated so the barrel points to the ground, and the lock is upside down (facing the ground). This will check to ensure any residual powder will pour out.

**OPEN PAN:** The pan will be moved fully forward (open) to ensure any powder is cleared.

**SHOULDER FIRELOCK:** Musketmen go to 'Shoulder Arms'.

**SEARCH FIRELOCK:** From the position of "Shoulder Firelock", muskets will be cast about (rotated) so that they are held by the left hand, the butt not touching the ground, and barrel pointed up. With the right hand, the ramrod is withdrawn, rotated, and inserted into the barrel, but not fully – the tip remains several inches above the base of the barrel. When the inspecting officer passes, the ramrod is released with the right hand and allowed to fall fully. An empty barrel should result in a distinct "ping" being heard. When the inspecting officer is satisfied, the command will be given to return ramrods, and go to "Shoulder Firelock".

*Note: If at any time an unsafe situation is identified by ANY member of the firing party detail, the command **CEASE FIRE** will be given in a clear voice – at which point all musketeers will immediately go to the 'Poise'. Musketmen will hold this position until the commander issues the next order, for example, SHOULDER FIRELOCKS.*

## ANNEX D: COLOR GUARD MEDALS

### Background

The *NSSAR Color Guard Handbook (pages 13-19)*, has detailed information about Medals pertaining to Color Guard activities. The NM Society uses the event system for determination of eligibility for SAR Color Guard medals. These are summarized as follows:

<b>Award</b>	<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b><i>Bronze CG Medal</i></b>	Event or point based system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 300 points, or,</li> <li>○ 50% attendance</li> </ul> Service at Chapter and/or State level Three years of service	May receive this medal only once. (Oak leaf clusters and ribbons not authorized.) Must participate in uniform. Approved by NMSSAR CGC.
<b><i>Silver CG Medal</i></b>	Event or point based system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 500 points</li> <li>○ Participate in at least 3 district or national events in each of three years.</li> </ul> Service at District or National levels Three Years of service	Must have earned the Bronze Medal first. May receive this medal only once. (Oak leaf clusters and ribbons not authorized.) Must participate in uniform. Approved by both NMSSAR <u>and</u> NSSAR CG Commanders.
<b><i>National Von Steuben Medal</i></b>	Event or point based system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 500 points, or,</li> <li>○ Participate in at least 25 district or national events.</li> </ul> Service at District or National levels Five years of service	Application form available on SAR website. Approved by both NMSSAR <u>and</u> NSSAR CG Commanders.
<b><i>Gold CG Medal</i></b>	1. Color Guardsman of the Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 years' service at the National level</li> </ul> 2. National CG leadership service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At least one year as Vice Commander and two years as Commander of the NSSAR CG (or three years as Commander)</li> </ul>	Must have earned Bronze and Silver Medals first. Awarded to the SAR Color Guardsman of the year by the President General. Or awarded for National CG leadership service.
<b><i>Molly Pitcher Medal</i></b>	Event or point based system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 300 points, or,</li> <li>○ Participate in at least three State, District, or National events in each of three years.</li> <li>○ Participate in qualifying State, District and National CG events for at least three years.</li> </ul>	Approved both NMSSAR and NSSAR CG Commanders. Husband/male companion must have been awarded the SAR Silver CG medal. Awarded to women who have supported SAR CG at State, District and National levels.

The State Color Guard Commander, with the assistance of the adjutant(s), 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 NM SAR President for presentation at a state, district or national meeting, as appropriate.

The chapter color guard commander or the chapter president should maintain a log of chapter member participation in color guard activity for presentation of the Chapter Bronze Color Guard medal and as a back up to the Chapter Americanism Report submitted annually. Individual color guardsmen should also keep a log or journal of all qualifying color guard events in which they participate. The report of color guard activity should be sent via e-mail or USPS mail to the state Color Guard Commander. Award of the Chapter Bronze Color Guard medal should be coordinated with the NM SAR Color Guard commander and the NM SAR Color Guard commander or Adjutant should be invited to present the medal at an appropriate chapter venue.

## ANNEX E: NMSSAR COLOR GUARD ORGANIZATION

### **The NMSSAR Color Guard Committee**

(1) *The Color Guard Committee is responsible for organizing the New Mexico Society Color Guard, encouraging the creation of chapter color guards, scheduling the New Mexico Society Color Guard and chapter color guards for appearance and/or participation in ceremonies at the New Mexico Society annual and semi-annual meetings and at historical or special commemorative events.*

(2) The New Mexico Society Color Guard has been formed as a service to the State Society and to its Chapters. All color guardsmen in the New Mexico Society are considered to be members of the New Mexico Society Color Guard, Rocky Mountain District Color Guard, and National Color Guard and may serve at Chapter, State, District and National events. A man can participate in the State Color Guard without participating in a chapter color guard and vice versa. It is essential that for recognition and awards purposes, participating at events at different levels not be co-mingled.

(3) *Color Guard Committee Policies are set by the New Mexico Society Color Guard Commander.*

(a) Each New Mexico Society Chapter is encouraged to form its own Color Guard to serve the needs of the Chapter and participate at Special, State, District or National events.

The committee will provide guidance and assistance as needed and requested. However, each chapter is responsible for appointing its own commander, schedule its own events, keep its own record of participation, and recognizing its own members.

(b) The New Mexico Society Color Guard usually will not participate in the same event with a unit of the U.S. Armed Services.

[Ref: Vol. III, Paragraph III, 2.D.(e)]

## Committee Member Responsibilities

### Color Guard Commander

- Chairs the State Color Guard Committee.
- Controls and reviews the *NMSSAR CG Handbook*.
  - Conducts periodic CG Committee meetings (virtual or in-person). Frequency to be agreed by the committee members.
- Submits the annual Color Guard Committee report.
- Coordinates periodic Color Guard Workshops, as required.
- Coordinates NMSSAR CG support, specifically:
  - Liaises with the appropriate Chapter CG Commander and Chapter President ahead of the event.
    - Safety issues addressed IAW the *NMSSAR CG Handbook*.
    - Ensures CG Commander designated for the event.
    - Ensures person in charge of firing detail is designated.
    - Ensures flags, stands, and stakes are available/provided.
- Maintain the following NMSSAR Color Guard gear (report gear inventory annually to NMSSAR BOM):
  - US 50-Star sleeved flag
  - New Mexico sleeved flag
  - NMSSAR sleeved flag
  - 250<sup>th</sup> flag
  - 4 x extendable flagpoles
  - 4 x ground stakes for flags
  - 4 x indoor flag stands
  - 4 x white flagpole strap harnesses
  - 1 x Eagle topping ornament
  - 3 x spearpoint ornaments
- Manages State CG assets:
  - Ensures annual inventory of CG gear is performed.
  - Supervises State CG financials.
    - Manage receipts and disbursements of State CG account.

### Color Guard Adjutant

- Responsible for CG muster roles (membership and recognition):
  - Maintains database of NMSSAR CG members.
  - Manages CG awards for New Mexico Guardsmen. Review CG medal requests for Bronze, Silver and National CG Commander for Von Steuben, and forward to NMSSAR Secretary.



- Maintains a current schedule of Color Guard Events:
  - Tracks CG events including location, date, and time; Color Guard support; and scheduled attendees to include the designated Color Guard Commander.
- Reports State CG activities:
  - Tracks events supported.
  - Tracks attendance.
  - Submits annual and semi-annual activities and financial reports to the New Mexico SAR Secretary and brief the reports to the Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings of the Board of Managers.

### **Color Guard Safety Officer**

The Safety Officer:

- Oversees and reviews safety policy within the *NMSSAR CG Handbook*.
- Promulgates State CG Safety practices and procedures through CG workshops and Chapter and State – level events.
- Promotes a culture of “safety first” for all Color Guardsmen.

### **Chapter Color Guard Commanders**

The Commanders will:

- Comply with the provisions of the *NMSSAR Color Guard Handbook*, paying particular attention to safety, and liaise with the NMSSAR Color Guard Safety Officer as required.
- Liaise with Color Guard Adjutant for Color Guard representation. Ascertain firing events.
- Verify Liability Insurance, especially for firing events.
- Record CG member participation and provide monthly reports to the NMSSAR Color Guard Adjutant.
- Ensure compliance with the *NMSSAR Color Guard Handbook*, particularly with respect to safety related issues.

## **ANNEX F: NMSSAR FLAG ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

Order of precedence for NMSSAR Chapter Flags:

- Albuquerque
- Gadsden
- Three Rivers