

From: Headquarters, 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
Capt. James W. Cobb, Commanding

Date: 9 February, 2008

Order: General Order 1862 – 01 (1/08)

Subject: Conduct of Camp and Military Decorum

General Order 1862-01 outlines rules and guidelines concerning conduct of camp and military decorum. This document is a guideline for addressing issues that are essential to our impression and should serve as a go by for participation in upcoming events. G.O. 1862-01 is effective January, 2008 and remains in effect until superceded.

Camp Layout – The location of camp is determined by the Engineer of the 2nd Regiment, Vincent's Brigade. Camp layout will be a version of the standard 1861 U.S. Army design with one Company street. Dimensions will vary based upon space availability and will be delineated by the Engineer. . If necessary, a second street will be utilized.

- Distance between each tent should be approximately thirty (30) inches. Although regulations state 1 ½ yards, 30 inches will provide sufficient air flow.
- Realizing that we cannot always account for late arrivals to events, every attempt will be made to place soldiers with “Dog” tents toward the front of the street nearest the NCO's.
- NCO's will occupy the spaces on the street closest to the kitchen. If possible, these tents should be placed first thereby providing subsequent tents a position to align by.
- In most cases, the “kitchen” will be located between the company street and the company officer's row; fire pits will be adjusted as necessary
- The first person to arrive at camp will begin setting up camp only upon consultation with a company officer, NCO or the Engineer of the Brigade.
- Please remember, historically correct distances are not always used by the Brigade. Sometimes we have to be flexible.
- Campaign event bivouac will be organized on an event by event basis

Camping Style – The structure of the 138th PVI is such that all of the below listed “styles” are permissible depending on the event. However, each soldier/civilian must understand that occasionally adjustments may have to be made for various reasons. Although we will not lock ourselves into these simple judgmental titles, I will use these as the best common descriptors currently available. Note: All soldiers in the 138th PVI, no matter their tentage, must camp with the unit on or very near the company street.

- Mainstream
 1. “A” tents. No wall tents are permitted – ever!
 2. Cots and other sleeping arrangements are allowed. However, these comforts should be made to appear period correct or should be hidden immediately at reveille
- Progressive
 1. “A” tents or “Dog” tents. No modern sleeping conveniences visible inside tent.
- Campaign
 1. Shelter half, shebang or no tent. This type of camping, although permitted, should be addressed with the commanding officer prior to setting up. The need to design a proper company street will dictate options. Note: it is possible that at some designated events in the future, this could become the primary impression for a specific event.
- Garrison/Winter Quarters
 1. In general, these events provide enough amenities to remain comfortable. However, each event will be addressed separately with consideration given to event expectations and the personal health of each participant.
- Furniture
 1. All furniture must be period correct. No plastic, rubber or wooden chairs of a modern design.
 2. Although private soldiers and NCO’s will be allowed to have tables at mainstream events, they must be hidden inside the tent during daylight hours.
 3. Cots are permitted at mainstream events. Please see “Camping Style” section above.
 4. Furniture should be kept to a minimum. Consideration should be made in using natural materials available at the site to accommodate your needs for conveniences (i.e., straw bales for chairs, tree stumps for tables)
 5. No furniture permitted at authentic events

Non-Period Containers and accoutrements

- Containers that are not period correct will not be permitted to be visible in camp. This includes beverage cans, plastic bottles, non-period glass containers or anything else not correct to the period. This rule applies to day and night time hours.
 1. Non-period containers, even inside tents, must be hidden.
 2. Occasional exceptions to this rule will be made to help facilitate the Commissary Departments need to provide meals
 3. Coolers must be hidden.

Uniforms and Accoutrement - All soldiers are expected to be in uniform as soon as practical upon arrival in camp. Uniforms are to be worn throughout the entire event! Modern civilian clothes are not permitted in camp.

- The 138th PVI is a Federal unit and therefore will dress as such. Sack coats and frock coats are both acceptable. In general, sack coats are preferred for battle and frock coats for formal affairs.
- The preferred hat for the 138th is the forage cap. Slouch hats etc are permitted; however, a correct proportion will be maintained at events. Photos of the original 138th clearly show frock coats and forage caps as the primary uniform.
- Modern Jewelry is discouraged.
- Modern underclothing that can be seen is unacceptable.
- No kilts, blue jeans or other Avanti garde costume permitted
- Soldiers who wear glasses should consider obtaining period correct frames to enhance your impression.
- Soldiers should obtain Civil War brogans as soon as financially possible. New recruits may wear boots, passable at a distance, until brogans can be obtained. Tennis shoes are not permitted.
- Please confer with an NCO prior to purchasing leathers or other accoutrements

Soldier Conduct and Military Decorum – The command staff of the 138th PVI realizes that we all give our own time and money for this hobby and therefore deserve to have fun. We further realize that each person has different desires and different motivations for belonging to this organization. The difficult part is that our sometimes conflicting desires must then be placed within the context of our organizational principals. Remember, you are playing army. With that comes certain expectation. Therefore, in recognition of our diverse organization, the following guidelines are established to help each of us, at a minimum, better portray an 1862-1865 Union Soldier.

- All soldiers are expected to adhere to the established guidelines relative to period correct equipment, uniforms, camping and accoutrements as described in this order.
- Once in uniform, all soldiers are to observe proper military decorum and respect unless relieved of this obligation by the commanding officer only. Subordinate officers and NCOs do not have the authority to remove this obligation. Although there are exceptions to every rule, in general, the below guidelines are to be observed during day light hours.
 1. Officers and NCO's are to be addressed by their title and last name. Officers only are to be addressed as "Sir". NCO's by Sergeant, Corporal, etc.
 2. All personnel will observe the chain of command. If a perceived problem arises, soldiers are expected to follow orders and then outline your complaint to the CO afterwards. Conversely, all officers and NCO's are to respect each soldier and make every attempt to equalize workload. All

persons in this unit regardless of rank, military or civilian, will be treated with respect and dignity.

3. All soldiers will perform their fair share of camp duties and obligations
4. Enlisted personnel are not to enter officer's quarters without permission
5. All female soldiers are expected to present the image of a man. Every attempt should be made to conceal female identity throughout the event.
6. Soldiers salute all officers within the 138th PVI and other re-enactor officers of the Union Army. Soldiers should stand when an Officer enters a room. As you choose, it is not necessary to salute non re-enactor "dress up" officers. Additionally, saluting Confederate officers will be left to individual soldier discretion.
7. All soldiers will respect civilians and conduct themselves in accordance with period expectations. Women are to be given particular consideration. Over familiarity in camp would shock the Victorian populace, therefore, be aware of your conduct.
8. All event rules will be observed. Problems arising with the event staff should be brought to the immediate attention of the CO. This will enable us to rectify any situation at the Brigade level if necessary.
9. A 12 mn curfew is in effect in camp. All soldiers are expected to perform in a safe and effective manner every morning.
10. Soldiers are encouraged to read and be familiar with Hardee's/Casey's Infantry Tactics (recommend "Heitman's Simplified" as a starter), Kautz's "1865 Customs of Service for NCO's and Soldiers", along with the guides to period etiquette posted in the members area of our website. See web site for additional readings.
11. In order to gain better insight into the life of a Union soldier, you may want to read "The Life of Billy Yank" by Bell Irvin Wiley and "Hardtack and Coffee" by John Billings. Listed on web site.

Safety – The 138th PVI will adhere to all event rules as outlined by organizers. Re-enacting is a group event and certain rules are necessary for the safety and comfort of all participants. Upon consideration of these issues, the below enhancements are requested as a benefit for the entire group:

- Rifle cartridges should be loaded with no more than 68 grains of FFg/FFFg black powder
- Pistols are to be carried by officers only and will contain no more than the manufacturers recommended amount of powder. Example: 24 grains of FFFg black powder for the 44 cal. Remington.
- Bayonets will only be drawn upon direction of a commanding officer, NCO, or soldier assigned as a trainer.
- Intensity of camp fires will be maintained at a reasonable level. The subjective decision concerning this issue will be left to the discretion of officers and NCOs and must be made upon consideration of many factors.
- All soldiers will be at least sixteen (16) years old.

- All soldiers 16-18 years of age must have a parent present to participate
- Soldiers younger than 18 years old may not leave camp after dark unless authorized by designated guardian or accompanied by an adult member
- Women should consider the dangers of hoop skirts near fires
- Any person considering the use of a propane heater must first consult with the CO

Civilian Conduct – The civilian impression of the 138th serves to enhance and expand our impression and lets us share our experiences with our friends and family. However, in saying this, the 138th PVI is first and foremost a military organization. All civilian impressions must serve to enhance this image.

- Civilians must follow all rules outlined above concerning non-period material and activity
- All civilians, while in military camp, come under the direct authority of the commanding officer. His orders must be obeyed for the benefit of the majority and the integrity of our impression.
- The only civilians allowed to sleep in the military camp will be the family or significant others of soldiers. Civilians by themselves and not affiliated with the military impression may not stay in the military camp. Note: There may be events in the future where our liberal policy concerning civilian camping will not be permitted by the host organization. In this event, a separate civilian camp or other arrangements may be established.
- Overnight guests in the military must A) be in period attire and obey all rules and B) must fit within the above parameters
- Courtesies afforded by military personnel should be responded to in kind.

Loaner equipment – One of the greatest perks of our unit is that we have a considerable amount of loaner equipment available. This is a privilege that many units do not afford to their membership. Therefore it is not unreasonable that certain rules must apply.

- All requests for gear must be made in accordance with the Company Clerk's requirements. Failure to do so may result in the unavailability of certain equipment.
- All weapons must be cleaned and inspected prior to returning. Failure to do so may result in loaner privilege suspension.
- If possible, every effort should be made to dry all canvas and gum blankets prior to return. Equipment should be turned in the same way it was provided!
- Please be considerate when using unit equipment. This privilege has helped us grow as an organization and is an outstanding assistance tool to be provided to our newer members.

- All members are encouraged to purchase their own necessary gear as soon as their financial situation will permit. As a caution, please do not purchase any equipment until you have spoken with an officer or NCO concerning the appropriateness and value of each piece being considered. This protects you from incorrect and costly purchases while insuring the best possible unit authenticity.

Commissary Department – As the result of a lot of hard work by the members of the Commissary Department, we experience outstanding food and great flexible service. This initiative is a very time consuming and demanding chore that is performed from the heart and therefore should be respected in kind. To eliminate any confusion and streamline efforts, the following rules will apply:

- All financial commitments concerning this Department will be conducted between the individual soldier/civilian/guest and designated CD representative. This Department maintains its own bank account.
- IOU's will not be accepted by this Department
- All official communication from this Department will be routed through the Captain and, once approved, should be responded to in a timely manner. This is mandatory so that the appropriate amount of food may be purchased and prepared.
- In camp soldiers/civilians will queue for meals as directed by the Department and conduct themselves in an orderly military manner
- Observation of military dining protocols concerning precedents will be observed unless waived by the commanding officer
- This Department comes under the direct authority of the commanding officer or his designee. Meal times and arrangements may be altered by the CO as needed.
- Menus will be developed by the CD. Special requests should be directed to the CD coordinator.
- The Commissary Department will present an image consistent with our period portrayal. No modern cooking implements or plastic/modern containers may be utilized.
- No persons outside of the members of the 138th PVI will be permitted to utilize the services of the Commissary Department. Special exceptions for guests can be made, however this should be coordinated directly with the Department.
- Members of the 138th PVI do not have to utilize the Commissary Department and can provide for themselves as they deem appropriate
- Commissary Department will be operational only at mainstream events

Administration of events

- All official unit notifications, inquiries, documents and other requests concerning unit participation, questions or recommendations will either be generated by or approved by the Captain prior to dispatch by any party.

- All unit wide correspondence will be vetted through the Captain or his designee for approval
- Members are requested to respond to these official dispatches promptly. These steps are necessary to maintain continuity within the organization and to better facilitate inquiries from the Brigade and other entities.

Officer/NCO Responsibilities

- During events the First Sergeant is responsible for all roll calls, overall maintenance and set-up of the company street, soldier conduct, required meetings and the transference of information between the commanding officer and the troops. All reports to the Brigade Adjutant are the responsibility of the 1st Sergeant. The First Sergeant is responsible for assigning tasks to subordinate NCO's for completion.
- The Company Clerk is responsible for all equipment issues. Obtaining loaner gear, obtaining rounds and the proper maintenance thereof is the responsibility of the CC.
- Corporals command squads and serve in various other supervisory capacities as needed. Water, wood and other special details will be commanded by Corporals.
- NCO's should lead by example. NCO's exist to A) ensure the effective/safe operation of the unit and B) address problems, questions and training issues of the private soldier.
- The Lieutenants are only subordinate to the Captain and have command authority in his absence. Lieutenants are responsible for the effective/safe operation of the unit, the performance on the field, and ensuring that the command directives are met.
- The Captain is in overall command of the Company; including all civilian and ancillary service sub-groups. The Captain takes direction from the Battalion and Brigade command staff. The Captain is ultimately responsible for the entire operation of the 138th PVI and therefore reserves the final word on all issues affecting the unit.
- All Officers/NCO's have a responsibility to respond in kind to soldiers salutes and other manifestations of respect
- All Officers /NCO's will adhere to the chain of command and realize that information must flow up, down and even sideways to ensure that every participant is aware of schedules, activities and responsibilities.
- Officers/NCO's are certified by the unit. Therefore, you must serve the unit by adhering to shared organizational goals and responsibilities. Although making unpopular decisions is difficult, all decisions must be made with the best interest of the entire unit in hand, not just the individual. Soldiers and Civilians are expected to comply with your orders. In saying this, Officers and NCO's are expected to deliver commands in a professional and considerate manner worthy of respect.
- All Officers and NCO's are required to assist subordinate soldiers in the realization of their expectations in the Officer/NCO Certification Program (ONCP).