

## DIRECTOR'S ORDERS, DO-6

### STANDARDS FOR HISTORIC WEAPONS FIRING IN AREAS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RELEVANT TO VOLUNTEER GROUPS

#### 1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.5 Use of Reproduction Weapons Only: (a) Weapons firing demonstrations conducted in areas administered by the NPS are restricted to reproduction “black powder” weapons only. (b) Requests by outside groups or individuals to use non-NPS original weapons will follow the exemption request procedure prescribed in Reference Manual 6, and will be granted or denied in writing by the superintendent. The Superintendent must be satisfied that such use is consistent with the resource preservation and interpretive values of the park. (c) Original weapons brought onto NPS lands must pass inspection using the appropriate checklist. (d) Original NPS museum weapons will not be used; no exemptions will be granted.

1.6 Use of Reproduction Artillery: Reproduction artillery used in areas administered by the National Park Service shall conform to specifications found in the Historic Weapons Resource Manual.

1.7 Use of Blank Ammunition Only: Firing demonstrations will use blank ammunition only. With the exception of the Lyle Line-Throwing Gun, projectiles shall not be fired from any type of historic black powder weapon in areas administered by the National Park Service.

#### 3 WEAPON STORAGE AND SECURITY

3.3 Identification: (a) All reproduction weapons used in demonstrations will have permanent identification markings placed in an inconspicuous location. (b) A complete inventory of firearms will be maintained by serial number, manufacture, model, NPS property number, barrel length, caliber, and location of identification marking on the firearm.

#### XX.5 RANGE SAFETY

5.2 Park Requirements: Suitability of park lands must be assured. Maintaining the minimum cleared area shown on the range drawings in the Historic Weapons Program Manual is essential to keeping undetected visitors out of the danger zone. Whenever possible the site should also provide natural barriers to noise and encroachment.

## 6 AMMUNITION PREPARATION

6.1 Small Arms: (a) In addition to strictly following the procedures described in the approved small arms manuals, the park historic weapons supervisor will insure that paper cartridges are made neatly, using the proper caliber former, and also that powder loads do not exceed maximum loads. (b) Small arms cartridges should be strictly accounted for, and unused cartridges returned to the magazine.

6.2 Artillery: (a) In addition to strictly following the procedures required in the approved artillery manuals the park demonstration supervisor will insure that aluminum foil cartridges are made neatly using a former of the proper size, that the "projectile end" of the cartridge is obvious (especially if non-explosive filler in a separate container has been added to extend the length of the cartridge), and that the powder loads do not exceed the maximum of Fg or coarser powder listed in the table of maximum loads in the Historic Weapons Program Manual.

6.3 Loose Powder: Loose powder must never be allowed in a demonstration area. Friction primers must be kept separately in Cannoneer No.4's pouch or stored in a tin box in the limber tray. Under no circumstances will they be stored loose in the limber chest with cartridges.

6.4 Damaged Cartridges: All torn or damaged cartridges will be destroyed by soaking in water until the powder is dissolved and the remains will be disposed in a safe place. Under no circumstances will torn or damaged cartridges be returned to the magazine.

6.5. Artillery Ignition Devices: Only slow match, quill primers, and approved commercially available friction primers and kits will be used. The use of port-fires is prohibited.

## 7 VISITOR SAFETY

7.1 Physical Barriers: (a) Physical barriers are required to keep visitors at the safe distances indicated on the range drawings in the Historic Weapons Program Manual. If natural features are inadequate to restrain visitors, ropes, fences or other artificial barriers will be used. (b) **NO VISITOR WILL BE ALLOWED IN FRONT OF A LINE PERPENDICULAR TO THE MUZZLE OF A DEMONSTRATION WEAPON DURING THE DEMONSTRATION.**

7.3 Misfires: (a) In case of weapon misfires, the demonstration interpreter will explain the situation and procedures to visitors, keeping them safely in place until the weapon is discharged or rendered safe. (b) If attempts fail to correct a misfire, small arms will be removed from the area. In the case of artillery, visitors will be removed from the demonstration area. Once visitors have been removed, prescribed unloading procedures will be followed. (c) All parks must have a written misfire plan approved by the regional inspector prior to initiating any weapons demonstrations.

7.5 Handling of Weapons by Visitors: (a) Visitors will not be allowed to touch or handle any weapon or equipment containing black powder. Visitors may be permitted to touch unloaded

firearms provided they are kept under physical control by the demonstrator. (b) Visitors are prohibited from touching or handling any edged weapon.

## **8 EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER SAFETY**

8.1 Use of Manuals: All demonstrations shall follow the approved National Park Service manual for the particular weapon involved. Demonstration of types of weapons lacking formal manuals will adhere to the basic safety precautions of the manual of arms for the most similar military weapons as specified in manuals of that historic period.

8.2 Protective Clothing: For protection from flash burns, all demonstrators firing black powder firearms will wear natural fiber or skin long-sleeved outer garments or full uniforms as appropriate to the historical period. Special care should be exercised with worn, thin, or fringed clothing.

8.3 Hearing Protection: All demonstrators will wear approved hearing protection during a firing demonstration.

8.4 Eye Protection: Prescription eyeglasses provided to employees and volunteers by the National Park Service shall have safety lenses of sufficient size to provide reasonable protection to the wearer's eye.

8.5 Other Protective Garments: For artillery demonstrations, all-leather gauntlets similar to welder's gloves shall be worn by the cannoneer who sponges and rams the piece. Flexible leather gauntlets shall be worn by the cannoneer who inserts the cartridge. A thumbstall will be used by the cannoneer tending the vent.

8.6 Artillery Firing Frequency: Artillery shall not be reloaded more frequently than once every 10 minutes. Individual parks may establish longer periods between firing, if they wish.

## **10 RESPONSIBILITIES, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF HISTORIC WEAPONS PERSONNEL**

### 10.2 Historic Weapons Demonstrator

10.2.1 Minimum Age Requirement: The minimum age of a historic weapons demonstrator is 16 years. **Stones River NB requires artillery demonstrators to be at least 18 years old.**

10.2.2 Historic Weapons Demonstrator Responsibilities: Historic weapons demonstrators will adhere to all National Park Service rules and regulations and only present programs in accordance with the themes and approaches approved by the park's historic weapons supervisor.

10.2.3 Historic Weapons Demonstrator Competency: All persons involved in demonstrations of historic weapons in NPS areas will be required to demonstrate their competency in the use of the

weapon to the satisfaction of the park historic weapons supervisor. Competency is met after successfully meeting the criteria of the demonstration checklist in the Historic Weapons Program Manual.

## **11 INSPECTIONS**

11.1 Weapons Inspection: Each weapon used in the park firing demonstration will be given a thorough visual inspection by the park historic weapons supervisor at the beginning of each day the weapon is to be fired. Visual inspection will follow the appropriate checklist included in the Historic Weapons Program Manual.

## **12 VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

12.1 Required Supervision: To provide proper safety supervision, a minimum ratio of one certified historic weapons supervisor per forty small arms demonstrators and/or two artillery pieces is required. Additional historic weapons supervisors may be required for complex events.

12.3 Competency Requirements: (a) All volunteers who demonstrate using historic weapons will operate as VIPs or under a special use permit. (b) All persons involved in these demonstrations shall demonstrate competency to the historic weapons supervisor in the use of the weapon by successfully meeting the criteria of the demonstration checklist included in the Historic Weapons Program Manual.

12.4 Written Agreements: (a) The park will provide all non-National Park Service individuals and groups with a copy of the Director's Orders on Historic Weapons Demonstrations Safety Standards and the appropriate approved NPS weapons manual at least 30 days prior to the program. (b) It is the responsibility of the individual or group to certify in writing that they have read and will adhere to the standards they have received from the park. This written agreement must be received by the park prior to the demonstration. (c) Any violation of the standards may result in immediate cancellation of the demonstration and removal of the individual or groups from further weapons firing demonstrations in the park.

12.5 Ammunition provided by outside groups: (a) All black powder brought into a NPS area by non-National Park Service individuals and groups for use in firing demonstrations will be in the form of prepared cartridges and placed under National Park Service supervision. (b) Cartridges will be prepared in accordance with standards described in the Historic Weapons Program Manual. (c) Bulk or loose powder is prohibited.

12.6 Inspections: (a) Each weapon used in the park firing demonstration will be given a thorough visual inspection by the park historic weapons supervisor at the beginning of each day the weapon is to be fired. Visual inspection will follow the appropriate checklist included in the Historic Weapons Program Manual. (b) Members of non-National Park Service groups shall submit to an on-site safety inspection by the historic weapons supervisor of their cartridge boxes and other equipment before being permitted to participate in National Park Service demonstrations. (c) This

requirement applies to non-firing events as well.

12.7 Demonstration Supervision: (a) The park's historic weapons supervisor must personally observe and supervise all firing demonstrations conducted by non-National Park Service individuals and groups within the park's boundaries. (b) The historic weapons supervisor must be prepared and authorized by the park superintendent to act immediately on any violation of the Director's Orders for Historic Weapons Demonstration Safety Standards including canceling the program and removing the individual or group from further firing demonstrations as appropriate.