

**“After the Battle: Fredericksburg 2008” Picket Event
November 14-16, 2008, Fredericksburg Battlefield
(Civil War Preservation Trust “Slaughter Pen” Site), Virginia**

FEDERAL RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2

Hdqrs. Eleventh New Jersey (re-created)
December 23, 2007
Hamburg, N.Y.

The Captain commanding the detachment orders that the following Rules of Engagement be published for the detachment.

Kevin O’Beirne
Acting Captain,
Commanding Detachment,
Re-created Eleventh New Jersey, Cos. D and I

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

The event sponsors and Federal Coordinator want this event to be as realistic and as safe as practicable, and we certainly want to avoid injuries.

After nightfall on Friday evening, these Rules of Engagement, together with other applicable General Orders, will govern the detachment. All men of the battalion shall be familiar with General Orders No. 2.

The Rules of Engagement are:

1. The single most important thing to bring to this event is a good attitude. This will not be a dangerous or extremely difficult event but it is also not for the faint of heart or the constant whiner. Participation will be continuous from Friday evening to early Sunday morning. While there will obviously be periods of physical rest, there will not be any “mental downtime”, no dance, and no opportunity to return to your modern vehicle (unless there is an emergency) from the time you leave it in the parking area on Friday until Sunday morning.
2. **Federal participants are asked to be onsite (in camp, in uniform) by 6:00 p.m. Friday** because detachment activities will start by this time (please try to arrive onsite by 5:00 p.m. Friday). Commissioned officers and sergeants **MUST** be in camp, in

uniform, by 6:00 p.m. Friday so please plan your travel and arrival time accordingly. **All** members of the detachment should be in the bivouac by 11:00 p.m. Friday evening. The detachment will be dismissed in the participant parking area around 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, although the Commanding Officer reserves the right to alter this time if necessary.

3. This event involves a limited amount of marching—maybe a mile or two, total for the weekend. Be prepared. All areas where participants would march are nearly completely flat but, conversely, almost all of it is in a cultivated field where the ground may be uneven, soft, and perhaps muddy.
4. **There will be guard duty and picket duty.** Please have a basic understanding of these essential military duties. We highly recommend Dominic Dal Bello's book, *Instructions for Guards and Pickets*.
5. **The focus of this event is picket duty and skirmishing.** Heavy skirmishing occurred at the "slaughter pen" site on the day after the battle of Fredericksburg and all men on the line are encouraged to keep up a brisk fire all day. This may run counter to the usual "campaigner" reenactor attitude against "powder burners" but, to accurately portray this event, be prepared to fire at least the sixty rounds you are required to bring to this event. Orders may be issued at a later date restricting firing during hours of darkness. General rules regarding the firearms and their discharge are included in the Federal Standards for this event.
6. This event has a **limited public/spectator aspect**. During Saturday afternoon, a sizable tour group of spectators in modern attire will be onsite for up to two hours. During this time, the spectators will visit the Federal and Confederate positions while the tour guide(s) recount the history of what the spectators observe being represented. Participants, other than ranking officers, are to *avoid talking to spectators and act as if the spectators are invisible*. Spectators will be so informed of this prior to starting their tour.
7. Drill will be by Silas Casey's manual, *Infantry Tactics*. Participants must know and be able to practice **skirmish drill per Casey's manual**—if you are not 100 percent certain that you know this without "reenactorisms", please read up on it in the manual. Informational handouts on skirmish drill written by Mike Ryan (Columbia Rifles)—which help but are not a substitute for the manual itself—are available from the Federal Coordinator at kobeirne@roadrunner.com.
8. This event is in late October and it may be quite cold at night, and it may be wet. Plan your attire accordingly. Overcoats are highly encouraged, as are 100 percent woolen mittens. **An extra pair of woolen socks IS MANDATORY** because the potential exists that your feet may get wet in a muddy field. Campfires may be limited or banned entirely when the detachment is in the face of the enemy—which is most of the event.

9. We will re-create a limited number of casualties of the Eleventh New Jersey (suffered on picket) and other units of the First Corps who fought over the “slaughter pen” on December 13, 1862, as realistically as possible. Those intended to portray a casualty will be selected in advance of the event. Pre-designated “casualties” shall not divulge their “fate” to anyone prior to the event, because the uncertainty of battle in 1862 did not allow anyone to know their fate in advance of a fight, or the fate of their friends.
10. **The organizers will designate all “casualties”**. Do not portray a casualty if you are not so designated because we are trying for historically correct casualty ratios and depiction of wounded men. Brisk picket fire and skirmishing will be “fought” at realistic ranges.
11. The success of the event depends on participants willingly following the instructions given them. **Follow these instructions exactly**. If you are a pre-designated “casualty”, behave accordingly and play the part (see the chapter, “Howling Dervishes Dancing and Kicking in Our Ranks: The Behavior of Soldiers Wounded in Battle” (by Kevin O’Beirne) in *The Columbia Rifles Research Compendium*, 2nd Edition, and posted online at www.authentic-campaigner.com). After being “wounded” you may be on the field for a little while until help can “safely” get to you, so be prepared—it may be cold. After being “wounded”, **“casualties” will remain so for the rest of the event**, so mentally plan ahead and act accordingly.
12. This is a “semi-immersion” event for Federal participants. Please behave in a period-correct manner, particularly when the detachment is in the face of the enemy and skirmishing and, most of all, during interactions with Confederate impressionists. Remember that this event portrays the immediate aftermath of a terrible, hard-fought, Federal defeat, so please behave accordingly. The **bandaging station** is a full-time, “immersion” style environment where everyone is expected to be in correct “first-person” at all times.
13. While it is unlikely that “prisoners” will be taken at this event, the potential nevertheless exists. If captured you will be held prisoner by the Confederates throughout the balance of the event and released on Sunday morning. Prisoners shall act appropriately. The reality of the situation would have many more guards than are likely to be used at this event, so forget about making escape attempts. “Acting up” in a non-period manner will be grounds for expulsion from the event. The guards will be instructed to act in a period-correct military fashion toward their prisoners. See the chapter, “Captured! Portraying Prisoners in Civil War Living History” (by Kevin O’Beirne) in *The Columbia Rifles Research Compendium*, 2nd Edition, and posted online at www.authentic-campaigner.com.
14. If you are wounded or captured, you will be temporarily separated from your weapon and accoutrements. **Each participant MUST carry at least THREE tags for your weapon and accouterments**, because they will be taken from you at when you are “captured” or after you are “wounded”, and placed under close guard. On Sunday

morning your belongings will be returned. Make sure your tags are made well with a good stout twine and WATER PROOF ink. After you are “captured” or “wounded” you will affix the tags to your own weapon and accoutrements.

15. At the time of this battle the war was nearly two years old with no end in sight. Men were downcast and dejected at their repulse by the Confederates on December 13, 1862. The Eleventh New Jersey came onto the picket line during the night of December 13-14, 1862, and had not been engaged in the actual battle of December 13, but nevertheless must have experienced its leaden effect on morale. Fredericksburg was the first battle/campaign of the Eleventh New Jersey—*the men we are portraying were NOT veteran soldiers.*

16. While it is unlikely the men of the Federal detachment will encounter “civilians” of the period, if such encounters occur, however, the men are to treat “civilians” in a period-correct fashion.

Again, this is a semi-immersion event. If all behave accordingly it can be one of the better events any of us have ever attended. The cooperation of everyone in the ranks—from experienced campaigners to “fresh fish”/“first-time bacon eaters”, from private to the Commanding Officer—is essential for making this happen. Please know and understand these Rules of Engagement and prepare for your participation in this event accordingly. And do not forget your three tags!

[END OF GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2]