

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

**“JOB DESCRIPTIONS” FOR THE
RE-CREATED ELEVENTH NEW JERSEY COS. D AND I**

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3

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

The Captain commanding orders that the following “job description” for each rank in the detachment be published. All participants in the re-created Eleventh New Jersey Vols. are expected to have read the application portions of these Orders and know the duties to which they are assigned, from Private soldier to all commissioned officers. While this General Order may appear to be voluminous, its purpose is to inform and educate, not intimidate.

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

JOB DESCRIPTIONS” FOR THE RE-CREATED ELEVENTH NEW JERSEY
by Kevin O’Beirne, Columbia Rifles
December 23, 2007

Introduction

Everyone serving with the re-created Eleventh New Jersey at the “After the Battle: Fredericksburg 2008” event should read this document and—most important—fully understand what is expected of them during the event. Only by everyone knowing their role can the high expectations for this event and the detachment be realized. ***Know your job before you arrive in the field.***

This document presents detailed requirements for everyone in the detachment, from the Commander to Private soldiers to the detachment’s support/water supply personnel. Some ranks are responsible for more than one job; for example, a subaltern (company lieutenant) will need to know his company duties and those of the Officer of the Guard and that of the Company Commander. Company Commanders need to know their job plus those subordinate to them. Each rank is required to know the “job” of the next-higher rank. ***In several cases, the duties associated with each “job” include pre-event***

responsibilities, completion of which is vital to the success of the Federal side of this event.

Only the positions/ranks/jobs presented below will be used. No other rank or portrayals are allowed in the Federal ranks at this event.

All ranks, including commissioned officers, are encouraged to form their own mess. Remember: Bring your own rations to this event!

Everyone is asked to consider participating in preservation fundraising!

Organization of the Detachment

Federal infantry impressionists at this event will portray Companies D and I of the Eleventh New Jersey Volunteers, who picketed the “slaughter pen” site from the evening of December 13-14 to the evening of December 14-15, 1862. Because we are portraying only two companies deployed on picket, a traditional battalion organization with field and staff officers will not be used at this event; accordingly, instead of the term “battalion” the Federal body at this event is referred to as a “detachment”, even though, in theory, it is a two-company battalion.

The Federals will be organized, in order of rank, as follows:

1. Officer of the Day (Captain)
2. Detachment Commanding Officer/Officer of the Guard (Captain)
3. Outpost No. 1 – Company D
 - a. Company Commander (Captain or Lieutenant)
 - b. Subaltern (Lieutenant)
 - c. Orderly Sergeant (shares Sergeant of the Guard duties with Sergeant)
 - d. Sergeant (shares Sergeant of the Guard duties with Orderly Sergeant)
 - e. Corporals (acting as Corporals of the Guard)
 - f. Privates
 - g. Musicians
4. Outpost No. 2 – Company I
 - a. Company Commander (Captain or Lieutenant)
 - b. Subaltern (Lieutenant)
 - c. Orderly Sergeant (shares Sergeant of the Guard duties with Sergeant)
 - d. Sergeant (shares Sergeant of the Guard duties with Orderly Sergeant)
 - e. Corporals (acting as Corporals of the Guard)
 - f. Privates
 - g. Musicians
5. Cavalry Detachment
 - a. Sergeant
 - b. Privates
6. Bandaging Station

- a. Assistant Surgeon
- b. Other Medical Personnel Per Assistant Surgeon's Direction
- c. Patients

The Federal side of this event does not include several "traditional" roles such as Adjutant, Sergeant Major, and others.

Infantry Company Jobs

The two Company Commanders are selected by the Federal Coordinator. All other ranks in each infantry company are assigned by the Company Commander. No company shall have more than one subaltern, three sergeants (two sergeants per company are probably sufficient at this event), and four corporals (three corporals are probably sufficient for this event).

1. *Private Soldier* – It is necessary to possess a good deal of knowledge to portray a private at this event, including knowledge of the School of the Soldier and Instructions for Skirmishers, the private's duties relative to camp guard duty and picket duty, and how to portray a soldier on the march. Privates must also be capable to succeeding to the job of Corporal. Reports to the corporals and sergeant who are his section leaders. (Infantry companies were typically divided into two platoons, each of which was in turn divided into two sections, led by a sergeant, who was assisted by one or two corporals.)
2. *Corporal* – His principal duties are in guard details and leading small fatigue details. He must be thoroughly familiar with the duties of the Private Soldier and be able to instruct them. The Corporal assists his Sergeant in leading a section, and to be able to succeed to the duties of the Sergeant when necessary. The Corporal is a leader among the men, and is often the first line of "discipline" and the first fellow to receive "how-to" questions from the men. Corporals should set a good example by their knowledge, demeanor, ability, and concern for their men.
3. *Sergeant* – The Sergeant's principal duties are to serve as a file closer (keeping the ranks aligned and, for reenactors, watching for safety concerns), helping to lead guard details and pickets as the Sergeant of the Guard, leading fatigue details, leading a section (i.e., half of a platoon), and as assigned to provide assistance to the Orderly Sergeant with company commissary and ordnance duties. (Officially, there is no such thing as a "company commissary", "company quartermaster", or "company ordnance sergeant"; these duties are handled by the Orderly Sergeant or, at his discretion, assigned to the company's complement of "regular" sergeants. While an infantry company has need of commissary and ordnance-type duties, because companies rarely had many assets that are not the property of the army, regiment, or the individual soldier, the need for company quartermaster duties is very small in most situations—particularly in reenacting. Because rations will not be issued at this

event, the need for company commissary duties is nil.) Sergeants must be able to succeed to the duties of the Orderly Sergeant and platoon leader.

4. *Orderly Sergeant/First Sergeant* (Note: Both terms were used in Civil War) – Responsible for running the company’s day-to-day operations and supervising the company’s non-commissioned officers. Keeps duty rosters and other paperwork, assisted by the Company Clerk (if one is used). A very responsible position. Must be capable of serving as a platoon leader and Company Commander. At this event, Orderly Sergeants will NOT be exempt from many details such as serving as Sergeant of the Guard, because entire companies will be posted as pickets, and they must know their role in Guard Mounting ceremony. That the Orderly Sergeant “really runs the company and lets the Company Commander ‘borrow it’ now and then” is a truism in the real military and should be likewise in reenacting. The “Marine Corps drill sergeant” mentality is probably overplayed in reenacting, and the optimal Orderly Sergeant leads by his knowledge, organization, demeanor, and charisma—not by screaming. Prior to the event, the Orderly Sergeant may be asked by the Company Commander to assist him in organizing the company.
5. *Lieutenant* – A commissioned officer who serves as a platoon leader, assists the Company Commander, leads larger fatigue details, and serves as a file closer. As platoon leaders, Lieutenants have a large role in skirmish drill. The “1st Lieutenant” should be ready and able to take command of the company in the absence of the Company Commander (for instance, if the Company Commander is serving as the Officer of the Day). Lieutenants will serve as Officer of the Guard and may be called upon to serve as Officer of the Day, or on the battalion staff. There is no material difference in the duties of 1st and 2nd Lieutenants. Prior to the event, the Lieutenant may be asked by the Company Commander to assist him in organizing the company.
6. *Company Commander* – Typically a commissioned officer, usually a captain. The Company Commanders will be appointed by the Battalion Commander. The Company Commander is responsible for recruiting his company, its conduct during the event, its preparedness for the event, its paperwork, drilling the company, maneuvering the company in the field, and all other affairs of the company. Must know the duties of the Officer of the Day and be able to capably and confidently perform them in addition to serving as the Company Commander (which also means he must have a Lieutenant able to lead the company in his absence). A very responsible position. The Company Commander must have real leadership ability and needs to be “on top of” pre-event communications with his company.
7. *Company Clerk* – Due to the “campaign” nature of this event the need for Company Clerks is minimal, and their use will be at the discretion of the Company Commander. The Company Clerk is a private or non-commissioned officer who assists the Company Commander and Orderly Sergeant with paperwork and the company books. The clerk must know the duties of the Company Clerk and how to fill out the necessary blank forms and books, have good penmanship and the Clerk’s tools, and possess a capacity for keeping records, and is excused from all other duty. Company

Clerks must provide the company books unless they are provided by the Orderly Sergeant or Company Commander.

8. *Musicians* – Each company is allowed two musicians: one drummer and one fifer. Musicians shall not carry firearms. Musicians may be used on fatigue details, as orderlies (when not otherwise engaged in field music duties), and on guard details as Musicians of the Guard. Musicians from all companies in the detachment will be instructed, drilled, paraded, and marched as a body (i.e., “the field music”) under the supervision of the Senior Field Musician; who will have duties equivalent to (but without the title of) Principal Musician. Company Musicians will bivouac with their company. When united with the detachment, Company Musicians will typically be under the orders of the Senior Field Musician instead of their own Orderly Sergeant. All musicians at the event must be fully functional and know the various camp calls and common marching songs. Prior to the event, all Company Musicians will report to and be coordinated by the Senior Field Musician. Musicians may be detailed to assist the bandaging station.
9. *Senior Field Musician* – Holding the equivalent role (but without the title of) Principal Musician, the Senior Field Musician is the leader of the detachment’s field music (company musicians) and selects and arranged its music and, prior to the event, is responsible for recruiting and organizing the field music and bugler. He is the field music’s “orderly sergeant” and is responsible for their equipment and instruments. He is also in charge of and responsible for the instruction of the Company Musicians. The Senior Field Musician reports to the Commanding Officer of the Detachment as well as his company Orderly Sergeant.

(*Cooks* – Due to the “campaign” nature of this event, company cooks will NOT be used. The men are responsible for **bringing and preparing** their own rations, either as in individuals or in messes.)

“Battalion Level” Positions That Are Not Part of the Field & Staff

1. *Officer of the Day* – A captain specially designated for this job for the entire event. The Officer of the Day is on duty 24 hours; he is allowed to sleep during this time but must always be ready for duty. He is the “Battalion Commander’s” verbal communications link with his subordinates and “reports to the Battalion Commander”. He has general charge of the camp, and generally superintends the Guard; hence, he is authorized to give orders to the Commanding Officer of the Detachment. He communicates the countersign and parole to the Officer(s) of the Guard for both camp police (if used) and pickets. At this event, he is the sole timekeeper for the detachment and ensures that duty calls are beaten throughout the day (when used) by the Musicians of the Guard. During marches he should be near the Detachment Commander unless detailed otherwise. During parades he watches over the camp unless detailed otherwise. The Officer of the Day wears his sash across his chest. Period photographs support the Officer of the Day wearing his sash either: 1) Over the right shoulder and around the waist simultaneously, or 2) Over the

right shoulder only (without wrapping around the waist). **The Officer of the Day is the intermediary between the event's participants and the event support personnel ("kabukis").** An extremely important and responsible position. He will be equipped with a two-way radio.

2. *Detachment Commander* – For this event, a captain. The Detachment Commander is responsible for the overall fitness and functioning of the detachment and serves as the detachment's overall "officer of the guard", including its training, gear, conduct, movements, coordination with the Officer of the Day, and other matters. The Detachment Commander will organize the detachment and assign men to the various companies as required. An extremely important and responsible position. He will be equipped with a two-way radio.
3. *Bugler (if used)* – The Bugler's is to stick near the Detachment Commander to relay orders. The Bugler must possess an instrument and the talent to play it well, and must know all the necessary calls for skirmishing and moving troops. The Bugler will hold the rank of Private.
4. *Officer of the Guard (Outpost)* – The commissioned officers of each company will share the duties of Officer of the Guard at the outpost, with the Company Commander being senior. If a camp police guard is used for other areas of the site during the event, an Officer of the Camp Guard (a lieutenant) will be designed. The Officer of the Guard supervises the guards at the outpost or guard tent and serves for 24 hours or other period specified for the Guard's tour of duty. Related duty includes leading skirmishers and patrols. The Officer of the Guard must know these duties thoroughly and be able to instruct his men in their duties. This is perhaps the most important duty that lieutenants in companies will be doing at the event. If you do not already have it, obtain, read, and learn from Dom Dal Bello's *Instructions for Guards and Pickets*—the best reenactor reference available for this vital job at the Payne's Farm event.
5. *Sergeant of the Guard* – The sergeants from the companies, (for this event, *this will include* Orderly Sergeants) serving at a picket outpost (or, if used, camp police guard tent) to assist the Officer of the Guard and provide general supervision to the soldiers and Corporals of the Guard. Must be able to completely and properly fill out a Guard Report form. If you do not already have it, obtain, read, and learn from Dom Dal Bello's *Instructions for Guards and Pickets*—the best reenactor reference available for this vital job at the event.
6. *Corporal of the Guard* – Corporal from the companies will lead one of each outpost's (or the police guard, if used) reliefs; each outpost optimally had three (possibly more) corporals. For camp Guard, he inspects his relief before posting it as sentinels. He makes rounds to check on the men of his relief and, when another relief is posted, he "fills in" for the active relief corporal while he is away from the guard tent/outpost making rounds or attending to calls from the sentinels. The potential exists that for some or all of this event, sentinels of each relief may be posted together, because this

event portrays men in the face of the enemy and it may be suicidal for a Corporal of the Guard to march his relief around, parade-ground style, in the face of an active enemy in the aftermath of a major battle.

7. *Musicians of the Guard* – Company Musicians at the outpost will perform music-related duties of the Guard. Camp calls, when used, shall not be sounded at the volition of the field music, but rather will be sounded by the Musicians of the Guard at the direction of the Officer of the Day and Commanding Officer of the Guard. Musicians may be detailed to assist the bandaging station.

Cavalry

1. *Cavalrymen* – The Federal Coordinator has made arrangements for a limited number of mounted Federal cavalrymen at this event. The detachment is limited to five men and animals, and will be commanded by a Sergeant. The detachment will be under the orders of the Officer of the Day. Duties of the cavalry detachment will be varied and will involve serving as mounted couriers and, at night, as cavalry videttes.

Medical

2. *Assistant Surgeon* – The Assistant Surgeon at this event shall oversee the bandaging station and portray medical treatment. The Assistant Surgeon is NOT responsible for providing real, modern first-aid. He marches with the detachment until the detachment reaches the area where the field hospital will be established. If required, he can request of the Officer of the Day that he be assigned an assistant when medical duties are heavy; prior to the event the Assistant Surgeon is responsible for arranging for a knowledgeable assistant able to portray the role. At this event the Assistant Surgeon and his assistant (if used) are “first person” jobs and the men who portray them must be capable of extended first-person portrayals. The Assistant Surgeon’s duties are expected to be busy after collection of the wounded. The Assistant Surgeon is responsible for providing bandages and other “consumables” necessary to the portrayal of wounded soldiers, and can arrange for their transportation by the Kabuki Staff. The Assistant Surgeon is responsible for recruiting “patients” for the bandaging station.
3. *Patients* – Patients in the bandaging station are portraying soldiers wounded on picket/skirmish duty, and those of the First Corps wounded in the main battle on the day before the date being portrayed. Patients are to be in “first-person” continuously and must be willing and able to portray 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. This is truly a different type of living history experience that requires a very dedicated living historian, but can be a unique, educational, and potentially even slightly disturbing reenacting experience.

Support Personnel

1. *Kabukis* – Two to three “kabuki” personnel will be assigned to assist the event’s participants (including Confederates) during the event with logistics and miscellaneous “real world” needs. Kabukis assisting the Federal side shall be attired as Federal private soldiers without military equipment (i.e., leathers, weapons); each Kabuki is encouraged to wear a haversack and canteen. The Chief Kabuki is responsible for recruiting other kabukis as required and will be equipped with a two-way radio. Kabukis are responsible for the following:

Providing disinfected potable water tanks, staging potable water supplies in advance of the participants’ arrival en masse at the site, and maintaining potable water quantity and quality sufficient for consumption by 100 men per side (or greater number if so specified).

Assisting in transporting equipment from one area of the site to another, including equipment and consumable supplies for the medical impressionists. Policing the detachment’s bivouacs after the detachment departs the bivouac. This includes cleaning up miscellaneous trash (and providing trash bags), verifying that campfires are completely out and the sod adequately replaced, returning remaining unused firewood to appropriate disposal areas, etc.

Providing/coordinating emergency evacuation during the event, if necessary. This applies primarily to injured participants, but also applies to promptly organizing shuttles of modern vehicles if general evacuation of event participants becomes necessary.

During the event, be “on call” to assist the Federal Officer of the Day and, if necessary, the Confederate Coordinator with miscellaneous, “real world” needs required for the success of the event.

Provide at least two modern motor vehicles, including a pickup truck for hauling water, and either a second truck or a SUV.

Attend event staff meetings during the weekend.

Kabukis are to register for the event as “Federal Kabuki” for their company assignment. Kabukis shall provide their own rations during the weekend.

Suggested Reading

Kautz, August V., *Customs of Service for Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers*, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864 – vital information for all reenactors.

Kautz, August V., *Customs of Service for Officers of the Army*, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1865 – a useful reference for all reenactors, not just officers.

Kautz, August V., *The Company Clerk*, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1863 – important info for not just the Clerk, but also the Company Commander and Orderly Sergeant.

United States War Department, *Revised United States Army Regulations of 1861*, Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1863.

Period drill manual(s) of your choice (Hardee’s, Casey’s, Gilham’s, Scott’s, etc.) – enough cannot be said about the importance of knowing this well.

Dal Bello, Dominic, *Instructions for Guards and Pickets*, 3rd Edition, San Jose CA: Army of the Pacific Press, 2002 – if you’re going to portray guard duty or pickets, get this book.

Dal Bello, Dominic, *Parade, Inspection, and Basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion*, 4th Edition, San Jose CA: Army of the Pacific Press, 1998 – the best pocket reference available on battalion drill, parade, and other matters

Tackitt, Mark, *Guides Posts*, Seattle WA: privately published, 2004 – at last, a reenactor reference for drill below the School of the Battalion!

Butterfield, Daniel, *Camp and Outpost Duty for Infantry*, New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1862.

Craighill, William, *Army Officer’s Pocket Companion. A Guide for Staff Officers in the Field*, New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1862 – how an army and its subdivisions were staffed and how campaigns were to be conducted.

United States War Department, The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (128 vols.; referred to as Official Records or O.R.), Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1901 – with affordable editions of the O.R.s available on compact disc, the O.R.s have become an essential reenactor reference

[End of General Orders No. 3]