

HEADQUARTERS—ARMY OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
at Chattanooga, Tennessee

9 August 1862

Circular No. } 1 series 1862

Below is a description of the Perryville 2016 event as envisioned. Please review the following and consider what we are recreating.

**Introduction:**

This event is not a reenactment, but a recreation in real time on the same ground. Our scenarios actually occurred.

I am humbled by the invitation to participate. We, all, are extremely privileged to participate at Perryville because every acre we will use within the Perryville Battlefield Park and surrounding private grounds is sacred ground.

Sacred, in that much blood was spilled upon it and remains in its soil.

Sacred, as many of the missing who fought there are still interred in its soil, twenty-six infantrymen in one company of the 1st Tennessee alone.

Sacred, in that these graves are unmarked, with their locations erased by time and nature. When we walk upon this soil, we walk where they did. When we stop, we may be standing over them. When we lie down for the night, we may well be lying beside them.

Each was an American, sacrificing his or her own well-being for the cause each chose to support. By recreating what they did there, we honor them without regard to social or political position. As we educate ourselves about their experience and kindle a new appreciation in the visiting public, their memory and sacrifice lives.

On Saturday, we will step off 154 years and fifteen minutes to the moment that they stepped!

How we accomplish this is simple. For each scenario, park manager and historian, Kurt Holman, has selected five regiments for us to portray. During Kurt's twenty plus years at Perryville, he has created tactical movement maps for each regiment in fifteen minute, real time increments. Five commands have been selected to portray these five regiments. We will use his maps as our guide. I and my staff

will create detailed scenario maps for each engagement and share them in advance with Administrative Brigade and Regimental commanders.

### **Military Organization:**

The following is primarily directed at the Infantry. The Cavalry and Artillery arms will be dealt with separately through their chain of command.

First let me be precise in my terminology. Brigades, Regiments, and Companies are the only recognized functional elements of our army. There are no battalions. They reflect the Park's directive in regard to organization and are delineated in General Order No. 1, series 1862. My use of terms organization, battalion, home unit, or regiment in the text below refers to the structure of the organizations to which your unit belongs i.e. Army of the Gulf, Cotton States Battalion, etc.

Accordingly, our Army will be organized into two brigades composed of five regiments. As you will see in General Order No. 1, I have invited leaders from the two largest organizations attending to serve as Brigade Commanders. In turn, the Brigade Commanders have selected the five Regimental Commanders for the event; two in one brigade and three in the other. We will follow this organization for all evolutions the army conducts upon the field, **period!** We will also use this structure in camp for our Army's administrative command and control.

We will follow strict military protocol. The Regimental Commanders will report directly to their respective Brigade Commanders, then to me through my staff at Army Headquarters. Use the chain of command. It is the best way to have your needs met.

Each regiment will move as a solitary unit rather than as multiple undersized units. The internal organization of each regiment is left to its commander and the officers reporting to him. Following historic practice, the size of the companies within each regiment should be equalized by transferring men from the strongest to the weakest companies. This is per Hardee, Casey and Gilham. Each regiment should be organized into companies of not less than forty men each. The decisions about which understrength units are moved, if required, rests with the Brigade and Regimental Commanders. They know you best and will make the best decisions for you.

Ideally, each regiment would also be officered in accordance with period practice. I understand that forcing Colonels to reduce to Captain, Captains to Lieutenants, and Orderly Sergeants to Privates may cause great angst. Therefore, I will not

mandate the internal rank structure of the regiments. I leave the decision of rank to each Regimental Commander. (Note: Two regiments have chosen to use the historic record.) A Regimental Commander may allow officers within his command to maintain the rank from their home battalions. However, all officers are advised that battalion colonels may find themselves functioning as captains during the scenarios. In camp, I have no preference for how you conduct your affairs beyond Army paper work.

Our regimental strengths will reflect the record. Kurt Holman has provided strength reports for each regiment taken 8 days prior to the original battle. From them, I have created a spreadsheet which calculates the ideal strength for each of regiment. I will provide the spreadsheet and by simply plugging in CS infantry registration numbers we can see what size each regiment should be. Your Brigade and Regimental commanders will use that number as a guide to organize your regiments.

### **Conclusion:**

To reiterate, it is the Park's goal, my goal, and my staff's goal to ensure that:

1. Your safety comes first.
2. Every participant has an enjoyable experience.
3. We honor those who originally fought here by recreating what they did here.

If we set aside our personal egos and devote ourselves to the goal of recreating their actions in a cooperative manner we will be a part of a truly unique event.

I look forward to working with you and remain your most humble servant,

R. Watters, Gen'l Cmd'g  
Army of the Mississippi

Concerns, comments, and questions are quite welcome from all ranks. You may submit them to me and my AAG by simply replying directly to this message.