

Tutorial of the Chesapeake Volunteer Guard

This is a short summarization of the basic tactics you will need to know as members of the CVG. This is not an all-inclusive list by any means, so further study is encouraged. The manuals to be used for the regiment are *Hardee's Revised*, *Gilham's* and *Casey's*. For outpost and patrol duty I am utilizing the US 1863 Manual, *Instructions for Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers on Outpost and Patrol Duty and Troops on Campaign*, authorized by the War Department in 1862, and portions from the *1865 Customs of Service for Officers*. This is broken into several parts consisting of battalion maneuvers and smaller unit maneuvers.

Orders.

-When orders are carried by couriers, the place and time of the departure will be marked on them, and place and time of receipt will also be marked.

Battalion Maneuvers

1. To break to the right or to the left into a column of companies.
2. By the right of companies to the rear into column.
3. By the right of the companies to the front.
4. Close column by division.
5. On the left into line.
6. On the left or right by file into line.
7. On the right into line.
8. Forward into line.
9. Being in column by company, closed in mass, to form divisions.
10. Column at full distance, face to the rear, into line of battle.
11. Deployment of columns closed in mass.
12. Deploy the battalion into column, doubled on the center.
13. Form square.
14. Face by the rear rank, and face to the rear.
15. Battalion firings.
16. Change Front Forward.
17. Double Column on the Center.

Company Maneuvers

1. To move by the flank.
2. On the right, or left by file into line.
3. Wheels.
4. Turns.
5. Company firings.
6. Skirmish drill.
7. By company into line from the right and left flank.
8. Movements executed by the left flank.
9. Manual of Arms, Hardee's Revised Tactics for the Rifled Musket, including the stacking of arms.

Outpost and Grand Guard Excerpts

I have taken excerpts from the *Instructions for Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers on Outpost and Patrol Duty and Troops on Campaign*. This Manual was approved by the US War Department in March 1862, and is a revision of Mahan's Manual. I highly encourage each of you to obtain a copy, for further study, but these are some of the key principals:

-Grand Guards will be sent out by all brigades in camp- when in the face of the enemy, for safety; when in friendly country, for instruction.

-Paroles are usually the name of a general, and countersigns the name of a battle.

-Upon arriving at the spot chosen for the Grand Guard, the officer in command throws out a sentry in advance, and proceeds to ascertain the number of posts necessary. He then places his posts so that they can observe what is coming

towards the Guard as well as each other. The officer then reconnoiters the country, making a sketch in which the following are to be noted;

1. Roads
2. Rivers
3. Bridges and fords
4. Morasses, cavities, hollows and mountains
5. Woods
6. Towns
7. All distances between

-By this time he should have chosen where his pickets are to be posted at night.

Operations at Night

-The general rule is to advance the Guard at least 2 to 3 miles ahead of the main body, to place it behind a bridge, ravine, wood or bog, through which the road passes, in order to make an effective defensive effort, and to throw out pickets to the front and flanks. Small patrols of 2-3 men are to be sent out both to the front and flank at one half-hour intervals, and to be constantly kept moving.

-If the enemy be near, no fires are to be allowed.

-At night the pickets must be relieved every hour, and visited every half-hour.

-At night the pickets will be moved off of the hills and placed in the roads, behind fords by which the enemy may approach the Guard, and at the bottoms of hills so that they might discern against the sky any moving objects.

-The fires of a Guard, if permitted, should be hidden. Small posts are not allowed fires at any time.

-Any person approaching the picket line must be challenged in a loud tone twice, and if they refuse to halt the picket is to fire and retire to the main body.

-Any deserters from the enemy are readily identified because they generally make themselves known by flourishing their caps and shouting "deserter"

-When the guard is attacked, the officer immediately sends word to the rear, and the flank guards.

-All Officers in command of Grand Guards, Patrols etc..., must make written reports of everything that occurs.

Order of Advance and Retreat while in the Presence of the Enemy

-If possible, the advance guard is preceded by a detachment of sappers.

Order of Advance of a column with advance guards, rear guards and flankers:

3 Enlisted Men

Sgt., with 7 enlisted men (Sgt's Guard)

Officer with 13 enlisted men (Officer's Guard)

Main column

Officer with 13 enlisted men

Sgt. with 7 enlisted men

3 enlisted men

-Flankers are to be deployed with an officer's guard, then Sgt. guard and enlisted men posted at the far flank, deployed parallel to the column.

-The terrain will determine all distances, whether between Members of such a detachment, or the distances between detachments.

Patrols

-Patrols For reconnoitering within the line of sentinels consist usually of 3-4 men and are sent out for the purpose of detecting enemy scouts and for keeping the pickets on alert.

- The distance apart of the men thrown out will depend upon the nature of the ground; They should always be within sight and or hailing distance

-When the terrain allows, flankers must be thrown out.

- The Main object of a patrol is to be conducted so that it will get the first sight of the enemy, and no part of it can be surprise or captured.

-Every man of the patrol must use their eyes, they must understand everything depends upon getting the first sight of the enemy.

- Patrols are sent out for the purpose of finding the enemy, not to fight him and encounters are to be avoided, even when the enemy are discovered in inferior numbers, and if engaged must seek to capture the whole of the enemy force.

-The officer in charge of a patrol will furnish himself with a map of his proposed route, a compass, field glass and the proper means in which to map the terrain he is patrolling.

- When the patrol has reached the vicinity of the enemy, the main body is to be left under concealment and the officer and few men should advance to discern the position and strength of the enemy. If necessary one might dash out and capture some of the enemies pickets, or at least drive them back as to force the enemy to call out his force, thus displaying their true numbers and position.

-Patrols of discovery are to consist of 3 men as advance guards, 2 as rear guards and one flanker deployed to each flank of the main patrol body, which may number up to 30 men.

-Towards the break of day the patrols ought to be more frequent, and to greater distances.

-Patrols should leave small posts at intervals along their route, march with caution, avoid fighting, and to instruct the advance guards that no two should into a defile or mount a hill together, but to go one at a time, so that one can carry the news if the other is taken.

-On special and offensive patrols, a field sketch of the area must accompany the report.

-On the march, no one is permitted to fire a gun, or order a halt or march without orders.

-Prisoners of war must be sent to the rear and disarmed, and reported as soon as possible to headquarters.