

# The Confederate States of America

## Department of the Trans-Mississippi

Hdqtrs. Co. A, 12th. Texas Volunteer Infantry Regt.

Captain Mike Apple commanding

November 17, 1864

*To all non-commissioned officers,  
Re: execution of fatigue details*

*Gentlemen,*

*By order of Captain Apple, I am directed to define the parameters of the various details most often associated with the operation of a military camp during duty hours. Those definitions are listed below, and reference should be made to them while executing the detail assigned to you during duty hours. Duty hours are defined as "That time period between the posting of the colors at morning roll call, and the retiring of same at evening roll call."*

*The principal details are as follows;*

ORDINANCE

WATER

WOOD

CAMP POLICE

AUTHENTICITY

*The execution of ORDINANCE detail will be accomplished as follows.*

The 1st. Sergeant will assign a non commissioned officer to execute the ordinance detail at morning roll call, and at that time will assign a minimum number of rounds to be expected in each

soldier's cartridge and cap box.

The assigned officer will, upon receiving his orders to execute the detail, immediately approach and ascertain from each soldier in the company, the amount of cartridges and musket caps in his cartridge and cap boxes. He will also determine the number of total cartridges and caps in the possession of each soldier.

The officer will direct each soldier to ensure that his ammunition is readily accessible in the upper tins of his cartridge box, with tails extended, and a comparable number of musket caps in his cap box. The appropriate ratio is 12 caps per 10 cartridges.

The officer will instruct each soldier to place an identifying mark on each package of his own ammunition, and then will obtain and store each soldier's extra rounds in the company ammunition chest, of which that officer will have sole responsibility. The contents of the ammunition chest should be logged in and out as issued, in order to maintain accurate records of the total contents of the ammunition chest, and the extent of each soldier's reserve supply.

As soon as initial count and supply is accurately completed, the officer will immediately report same to the Ordinance Sergeant. Included in his report will be the total number of rounds in each soldier's cartridge box, that the appropriate number of caps are also in the possession of each soldier, and the total number of rounds in reserve that are stored in the ammunition chest. He will also report any foreseeable shortages of ammunition for each soldier, and the names of each soldier assisting him with the completion of each detail.

At the completion of each battle, the officer will immediately follow this procedure, or the following alternative, to re-supply that ammunition expended during battle.

***Alternative re-supply procedure is as follows.***

The company will remain in ranks and execute the command "In place....rest!" The officer will, upon command from the 1st. Sergeant, ascertain from each man the number of rounds required to replenish his own supply to the minimum required for that day's operation. The officer will list each soldier's required amount, and upon accurate completion of his count, shall inform the 1st. Ser-

geant of the completion of same. The officer will then retrieve the required number of rounds from the company ammunition chest and dispense them according to his recorded count. Upon completion of resupply after battle, the officer will report to the Ordinance Sergeant with the same facts as required in the morning report. At the close of hostilities, the officer will return unissued ammunition to each soldier with a reserve available, if that soldier so desires, and then present the company ammunition chest to the Ordinance Sergeant.

In the absence of the Ordinance Sergeant, the officer will make his report directly to the 1st. Sergeant. Presently, the Ordinance Sergeant in Company A, is the 2nd. Sergeant.

The officer will have in his possession, paper and writing instrument capable of making a clear, legible report. The officer will also draw a maximum of two soldiers to assist him in the timely completion of his detail. The names of those soldiers should be recorded, so as to prevent assignment of the privates to repetitious service.

***The execution of the WATER detail will be accomplished as follows:***

The 1st. Sergeant will assign a non-commissioned officer to execute the water detail at morning roll call. The officer upon receiving his order to execute the detail will immediately ascertain that each soldier has a canteen, that is in good repair, and that it is filled to capacity prior to the company leaving the camp to engage in drill, march, or battle.

In instances of warm or humid weather, the officer will encourage each soldier to consume the full contents of his canteen, and offer it for refilling within a time frame compatible with and prior to the company's departure from camp.

The officer will also direct that all company water containers be filled as needed, and that sufficient amounts be available to the company commissary prior to meal times. Upon completion of the detail, the officer will report same directly to the 1st. Sergeant. The officer's report will contain the names of all soldiers assisting in

the completion of the detail, and any foreseeable shortages that may occur. The officer will report the name of any soldier not properly equipped with canteen, or who has not consumed a suitable amount of water prior to departure from camp for march, drill, or battle.

The officer will have in his possession, paper and writing instrument capable of making a clear legible report. The officer will draw a maximum of four soldiers to assist him in the timely completion of his detail. The names of those soldiers will be recorded, so as to prevent assignment of the privates to repetitious service.

***The execution of the WOOD detail will be accomplished as follows:***

The 1st Sergeant will assign a non commissioned officer to execute the wood detail at morning roll call. The officer, upon receiving his order to execute the detail, will immediately ascertain the approximate amount of wood needed for the length of the camp tenure, and locate adequate supplies of dry material.

The officer will take care to secure adequate supplies of both hardwood and kindling. Immediately after roll call, the officer will draw a maximum of four soldiers to transport wood from the supply area to the camp, and stack in close proximity to the fire pit unless other more suitable areas are available.

In instances of wet weather, the officer will direct that waterproof covering be applied to the company wood supply in order to maintain its combustibility. If no waterproof covering is available, the officer will direct that each soldier in the company store as much as is comfortably possible within the confines of their personal quarters. The officer will pay close attention to the wood consumption at meal preparation times, and replenish the supply as needed.

The officer will also direct that all fires within the company street be either extinguished or suitably reduced in size prior to the departure of the company from camp for march, drill, or battle. The officer may leave fires at normal levels only if they are attended by the commissary officer or camp guard.

At the completion of each execution of the detail, the officer will report same directly to the 1st Sergeant. The officer will have in his possession, paper and writing instrument capable of making a clear, legible report. The officer will record the names of all soldiers assisting him in the completion of the detail so as to prevent assignment of the privates to repetitious service.

***The execution of the CAMP POLICE detail will be accomplished as follow:***

The 1st Sergeant will assign a non commissioned officer to execute the camp police detail at morning roll call. The officer, upon receiving his order to execute the detail will immediately survey the visible possessions of each soldier within the confines of the company street and ascertain their compatibility with the time period portrayed. The officer will direct each soldier to remove his possessions from public view that do not comply with the desired time period impression. The officer will direct that all company property not compatible with the time period be removed and hidden from public view. The officer will be especially alert to small scraps of non-period material, such as wrappers, smoking material, etc, that may litter the company street and direct their removal.

Upon completion of the detail, the officer will report same directly to the 1st Sergeant. He will include in his report, the names of all soldiers assisting him in the completion of his detail, and all possible defects remaining within the confines of the camp. The officer will have in his possession, paper and writing instrument capable of making a clear, legible report. The officer will draw a maximum of two soldiers to assist him in the timely completion of his detail, and will record the names of those soldiers so as to prevent the assignment of the privates to repetitious service.

***The execution of the AUTHENTICITY detail will be accomplished as follows:***

The 1st Sergeant will assign a non commissioned officer to execute the authenticity detail at morning roll call. Immediately upon re-

ceiving his order to execute the detail, the officer will visually inspect each soldier for non-period articles of clothing, eyeglasses, weapons, and uniform decorations.

The officer will report defects in period compatibility directly to the 1st Sergeant, with names of those soldiers not in compliance. The officer will use discretion in his report and the amount of leniency applied to each soldier will be based on tenure of service, and ability to provide replacement period articles. Special attention should be paid to time pieces, footwear, and eye wear. If no replacement period eyewear is available, the soldier will be encouraged by the 1st Sergeant to remove non-period eyewear whenever possible.

The officer will have in his possession paper and writing instrument capable of making a clear, legible report, and will record the names of those soldiers assisting him in the completion of his detail so as to prevent the assignment of the privates to repetitious service.

If you have concerns or questions pertaining to the execution of the aforementioned details, address them to the 1st Sergeant for clarification or change.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,  
1st Sergeant R. Hatfield  
Co. A, 12th Texas Vol. Inf.  
Capt. M. Apple, commanding