

**EASE your - ARMS**  
(from ORDER position)

1. Bring down your right hand as low as you can without constraint with the fingers and thumb down the piece, the back of the hand to the front.

**CLAP - HANDS**

1. Move the left hand across the piece, clasping hands and bending the knees easily.  
2. At the same time, bring the right foot about 6" to the rear behind the left - comfortably. Bend the left knee slightly. 3. Take your ease.

(Ed. Note: This is a rest position. You may talk and move as long as one foot remains in place. Also, this command does not mean "give applause!")

**HANDLE your - ARMS**

1. Face to the front. Bring your right hand to the muzzle, thumb on the bayonet stud. Bring your heels together and stand firm and silent, as in the Order. Automatically dress the rank.

**SLOPE your - FIRELOCKS**  
(From the Shoulder)

1. With the left hand push the firelock upwards; slipping it upon the shoulder; and at the same time raise the butt forward. Let the muzzle drop behind but not so low as to strike the head of the man behind you. In doing this motion you will naturally point the firelock to the right, in an oblique position; and it may properly be held so far obliquely, that the muzzle shall be behind the right shoulder, in a range from front to rear. In this position you will balance and carry the firelock in the manner you find most easy. (Ed. Note: Take care not to hit the man behind you. Don't turn around to talk, etc. This should NEVER be done with fixed bayonets. It is a good idea to open ranks slightly before giving this command. )

**ERECT your - FIRELOCKS**

1. With your left hand pull down the butt of the firelock to the hip-bone. At the same time move up the right hand against the stock below the lock, to balance and keep the piece to the shoulder.  
2. Throw your right hand down by your side.

(Ed. Note: This movement also can be dangerous to the man behind you.)

## INSPECTION

Start from **THE POSITION OF A SOLDIER** (if more than one rank is formed, they should "take their proper distance" - see Section 6). The following sequence of orders should be followed:

**POISE YOUR - FIRELOCKS:** as previously described.

The inspecting officer/NCO should walk down the line inspecting each man's musket. He should observe the presence of hammerstall and flashguard; that the flashguard is tight and not likely to slip down during firing; that the lock is securely fastened and no gap is present between the lock and barrel of the musket; that when the trigger is pulled, the half-cock holds. General cleanliness and mechanical condition should be observed. He will also inspect the man's uniform and kit.

**SHOULDER YOUR - FIRELOCKS:** as before.

**SEARCH YOUR - ARMS:**

1, 2, 3. as in **FIX YOUR - BAYONETS**. With the musket in the left hand held by the left side, grasp the tip of the rammer.

4. Draw the rammer in two crisp motions and insert it in the barrel as in **DRAW - RAMMERS**.

At this time the inspecting officer/NCO should again walk down the line. 'When he steps in front of a man, the soldier should strongly flick the right wrist to throw the ramrod down the barrel. A sharp "ping" will indicate that the barrel is reasonably clean and free of obstruction. As the inspector moves on, the soldier should immediately withdraw the rammer; reverse it and replace the rammer in the pipes, coming to the position preceding **RETURN RAMMERS**.

**RETURN YOUR - RAMMERS:** as in the formal loading exercise. See movement #14 of the "35 Count."  
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**SHOULDER YOUR - FIRELOCKS:** as before.



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## WIPE YOUR - ARMS

- 1, 2. Same as in PRIME AND - LOAD.
3. Half-cock your firelock.
4. Take out your cleaning rag. Use the rag and your pick and brush to clean out the touch-hole and wipe the fouling off of the lock and barrel. Return your hammerstall.
5. Cast about - as in the formal loading exercise.
6. Wipe your bayonet (if fixed) and the muzzle of your musket.
7. Return your cleaning rag and come to the position of RECOVER.

This is used at the end of firing exercises and battle re-enactments. Usually, there is some kind of pass in review at the end of an event and this helps to restore some "polish" to the appearance. It also helps to remove built-up fouling from the lock and pan - BEFORE it has time to set.

## DISMISSAL

(Ed. Note: Bayonets should ALWAYS be unfixed before dismissal. If not ordered to do so in formation, immediately remove and return the bayonet to the scabbard as soon as you are dismissed.)

The RWFA has established two ways to do this.

If the muskets have been fired, the commanding officer should order the troops to take their proper distance and, after unfixing bayonets if necessary, SECURE - FIRELOCKS, open pans and return to the SHOULDER to ensure that all are unloaded. After any final instructions, speeches, ceremonies, etc. the order should be given to:

## TAKE CARE TO DISPERSE - MARCH

1. If at the SHOULDER, simply walk away.
2. If at REST YOUR - FIRELOCKS, execute the formal TO THE RIGHT ABOUT - FACE, then SHOULDER YOUR - FIRELOCKS, march two steps, and then walk away.

(Ed. Note: If the field music is present, all orders are executed to the beat of the drum.)

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For formal dismissal, the troops should be formed facing away from the camp so the about face will turn them towards it. Immediately upon dismissal, the NCOs should see to necessary musket maintenance. Everyone should clean and oil his firelock before lodging it.

(Ed. Note: Non-commissioned officers should ensure that the pan is opened and the cock is dropped to the firedposition to relieve pressure on the mainspring. )



Company "Dispersed" and on to the Sutler! Drawing by John Wright

