

SCOUT'S DISPATCH AND REPORT

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE FRONTIER

VOL. I No. 1, OCT 2011

ASSEMBLED BY: (BVT.) MAJOR, DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE, CHIEF OF SCOUTS, BOW VIEW HAYMAKER GAF #522.

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GAF BATTLE RIFLE STANDARDS AND CLASS STRUCTURE ARE A BIG HIT.

Since its introduction by GAF (Bvt.) Lieutenant Colonel, Ordnance, "Drydock", in 2006, the Battle Rifle standard classes have become the norm for the Grand Army of the Frontier musters. From state to regional and National GAF shooting events, these basics classes have been a solid and consistent set of guidelines that GAF members have come to rely on. The classes, based on the rifle being used instead of handgun shooting style or age or clothing, are popular with those who feel the rifle, in all its forms, has played the biggest role in our history. Especially the military history of the Victorian era which the GAF celebrates.

The basic outline of ten classes is such:

- Milspec Repeating Rifle, smokeless powder.
- Milspec Repeating Rifle, Black Powder.-
- Milspec Single Shot, Smokeless Powder.
- Milspec Single Shot, Black Powder.
- Staff Officer- Handgun only, Milspec or of documented Military use in the Victorian era. Shall engage all targets.
- Infantry-Milspec rifle only. Shall engage only designated rifle targets.
- Militia-Lever action and/or civilian spec repeaters, rifle calibers.
- Scout- Lever action, pistol calibers, single action revolvers.
- Buffalo Scout- Single shot hunting rifles (no ejectors), single action revolver.
- Forager Scout- Single shot (ejectors allowed) double barrel (No ejectors) or lever action shotgun, single action revolver. (Bummer class!)

As you can see these classes offer the Scout classes for the regular "cowboys" out there using the standard CAS rifle and handgun up to the Milspec classes for those wanting the full 19th century military experience. These guidelines along with the GAF uniform policy allow for all levels of authenticity. You don't have to have a full uniform to shoot in a Milspec class, however the GAF does reward the efforts of those who go the extra mile to put together an authentic outfit matching the weapons they are using.

SKIRMISH FORMAT INTRODUCED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MO. MUSTER.

In July of 2010, GAF (Bvt.) Colonel Commanding, Dept. of the Missouri, "Pitspitr" introduced the "skirmish" format to the expansion era match at the Department Muster. It consisted of a "trail walk" type stage proceeding up a canyon and engaging targets as they presented themselves. Col. Pitspitr again used this format at the 2011 Dept. of Mo. Muster for the entire match. The stages were all combat walks up into box canyons stopping to engage targets positioned in the brush on both sides along the canyon walls. Several banks of targets are engaged from positions that are loosely defined as the shooter moves through the course. One of the rules was, don't move past a target before it is down or hit 3 times. This often gave the shooter the option of engaging the targets from a stable rest or moving closer for those with lower powered weapons. Proficiency in reloading of the rifle proved vital in these stages as all required more than one full reload. Pistol reloads were also needed on some stages. There were even a couple close enemies that had to be dispatched with bayonet or knife. Some of the basic guidelines to set up this type of course are:

- Moving forward and/or laterally during the stage but no loading or shooting on the move.
- Two or more of the four shooting positions (standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone) whenever possible. (exemptions granted for health or safety)
- Engaging targets from behind cover when possible.
- Both rifle and pistol targets should be spread out, at various ranges out to 100 yds, and some may be partially concealed
- Must hit targets are encouraged using knock down targets as much as possible.

Match Directors should design stages that are challenging yet fun, requiring the shooter to engage targets at various ranges and spacing in a single stage, with reloads, and with movement. Hopefully this format will see increased use across the country in GAF musters to follow.

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2011 GRAND MUSTER ENDURES AFTER LOCATION CHANGE.

After a great success with the 2010 Grand Muster the Division of Texas and the Plumb Creek Shooting Society at Lockhart Texas had to decline hosting a second year. Many of us were looking forward to visiting Agarita Ranch again. However, (Bvt.) Lt. Col. Commanding the Division of Kansas, "Windy City Joe" stepped in to plan the event to be held October 28 - 30, 2011. at the Kansas Vigilance Committee, Garnett, Kansas. This muster will be a primitive camping event (pre-1900). Saturday night banquet meal will be provided; Banquet and uniform judging will be on site. A 200 yd target long range rifle match, a shorter long range pistol match and a GAF, Expansion Era Match on Fri., Sat. will have 8 stages with 2 of them being a skirmish format in the woods and Sun. will be two stages. As always, there is great anticipation leading up to this campaign. It's sure to be an event filled with a wide variety of interesting weapons and soldiers.

REPORT OF 1ST ANNUAL DIVISION OF MO. FIELD MANEUVERS.

To: Brigade Commander, GAF, and Brigade Staff inclusive. From: Ordnance Officer, GAF
Regarding: Recent maneuvers, DivMO.
Sir, I have the pleasure to inform you of the recently completed annual maneuvers of the Division of Missouri, Oct. 16th. Operating in cooperation with the Local constabulary, as well as the citizen Militia of C.O.W.S. (Central Ozark Western Shooters) DivMO completed its 1st annual training exercise. Though DivMO's involvement was limited by the numbers of troops available, it was considered by all involved a great success, with the hope of greater numbers to come in future endeavors. This year's exercise emphasized urban warfare, with engagements utilizing cover and movement from windows, obstacles and vehicles. It was also a "No Miss" exercise, with all participants expected to make up any misses with carried ammunition. ... All the men conducted themselves smartly in the field, garnering much praise from those about them. It is hoped that this will lead to further recruitment among the locals in the coming year.
(Bvt.) LTC C. Luetkemeyer, Ordnance, GAF.
(excerpt from "The Barracks, CAScity.com")

THE GAF / NCOWS DIVISION OF KANSAS MUSTER

The Kansas Vigilance Committee's GAF/NCOWS Muster went quite well with a slight breeze and plenty of shade. ... We had a Texas star on one stage for the pistol. A lot of shooters found out it was harder than it looks. The best anyone did was four points. Also on one stage we had a sliding 12x15 target. The first shot released the target and it would slide down the cable. All you had to do was hit the target at least once while it was moving and before it reach the end of the stop. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Oh! By the way it only took 5 seconds to reach the bottom. ... Challenging but fun, again this is where a double action pistol comes in handily. We had another sliding target; however this one was larger 24x24 and was slower at 7 seconds. Of course it didn't make any difference, it was still hard to hit with a single action pistol. But it was fun trying. And all of this fun was done in the woods at "Duck Creek Dave's" place near Reading, Kansas.

Windy City Joe, (Bvt.) Lt. Col. Commanding the Division of Kansas, the Grand Army of the Frontier
(excerpt from "The Barracks, CAScity.com")

REPORT FROM WINTER RANGE, COLOR GUARD DETAIL

It is an honor and a pleasure to report on the color guard detail performed by GAF members at the opening ceremonies for the Winter Range SASS national championship match on February 24, 2011 at 0700. ... The detail was well received by all present. As an added note, the WR organizers pleased everybody by having all present sing the National Anthem. (Bvt.) Colonel, Commanding the Dept. of the Platte, "Sagebrush Burns".
(excerpt from "The Barracks, CAScity.com")

LEARN MORE ABOUT GAF CAMPAIGNS

Discussions and reports about what other GAF members are up to at "the Barracks" forum at:
www.CAScity.com
<http://www.cascity.com/forumhall/index.php/board.20.0.html>
Also visit the official GAF website:
<http://www.grandarmyofthefrontier.org/index.htm>