

# SCOUT'S DISPATCH AND REPORT VOL. ZERO, BEFORE 2011

## THE GRAND ARMY OF THE FRONTIER

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

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### **GAF POLICY No. 1 GOAL AND MISSION**

October 2008

The Goal and Mission of the Grand Army of the Frontier is to honor the memories and achievements of the late Victorian-era military of all nations between 1858 and 1904, with a particular emphasis on American army on the Western Frontier between 1860 and 1900, through the pursuit and sharing of knowledge, and by actively participating in the hobbies of Cowboy Action Shooting, historical reenacting, living history programs, skirmishing, social events, and other activities while wearing appropriate military attire.

Membership is open to anyone who shares an interest in the history, organization, arms, uniforms, equipment, and personnel of the Victorian-era military.

All members are expected to conduct themselves with courtesy and respect toward their fellow members, as they would likewise expect to be treated in return.

The Grand Army of the Frontier is NOT a military, paramilitary, pseudo-military, or militia organization, and does not espouse any political philosophy or policy.

(excerpt from GAF website)

### **GAF ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, & EVENTS**

The GAF is an all volunteer organization starting with the Brigade Commander and staff overseeing the national and international workings. The Regional or Department Commanders and staff to the Divisions and Districts or States. AS with any group of this type, most of the work is at the local level with sharing of information between interested parties over long distances via telegraph or overland travel.

GAF will conduct a Grand Muster, an action shooting type of event to serve as the Brigade Championship of the GAF. Departments, districts, divisions and even local squads are encouraged to conduct similar events which may be in conjugation with a larger event of another CAS or living history group. Members are also encouraged to participate in other events on behalf of the GAF such as Color Guards or simple historic or social outings.

### **THE GRAND ARMY OF THE FRONTIER SPRINGS FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS.**

It all began in January 2003... at the time it was started, the GAF was a bunch of SASS shooters who liked to shoot in Victorian Era military uniforms. The idea was to discuss things online with no intention of it ever leaving the virtual world and migrating to the real world... By the Fall of the 2003 we had started the postal matches. Back then all our business was done on the Frontier Spot forum. We came to CAS City when the Frontier Spot became too unstable with crashes and such. In about 2006 several of the original leadership had become inactive and since we had become a real world presence General Scout didn't want to see the GAF just go away and assumed command. ...

The first Grand Muster wasn't called that and was in 2004. Back then ... all shooting was done with standard CAS guns. It wasn't until 2007 that the Brigade Champion, who placed highest in both shooting and uniform competitions was awarded. 2007 was also the first year that the Battle Rifles were used in more than just an experimental form for competition. The Grand muster has been held at Garnett KS, Iowa Falls IA, Ord NE, Lockhart TX and will go back to Garnett Oct. 27-30 2011. (excerpt from CASCity.com, by Pitspitr)

### **GAF POSTAL PAPER MATCHES OFFER A CHANCE TO TEST YOU AND YOUR RIFLE**

Has your old Victorian era military rifle or pistol become a "safe queen" for lack of a venue to use it? Have you ever wondered how well your shooting stacks up against your friends in The Barracks but haven't been able to attend a Muster because of time or distance? The GAF has just the program for you; The GAF Postal Shoot and Standard Course of Fire.

The GAF Standard Course of Fire is based on the Army standard for marksmanship qualification during the 1880s, but using a reduced-sized target at reduced ranges to accommodate the modern shooter. (excerpt from the GAF website)

#### **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)  
<http://www.cascity.com/forumhall/index.php/board,20.0.html>  
Also visit the official GAF website:  
<http://www.grandarmyofthefrontier.org/index.htm>

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### **FORT HARTSUFF, NEBRASKA TERRITORY**

Fort Hartsuff was build on the North Loup River in 1874 to protect settlers in the area from the Lakota and to protect the Pawnee further east. It was named after General George Hartsuff, a hero of the Civil War who had recently died. This historic frontier era fort has been the site of Department and Grand GAF musters along with many other living history events. The fully restored fort provides a step back in time. The 1875 Barracks provided enough bunks for up to 40 men at these events and the adjoining mess hall had just the right ambiance for the hearty meals prepared by the Dept Commissary officer, "Delmonico".

Located on the edge at the Nebraska Sandhills, the area gives a unique look into what the Men and Women of the 19<sup>th</sup> century might have seen and felt living and working on the prairie. Morning colors with troops in a wide variety of uniforms from the GAF era and a cold fog across the parade grounds as our American Flag went up is something I will always remember.

### **INTEGRATION OF MILSPEC RIFLES INTO CAS MATCHES.**

GAF Ordnance officer (Bvt.) Lt. Colonel "Drydock" has reported that The milspec rifles have integrated well into the normal CAS type matches with ease on several occasions. Despite the fears of target damage and worries of excessive splashback, there has been virtually no target damage or safety issues using the Rifle calibers of the milspec weapons such as .45-70 Govt. or .30-40 US Krag calibers. As long as the standard CAS load limits are observed it is simply a non-issue. Speed of the milspec repeaters can keep up easily with the other CAS rifles especially on GAF type stages where reloads are mandatory. The single shot rifles have also proved quite quick to load and fire with practice and consistent and efficient movements.

Across the frontier, more "cowboy" groups are allowing the milspec rifle classes into their game. Many are seeing that there are other great weapons of the 19<sup>th</sup> century besides the Colt and the Winchester. Hopefully this can translate into more GAF member and participation.

### **EXCERPTS OF THE GAF UNIFORM POLICY**

**Dress Uniform.** For GAF purposes, a dress uniform is defined as any uniform that would have been worn for parade, formal inspection, daily duty in garrison, and for social occasions. ... A dress uniform is most appropriately worn for GAF and other organizational social events, but not for shooting activities.

**Field Uniform.** For GAF purposes, the field uniform is defined as any uniform worn for duty in the field, fatigue duties, or such other occasions where a formal uniform would be inappropriate for the time period. A field uniform is most appropriately worn during GAF and other organizational shooting events.

**Authenticity.** The level of authenticity is up to the individual member based on their particular interest, the availability of the items, and cost considerations. Since 19<sup>th</sup> century uniform regulations were not as precise, clothing was tailor made or modified, and some items were worn after newer items were authorized, GAF members who enter a GAF uniform competition should be prepared to explain any deviations from the uniform regulations of the period.

**Regulation Uniforms.** A regulation uniform is defined as one that reasonably follows the uniform regulations for a particular country or service for a specified time period. Reference should be made to the official regulations as well as images of the period.

**Silver Screen Uniforms.** Uniforms based on those worn in film and on TV are perfectly acceptable for wear in the GAF.

**Scouts.** GAF members who prefer not to wear a uniform are permitted to wear appropriate civilian attire when participating in GAF events or representing the GAF.

Scouts should wear suits or "showman" attire when attending occasions calling for a dress uniform. ...

Scouts should wear appropriate frontier attire as would have been worn in the field on campaign during shooting events. Scouts should attempt to wear clothing that will readily identify them as scouts and not as cowboys, townsmen, lawmen, etc. (Excerpt from the GAF website)