

POLICY FOR OPENING & CLOSING MONTHLY MUSTERS

FIRST SERGEANT:

The First Sergeant is responsible for opening and closing the Monthly Musters of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Company. In the event that the First Sergeant is absent, the Commander will designate the senior Non-Commissioned Officer to perform the opening and closing responsibilities.

BLESSING BEFORE MESS:

The First Sergeant will ensure that all personnel are assembled in the Grand Hall before calling upon the Chaplain to deliver the Blessing. All personnel will stand for the Blessing; no hats will be worn. The Chaplain delivers the Blessing from the podium.

LINE UP FOR MESS:

The men will line up for the serving of mess, followed by the Officers, and the Commander will be last in line. Any guest will be served first. The collection of meal money, and the serving of the meal is a Quartermaster responsibility.

FIVE MINUTE WARNING:

The First Sergeant will issue a five-minute warning for the beginning of the Muster. Tables should be cleared. There will be no alcoholic beverages in the Grand Hall during the Muster.

MUSTER CALLED TO ORDER:

The First Sergeant will call the Muster to order from the podium. At that time all personnel will be seated in the Grand Hall. No personnel will be in the Grand Olde Company Club, unless directed by the Quartermaster for clean-up.

SECURITY REPORT:

The First Sergeant will ask the Security NCOIC to deliver the Security status of the armory:

Front & Back Doors Locked

Doors Clear for Emergency Evacuation

Security System Operational & Monitored

Status of Fire Extinguishers

Status of Guests

OPENING PRAYER:

The First Sergeant will ask the Chaplain to open the Muster in prayer. The Chaplain makes announcements, informs the Company who needs to be kept in prayer, reads scripture, and delivers prayer. The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry has always been a Christian organization who in time of war and peace has received spiritual guidance from a Christian Chaplain. There is no requirement that a member of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry must be a Christian, however the unit will follow all of the long established Christian protocols.

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

The First Sergeant directs the playing and singing of the Star-Spangled Banner, which is our National Anthem. The lyrics came from the defense of Fort M' Henry during the War of 1812. The War of 1812 represents the first war time deployment for the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The First Sergeant leads the Company in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance is symbolic of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry being a federalized unit during the Punitive Expedition of 1916, and World War 1 1917-1918.

FIRST SERGEANT RETURNS TO HIS POST:

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the First Sergeant returns to his post and the Commander opens the Muster business. At the close of all business the Commander calls upon the First Sergeant to close the Muster.

CLOSING PRAYER:

The First Sergeant calls upon the Chaplain to close in prayer.

DIXIE:

The First Sergeant announce Dixie. Dixie is played while members of the Company sing. The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry served in the Confederacy, fought in the first pitched battle of the War at Big Bethel Virginia, lost members later in the War, and has been involved in Confederate observance from the end of the War to present day. The Confederate soldier is recognized by the Federal government as an American veteran. Confederate service is a proud part of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry heritage. The singing of Dixie at the end of each muster is a tribute to those brave members of our unit that served in the War Between the States. We shall never bend to political correctness, and always remain proud of who we are.

DISMISSAL:

The First Sergeant at the conclusion of Dixie, gives the command "Company Dismissed."