

COLOR GUARD POLICY

An appointment to the F.I.L.I. Color Guard is a great honor. As a member of the Color Guard you are representing a military unit that was formed in 1793 under President George Washington's militia act, a unit that became a charter member of the Centennial Legion of Historic Military Commands in 1876, and a unit that is today North Carolina's official Historic Military Command. On August 23rd 1793, Ensign Robert Cochran was appointed the first Color Officer of the newly organized Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry (F.I.L.I.). Ensign Cochran would become the first in our ranks to unfurl the colors to the breeze. Many generations of F.I.L.I. Color Officers and the men that carried the colors have maintained that proud tradition. The F.I.L.I. throughout time has maintained a high reputation and an unsullied record as a fighting unit and as a "Corps of Gentlemen." One generation after the next has built on this exceptional record. The Color Guard is a group of like-minded gentlemen willing to donate their time, talent and treasure to this honorable duty. As gentlemen we show respect to each other and remember our membership pledge found in the words of the 133rd Psalm; "Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity!" For the most part the only exposure most people have with the F.I.L.I. is when they observe us on parade or posting the colors. The Color Guard has become the face of the "Grand Olde Company." Our reputation is judged in the community by the actions of its Color Guard members. It is therefore our sacred responsibility to always maintain the highest standards of military bearing and present ourselves as true Southern gentlemen. Always . . . "REMEMBER WHO WE ARE."

BRUCE J. DAWS

Major, Infantry
Commanding

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP, SELECTION & RETENION:

- An F.I.L.I. member must volunteer by placing his name in consideration for membership in the Color Guard.
- The Color Officer recommends membership in the Color Guard, which is approved by the Commander.
- A newly appointed member of the Color Guard is placed on a one (1) year probationary status.
- A newly appointed Color Guard member is trained for the position by the Color Officer or his designee.
- A newly appointed Color Guard member is required to purchase regulation pants, regulation black low quarter shoes, and black socks.
- A newly appointed Color Guard member is required to coordinate the purchase of regulation pants and shoes through the Color Officer.
- An active Color Guard member is expected to participate in at least three (3) commitments a year.
- A probationary Color Guard member that does not meet the standard set by the Color Officer will be returned to the ranks, with the approval of the Commander.

- A non-probationary Color Guard member that violates the provisions of this policy, or commits any acts of ungentlemanly conduct may be dismissed upon the recommendation of the Color Officer and the approval of the Commander.

COLOR GUARD CHAIN OF COMMAND:

- The F.I.L.I. has both an organizational chain of command and a Color Guard chain of command.
- The Color Guard Chain of command is; Commanding Officer, Color Officer, Color Sergeant, Color Corporal, and Lead Musician.
- Regardless of your F.I.L.I. organizational rank or position while serving in the Color Guard the aforementioned chain of command is in effect.
- The only personnel wearing rank on the uniform while on Color Guard duty is the aforementioned Color Guard chain of command.

DUTIES OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

- The Commander is always responsible for all that the unit does or fails to do.
- The Commander approves and coordinates all F.I.L.I. commitments.
- The Commander coordinates with the Color Officer on the selection of Colors to be carried.
- The Commander may conduct a pre-event briefing.
- The Commander is responsible for coordinating the details of the commitment with the civilian or military personnel directing the event.
- The Commander makes all final decisions, and coordinates those instructions directly with the Color Officer.
- The Commander calls the colors forward and recalls the Color Guard for retirement of the colors.

DUTIES OF THE COLOR OFFICER:

- The position of Color Officer is appointed by the Commander from the ranks of the four duly elected Captains.
- The Color Officer is responsible for ensuring proper staffing to meet the needs of every commitment.
- The Color Officer or his designee is responsible for notifying Color Guard personnel concerning up-coming commitments.
- The Color Officer makes assignments of Color Guard personnel.
- The Color Officer is responsible for the training and proficiency of the Color Guard.
- The Color Officer ensures all personnel and equipment are loaded prior to departure from the Armory.
- The Color Officer will ensure that all Color Guard equipment and uniforms are returned to the Armory at the completion of all commitments.
- The Color Officer briefs and instructs the Color Guard on the plans for executing the posting of Colors.

- The Color Officer will conduct a rehearsal prior to the commitment and ensure that all personnel understand their individual roles.
- The Color Officer is in charge of the conduct and movement of the Color Guard, and as such all subordinate personnel are strictly charged with following his orders and directives.

DUTIES OF THE COLOR SERGEANT:

- The Color Sergeant is appointed by the Commander.
- The Color Sergeant is second in command of the Color Guard and assumes the duties of the Color Officer in his absence.
- The Color Sergeant is responsible for ensuring that all Color Guard personnel are properly attired in accordance with the established uniform policy.
- The Color Sergeant marches behind the Color Guard and in front of the musicians to ensure proper step, discipline and decorum.
- The Color Sergeant handles all other duties assigned by the Color Officer.

DUTIES OF THE COLOR CORPORAL:

- The Color Corporal is appointed by the Commander.
- The Color Corporal is in constant training to assume the duties as the Color Sergeant or Color Officer.
- The Color Corporal assumes the duties of the Color Sergeant in his absence, and may be called upon to perform in the Color Officers duties.
- The Color Corporal performs other duties as assigned by the Color Officer.

DUTIES OF THE LEAD MUSICIAN:

- The lead musician (Corporal or Sergeant) is appointed by the Commander.
- The lead musician is a technical position acting as an advisor to the Color Officer or Color Sergeant as it relates to the movement of the musicians.

DUTIES OF COLOR GUARD MEMBERS:

- Color Guard members will receive assignments and instructions from the Color Officer, Color Sergeant, or Color Corporal.
- Color Guard members while at a commitment will maintain proper military decorum and act like gentlemen at all times.
- Color Guard members will follow without debate or argument the orders issued by the Color Officer, Color Sergeant, or Color Corporal.
- Color Guard members will turn-in all uniforms and equipment after each commitment.
- Color Guard members will never take home F.I.L.I. owned uniforms or equipment.

ACTIVE AND INACTIVE COLOR GUARD MEMBERS:

- An active member of the Color Guard must perform a minimum of three (3) commitments a year (23 August-23August) in order to maintain status as an active member.
- When a Color Guard member falls below three (3) commitments a year, they are placed in an inactive status.
- If justifiable reasons exist, the Commander may elect to allow a Color Guard member who has not performed three (3) commitments in a year to remain on active status.
- An inactive member of the Color Guard may be placed on active status by performing three (3) commitments a year.

COLOR GUARD TRAINING:

- The Color Officer and Color Sergeant are responsible for the training and proficiency of the Color Guard.
- The Color Officer and Color Sergeant will from time to time call a special drill meeting.
- The Color Officer and Color Sergeant are responsible for conducting individual drill training for newly appointed Color Guard members.

GENTLEMEN AT ALL TIMES:

- All Color Guard personnel while on duty will perform in a gentlemanly manner.
- All Color Guard personnel will maintain proper bearing, appearance, and posture consistent with a professional soldier.
- A gentleman always knows his limitations in drinking, and therefore at no time will a Color Guard member ever appear to be under the influence of alcohol while on duty.
- The actions of individual Color Guard members have a direct reflection upon the reputation of the entire unit.
- Bad tempers, arguing, and otherwise acting out will not be tolerated, and is conduct unbecoming a gentleman.
- Any inappropriate behavior towards a woman is conduct unbecoming a gentleman.
- Any level of rudeness to include vulgar language towards individuals or in public places is conduct unbecoming a gentleman.
- The Color Guard is very select in its membership, and one of the ancient requirements is that our ranks must be comprised of "a corps of gentlemen."

FLEXIBILITY:

- Color Guard members must always remain flexible; situations change rapidly, and must be taken in stride.
- Regardless of how it has been done in the past, members will take their instructions from the Color Officer or Color Sergeant, who will receive instructions from the Commander.

DRILL PROCEDURES:

- The F.I.L.I. has adopted a modified and simplified version of Hardee's Drill.

- The modifications are made for ease of operation by the Color Officer and approved by the Commander.

COLOR GUARD ROSTER:

- The Color Officer or his designee is responsible for compiling the names and contact numbers for active and inactive Color Guard members, and providing a copy to the Commander and other appropriate personnel.

COLOR GUARD ATTENDANCE JOURNAL:

- The Color Officer is responsible for maintaining a journal that documents each commitment and the names of the individuals that participated.
- The journal is an archival record and is also used to determine which members are eligible for the Cochran Medal and additional star devices.

MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND BEARING:

- While on duty the proper manner of addressing the chain of command is “Major (last name), Captain (last name), Color Sergeant (last name) or Corporal (last name.) The use of first names during a commitment is not appropriate.
- As Southern gentlemen, when referring to each other the term “Sir” is appropriate.
- While on duty and in the public eye, unbuttoned tunics, shakos not square on the head, hands in the pockets, shuffling, dragging equipment and other such conduct that reflects negatively on the F.I.L.I. will not be tolerated.
- The F.I.L.I. Color Guard member while on duty will always maintain a perfect uniform appearance.
- The F.I.L.I. Color Guard member will maintain the look, the walk (swagger) that exhibits pride and confidence.
- Always . . . “REMEMBER WHO WE ARE”

FLAG PROTOCOL:

- The United States Flag Code is the governing authority for proper protocol by members of the F.I.L.I. Color Guard.
- The Color Officer will maintain a copy of the United States Flag Code in the Color Office.
- Proper respect will be shown to the colors at all times.

UNIFORM REGULATIONS:

- The Commander is responsible for drafting and distributing uniform regulations which includes the ceremonial uniform worn by the Color Guard.
- The Color Sergeant will inspect members of the Color Guard to ensure compliance with the regulation.
- There will be no unauthorized uniform parts or accessories worn.

PURCHASE OF THE COLOR GUARD UNIFORM:

- Color Guard members are encouraged to purchase a Color Guard tunic and shako.
- Color Guard members must coordinate with the Color Officer before ordering the Color Guard tunic and shako.

OTHER UNIFORMS:

- Color Guard members are to wear the regulation parade uniform, without any deviation from regulation.
- Musician's uniforms may differ; the style will be determined by the Commander.
- Musician's purchasing uniform accessories must coordinate through the Color Officer for uniformity.
- The Color Officer with the approval of the Commander may allow the wearing of different period uniforms in order to commemorate a special event.

TRANSPORTATION TO COMMITMENTS:

- The Color Officer or his designee will coordinate the best method of transportation to commitments.
- The Color Officer or designee will make efficient use of carpooling, and members should share in gas costs.
- It is the custom of the militia to provide service without compensation, therefore unless authorization is approved by the Commander there will not be gas reimbursements.

COLOR GUARD OFFICE:

- The Color Officer is responsible for the office, its contents, appearance, accountability and security.
- The Color Guard Office will remain locked when not in use.
- The Color Officer will determine which personnel shall have access.

COLOR GUARD ASSETS:

- The Commander is the F.I.L.I. Property Book Officer and holds the Color Officer responsible the assigned Color Guard assets.
- The Commander is responsible for inspecting and ensuring the accountability and serviceability of all Color Guard assets.
- The Color Officer assisted by the Color Sergeant will maintain an inventory of all unit owned uniforms, accessories, flags etc.
- The Color Officer will furnish the Orderly Sergeant with a copy of the inventory, which will be entered into the unit computer.

THE GRAVE OF ENSIGN ROBERT COCHRAN:

- All Color Guard appointments, promotions, and awards will take place at the grave of Ensign Robert Cochran in Cross Creek Cemetery # 1.
- The Color Officer is responsible for the security, and maintenance of the Ensign Robert Cochran grave site.

COLOR GUARD MEDAL:

- Effective January 2009, an F.I.L.I. Color Guard Medal was authorized for members with three years of faithful service and attendance at most of the commitments during the three-year period.
- The medal is to be called the Cochran Medal in honor of Ensign Robert Cochran, our first Color Officer.
- Recipients receive a Silver Star device for each additional five years of faithful service.
- The medal is issued in decade series, with the first being the 100 series dating to the service of Major Herman L. Bishop in the 1930s.
- Prior to the Annual Muster, the Commander and Color Officer will review the journal to determine eligibility for the Cochran Medal.
- The medal is awarded to qualified members at the Annual Muster, with presentation being made at the grave of Ensign Robert Cochran.

COCHRAN'S CORNER:

- Cochran's corner is named in honor of Ensign Robert Cochran, who on 23 August 1793 was appointed the first Color Officer.
- Cochran's corner, located in the Grand Olde Company Club is the designated area where members of the Color Guard deposit awards, pictures, souvenirs, and hang their drinking mugs.
- Only pictures of active Color Guard members will be displayed in Cochran's Corner.

COLOR GUARD ANNUAL EVENT:

- Each year on the Friday night closest to October 25th, Saint Crispin's Day, the Color Guard members will meet for an Annual Color Guard social.
- The place and time of the social will be announced by the Commander.

COLOR GUARD ARCHIVE:

- The Color Officer or designee is responsible for ensuring that for each event in which the Color Guard performs, a program or other documentation is collected and placed in the archive.
- The Color Officer or designee will ensure that the aforementioned documentation is correctly filed in the Color Guard archive located at Cochran's Corner.

DISMISSAL FROM THE COLOR GUARD:

- Violations of this policy or any actions that are unbecoming a gentleman may result in dismissal from the Color Guard.

- Recommendations for dismissal are made by the Color Officer and approved by the Commander.

BY ORDER OF:

Bruce J. Daws
Major Infantry
Commanding