



Fort Pulaski National Monument

Historic Weapons Program

Inspection Procedure and Safety Regulations

All small arms brought onto park property will undergo a primary inspection by an NPS Black Powder Weapons Supervisor. Temporary identification will be placed on each weapon denoting it as having passed NPS inspection. Weapons that fail initial inspection will receive additional attention until clearance and identification is given to the piece. If it is determined that the weapon is not capable of passing inspection the piece will not be allowed on to park property.

Unit commanders are asked to provide a roster of the registered participants for the event along with the weapon the individual plans on bringing. Upon arriving to the park the individual will present their weapon for inspection. The main aspects of the weapon that will be observed and checked are:

1. no cracks or splits in stock
2. lock and barrel fit securely in stock
3. no missing stock pins, bands, or screws
4. lock works smoothly
5. half-cock position works properly
6. barrel free from visible dents or cracks
7. no excessive rust or corrosion on the barrel, lock, and cone
8. no fouling in the barrel or on the lock
9. vent is clear and free of fouling

Prior to all firing demonstrations all weapons taking part in such program will undergo a secondary inspection consisting of checking the half-cock position and “springing” the rammer. Weapons that fail inspection will not take part in the demonstration and will receive additional attention from NPS Weapons Supervisors.

Weapons Safety:

At all times participants are expected to display a high degree of discipline with the weapons to insure the safety of themselves, their fellow participants, and the visiting public. Whenever discussing or presenting a weapon to the public, the demonstrator will retain physical control of the piece at all times and never relinquish control of the weapon over to the visitor. In the event a visitor wants to hold or feel the weight of a weapon remember to keep a hand wrapped around the stock or strap of the weapon ready to take back control of the piece in a moment if the situation calls for it. Weapons are never to be left unattended. At no time is a visitor ever to handle a loaded weapon. Never point any weapon at any individual at any time. Always confirm that weapons are not loaded but always treat them as if they were.

Ammunition Safety:

All ammunition will be provided and issued to the units by NPS Weapons Supervisors prior to each demonstration. No units are to bring outside cartridges or powder in any form onto NPS property. Before a unit leaves the firing demonstration area they will return all unused cartridges to the NPS Weapons Supervisor. No cartridges are to be removed from the demonstration area.

Firing Demonstration Safety:

All firing demonstrations taking place on park property will be done under the direct supervision of an NPS Weapons Supervisor. Ramrods may be drawn during firing demonstrations for the purpose of historical accuracy. Loading will be accomplished as instructed in the manuals with safety alterations applied to limit the time objects are in the barrel. At all times firing will commence or cease at the discretion of the NPS Weapons Supervisor

Misfire Safety:

In the event of a misfire, the correct safety procedures to execute for the security of the demonstrator and all around are as follows:

1. Call out “misfire”
2. Hold for ten seconds and then return to *ready* position
3. Check nipple and vent. Pick out vent if necessary.
4. Re-prime
5. Return to the position designated by the officer and continue the firing procedure when ordered to do so by the company officer.

You may try to clear a misfire a total of *two* times after the initial attempt to fire the weapon. After the *third* trigger pull and the weapon still has not fired, bring the piece to the attention of the NPS Weapons Supervisor.

Edged Weapon Safety:

Great attention should be given when handling any type of edged weapon (swords, bayonets, knives) especially when presenting to the public. A demonstrator may draw and brandish a sword so long as it is done when a barrier exists between the bearer and the visitors. At any time it will be done in a safe and prudent manner. When not behind a barrier, out amongst visitors, swords, knives, bayonets, and the like may not be fully drawn. They may be partially drawn enough to expose some of the blade for visual inspection for interpretive purposes, but no visitor may touch the blade. At no time may participants engage in simulated combat with edged weapons. At no time are muskets to be fired with the bayonet fixed.

Park Safety:

All the participants will comply with the instructions provided by the representative(s) of Fort Pulaski National Monument before, during, or after the event. Good order and proper behavior is expected by all persons participating. Public safety and the general welfare of everyone will always be paramount.

No alcohol and/or the consumption thereof will be permitted at any time within the boundaries of Fort Pulaski National Monument during this event. Controlled substances of any type or form (with the exception of prescribed medication) will not be permitted under any circumstances. In addition, public displays of being “under the influence” will not be tolerated. Violation of these items are a federal offense, will result in the individual(s) being banned from the event, and possible arrest and/or fine from federal, state, and/or local law enforcement.

All the resources within a National Monument are to be preserved and respected. In this manner, no excavating is allowed nor may any trees or vegetation be cut or otherwise damaged within park boundaries. All trash will be placed in proper receptacles/containers. The area(s) used during the event is expected to be left in the same condition as prior to the event.

A new firearms bill enacted into law February 2010, does allow the presence of concealed weapons on park property as long as the individual is carrying a permit that meets GA Code of Law. The law does not allow, in anyway, any firearm in federal building such as the Visitor Center or the interior of Fort Pulaski.