

ORDER OF THE SPUR



Example SOP

As of 6 February 2019

Cavalry organizations are encouraged to use this Spur Ride SOP format for use in developing a unit level SOP. For questions, comments or to recommend updates to this SOP format, please contact:

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Note

The intent of this SOP is to provide Commanders with a reference to use when conducting Spur Rides at the unit. This SOP should be used as a guide when organizing Spur Rides and fostering Esprit De Corps.

Spur Rides should be conducted at the Squadron level. Prior to any spur ride, lanes should be proofed by Squadron Leadership (CSM, SGM, S3) to ensure that the desired intent is being met.

THE ORDER OF THE SPUR

The “**Order of the Spur**” is a Cavalry tradition within the United States Army. Troopers serving in Cavalry units are inducted into the Order of the Spur after successfully completing a series of evaluations set by the command, culminating in the final test; the "Spur Ride" or for having served during combat as a member of or with a Cavalry unit. A trooper who has earned both Silver and Gold spurs is known as a "Master Spur Holder." Traditionally, each Trooper is presented spurs by his sponsor at a ceremonial dining in commonly referred to as the "Spur Dinner". Both silver and gold spurs are authorized for wear and should be worn with the military uniform during Squadron or Regimental ceremonies and events or as designated by the Cavalry unit commander. In some units, gold spurs are awarded for combat inductions while silver spurs represent having completed the Spur Ride. Within the tradition, silver spurs and gold spurs hold a similar relationship for the cavalry as the Expert Infantryman Badge hold in the U.S. Army Infantry. There is no Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) requirement for the Order of the Spur and the order is open to members of foreign militaries serving with U.S. Cavalry units.

The tradition of having to "earn your spurs" reaches back to the beginning of the American Cavalry. When green Troopers first arrived at their new cavalry assignments they were assigned a horse with a shaved tail. This led to the nickname "Shave Tail" for newly assigned, spur-less Soldiers. These new Troopers were in need of extensive training in all areas of horsemanship. The horse with a shaved tail was given extra space in which to operate since its rider was marked as a novice. New Troopers were not allowed to wear spurs because they may misuse or overuse the spurs, injuring the horse. Only when they were able to prove their ability to perform with their horse and saber were they awarded spurs.

Induction into the Order of the Spur is for life, and the status travels with the soldier from unit to unit. There is no specific Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) requirement for the order of the spur, and the order is open to members of foreign military serving with U.S. Cavalry units. According to Cavalry legend, as a member of the order, a Trooper also acquires the last benefit of stopping for a drink at the mythical canteen “Fiddler's Green” on their descent into Hell.

This program is the squadron's leader certification program and is dependent on leader involvement at all levels. It is not a voluntary program. All officers and noncommissioned officers assigned to the squadron are expected to actively participate. The intent is to provide a universal framework from within which leaders can enhance Esprit De Corps, promote camaraderie develop proficient leaders with the necessary tactical and technical skills, and humility to "lead from the front". The program establishes the requirements necessary to earn a position in the Order of the Spur. Successful completion of these requirements will demonstrate to all that the aspirant has met or exceeded the training goals as set forth in this Charter and that he has earned his place in the Order.

Conduct of Spur Ride

Spur Rides are conducted as a military mission using an operation order (OPORD). Squadron Leadership can determine the task that should be conducted.

The Spur Committee plans and manages the operation of the Squadron's Spurs Program and all related activities and ceremonies. It also conducts final review of all spur nominees, is the approving authority for the award of new spurs, and reviews documentation of previously earned spurs. The spurs themselves will be purchased by the committee using funds from the Squadron's officer and NCO fund.

The spur committee is composed of:

1. The Squadron Commander (Chairman)
2. The Squadron Executive Officer (XO)
3. The Command Sergeant Major
4. The Operations Sergeant Major
5. The Operations Officer (S-3)

In order for a committee meeting to be held, the following criteria must be met:

1. At least one of the following committee members must be present:
 - a. The Squadron Commander
 - b. The Command Sergeant Major
 - c. The Operations Officer (S-3)
2. 50% of all committee personnel must be present

The Squadron Spurs Officer is appointed by the Squadron Commander, his duties are:

1. Maintain the original Charter.
2. Maintain the record of who serves on the Committee and make changes as appropriate.
3. Serve as recorder for all Spur Committee meetings.
4. Publish the memorandum outlining responsibilities and post the timeline prior to a Spur Ride.
5. Serve as program director for all Spur ceremonies and activities as directed by the Spur Committee.

It is the duty of the Squadron Personnel Officer (S-1) to maintain a roster of current members and the historical record of all Order of the Spur members.

The Spurs Job Book is the official record of a Shave-tail's quest for spurs. A copy is included in the Charter. Maintenance of the Job Book is the responsibility of the aspirant until all tasks have been completed and annotated as such. Commanders are responsible for documentation verifying Job Book entries.

The Spur Ride is the culmination of the leader certification program. It is an opportunity for leaders to demonstrate their proficiency as Cavalrymen. The Spur Ride is a rigorous training event encompassing core requirements and is the final prerequisite to becoming a Spur Holder. This event will generally consist of three rolling phases. Phases I and II must be completed within 12 months of phase III.

Phase I occurs prior to the application for and pursuit of the spurs. Troop Commanders will submit to the Spur Committee a roster of potential candidates, heretofore referred to as Shave-tails. Shave-tails must complete all prerequisite tasks in their Spurs Job Book and submit them to either the Squadron Spurs Officer or the Command Sergeant Major. The Spur Committee will meet as needed to screen the list of candidates, review the job books, supervise training and vote to allow or deny the Shave-tail the opportunity to participate in the Spur Ride. Decisions are based on the total Soldier concept. The majority vote rules.

Phase II is the evaluation process. The Spurs Officer will generate an LOI assigning responsibilities, standards and guidance. This event will include:

1. Pass the APFT by scoring 80% or higher in each event as well as meet the Army height and weight standards within 6 months of phase III
2. Successful completion of Army Warrior Training
3. Qualify Sharpshooter or Expert with M4

Phase III is the culminating event to award the Spurs and will take place at least every three years. The culminating event will give Shave-tails the opportunity to make up an evaluation that they may have missed or failed. At a minimum the Spur Ride will include:

1. TA-50 inspection
2. Obstacle/Confidence Course
3. Watching a historical Cavalry movie with other Shave-tails (Designated by the test site administrator)
4. A 'Go' on Call For Fire (Guard FIST) trainer
5. Writing of *Fiddler's Green* from memory
6. Writing of the *Warrior Ethos* from memory
7. Land Navigation test
8. History & lineage of the your Cavalry Unity (test)

Teamwork is the defining factor that will separate those who succeed from those who fail and must try again at a later date.

It is at these ceremonies that Shave-tails who have completed all certification requirements, received a favorable vote by the Spur Committee, and completed the Spur Ride will be formally acknowledged and awarded their spurs.

Upon successful completion of all three phases, a memorandum for record will be generated and signed by the Squadron Commander listing the personnel who have successfully completed the Squadron Spur Ride or served in combat with a Cavalry unit, and has been issued a Spurs Certificate and authorization to wear spurs. Changes to this Charter may only be made by a majority vote of the Spur Committee or by declaration of the Chairman.

///Original Signed///
I.M. Scout
LTC, AR
Commanding

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Be sponsored by a current Spur Ride Spur Holder.

- 1) Provide a DA 5500-R dated within 6 months of the Spur Ride depicting Trooper is within the maximum allowable body fat percentage as allowed in AR 600-9.
- 2) Pass the APFT by scoring 80% or higher in each event.
- 3) Qualify with primary weapon within 6 months of the Spur Ride for active duty and within 12 months of the spur ride for National Guard.
- 4) Receive a GO on the following Army Warrior Tasks at Home Station:
 - a. Perform Combat Life Saving for Bleeding of Extremities
 - b. Use SOI to determine frequencies
 - c. Assemble/Load Frequencies in SINCGARS
 - d. Send 9 Line MEDEVAC
 - e. Clear; Disassemble/Reassemble; Perform Functions Check; Load/Unload; Correct Malfunctions on M2
 - f. Clear; Disassemble/Reassemble; Perform Functions Check; Load/Unload; Correct Malfunctions on M4
 - g. Clear; Disassemble/Reassemble; Perform Functions Check; Load/Unload; Correct Malfunctions on M240B
- 5) Score a “GO” on Guard Fist.
- 6) Watch “We Were Soldiers” or other historical program with other “shave tails”.
- 7) Pass a written test (80%) on unit history and symbology.
- 8) Pass a TA-50 and uniform inspection.
- 9) Pass a written land navigation exam (80%) as approved by Squadron CSM.
- 10) Complete an obstacle course as approved by the test site administrator.
- 11) Complete a 12 mile road march with 35 pound rucksack in 3 ½ hours.
- 12) Write *Fiddler’s Green* and *Warrior Ethos* from memory with a maximum of three major mistakes, determined by the test site administrator.

SPUR RIDE – CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

NAME: _____ RANK: _____

TROOP: _____ DUTY POSITION: _____

Date assigned to X-XX CAV: _____ Date of Spur Ride: _____

Instructions: This record is to be maintained by the individual Shave-tail. When a task is accomplished the aspirant will ask his supervisor or sponsor to initial the appropriate box as the verifying authority. The shave-tail will present this checklist (and required documentation) to the test site administrator during the culminating event.

Requirement	Date	Super. Initials	CSM Initials
Be sponsored by a current Spur Ride Spur Holder Name: _____			
Report to Test Site with Job Book / Full Kit			
Operate Simple Key Loader/Load Frequencies			
Operate SINCGARS Radio			
Perform Voice Communications			
Perform First Aid for Bleeding of Extremities			
Request 9 Line Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)			
Qualify with M4 Carbine within 12 months of the Spur Ride (attach a copy of the score sheet)			
Clear, Disassemble, Assemble, Load, Unload, Correct Malfunction, Conduct Functions Check on M4			
Clear, Disassemble, Assemble, Load, Unload, Correct Malfunction, Conduct Functions Check on M240B			
Clear, Disassemble, Assemble, Load, Unload, Correct Malfunction, Conduct Functions Check on M2			
Be within the maximum allowable body fat percentage as allowed in AR 600-9 (attach DA 5500-R dated within 6 months of the Spur Ride)			
Score 80% in each APFT event (Copy of DA 705)			
Complete an obstacle course as approved by Site Administrator			
Watch "We Were Soldiers..." with all the "shave tails" competing in the culminating events			
Score a "Go" on Call For Fire (Guard Fist) Trainer			
Demonstrate land navigation proficiency by passing written test (80%) approved by the test site administrator.			
Conduct Land Navigation			
Pass a written test (80%) on unit history and lineage.			
Pass a TA-50 and uniform inspection.			
Complete a 12 mile road march with 35 pound rucksack in 3 ½ Hours.			
Write <i>Fiddler's Green</i> from memory.			
Write <i>Warrior Ethos</i> from memory.			

REFERENCE GUIDE

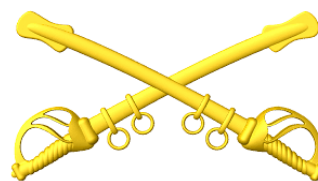
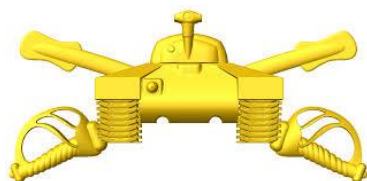
The following are resources to help you prepare for the Spur Ride and the required testing. Events and testing will not necessarily follow the standards set below.

Army Warrior Tasks

Task Name	Task Number & Resources
Perform First Aid for Bleeding of Extremities	081-COM-1032; 081-COM-1005
Operate an Simple Key Loader (SKL) Operate SINCGARS Radio	551-88K-3714 113-587-2070
Request Medical Evacuation	081-831-0101; GTA 08-01-004
Conduct Land Navigation	TC 3-25.26; 071-COM-1001
Disassemble & Assemble, Load, Unload, Correct Malfunction M2, Conduct Functions Check	071-022-0003; 071-022-0004; 071-022-0005
Disassemble & Assemble, Load, Unload Troubleshoot Malfunctions On M240B, Conduct Functions Check	171-19K-1240; 171-19K-1241; 171-123-1079
Disassemble & Assemble, Load, Unload, Correct Malfunctions On M4 Series Rifle, Conduct Functions Check	071-COM-0028; 071-COM-0027; 071-COM-0033; 071-100-0029
Call for Fire - Guard Fist	061-283-6003
Vehicle Identification	TC 3-20.31; ROC-V Database

- You can find most of these tasks in the skill level 1 SMCT for CMF19, some are in the skill level 2, 3, 4 SMCT for 19 D, all can be found online by searching the Reimer Digital Library. (<http://www.train.army.mil/>)

ARMOR BRANCH HISTORY



Branch Insignia: The front view of an M-26 tank, gun slightly raised, superimposed on two crossed cavalry sabers in scabbards, cutting edge up, 13/16 inch in height overall, of gold color metal.

The Armor insignia, approved in 1950, consists of the traditional crossed sabers (originally adopted for the cavalry in 1851) on which the M-26 tank is superimposed. The design symbolizes the traditional and current roles of armor.

Branch Plaque: The plaque design has the branch insignia, letters and border in gold. The background is green.

Regimental Coat of Arms: There is no standard armor regimental flag to represent all of the armor regiments. Each regiment of armor has its own coat of arms which appears on the breast of a displayed eagle. The background of all the armor regimental flags is yellow.

Branch Colors: Yellow. 65002 cloth; 67108 yarn; 123 PMS.

In March 1855, two regiments of cavalry were created and their trimmings were to be of "yellow." In 1861, the designation of dragoon and mounted rifleman disappeared, all becoming Cavalry with "yellow" as their colors. Armor was assigned the colors green and white by Circular 49 on 21 February 1947. When the Cavalry branch was abolished, the present Armor was assigned the former Cavalry color yellow by SR 600-60-1 dated 26 October 1951.

Birthday: 12 December 1775. The Armor branch traces its origin to the Cavalry. A regiment of cavalry was authorized to be raised by the Continental Congress Resolve of 12 December 1775. Although mounted units were raised at various times after the Revolution, the first unit in continuous service was the United States Regiment of Dragoons, organized in 1833. The Tank Service was formed 5 March 1918. The Armored Force was formed on 10 July 1940. Armor became a permanent branch of the Army in 1950.

Lineage and Honors of the Organization

HERALDRY



Shoulder Sleeve Insignia: Originally approved on 21 October 1954

Distinctive Unit Insignia: Originally approved for the Armor School on 20 December 1948

Armor School Patch

An equilateral triangle divided into three sections, the upper section yellow, the dexter section blue and the sinister section red, overall a gun bendwise in front of a tank track and wheels all black surmounted by a red lighting flash bend sinisterwise, all within a green border. The attached tab of green background edged with a green border, has the respective inscription: School Shoulder Sleeve Insignia Tab: The inscription "The Armor School" in yellow letters.

*Motto: "**Forge The Thunderbolt**" is defined as the philosophy that armor machines of war are important but that success on the battlefield ultimately rest on the men who use those machines.*

Armor School Crest

A silver color metal and enamel device consisting of a shield Vert semi of escutcheons and javelins alternating Argent. Behind the shield two silver torches enflamed Proper; below the shield and entwined with the torches a white scroll edged in green bearing the motto "Forge The Thunderbolt" in black.

Symbolism

The escutcheons and javelins are symbolic of defensive and offensive armor. The torches represent learning and leadership.

LINEAGE

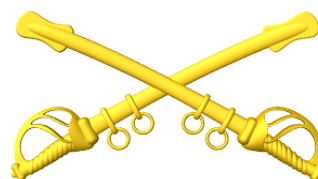
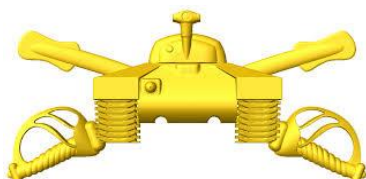
The United States Army Armor School was established on 1 October 1940, in Fort Knox, Kentucky as the Armored Force School. Eighty thousand students passed through the school in its first four years, with the first class starting 4 November of the same year. As of 30 September 1965, the armor school had graduated 214,122 students 59,737 of which were officers, 140,909 of which were enlisted soldiers, 13,476 of which were officer candidates as well as students from 63 nations.

The school was established by then Lieutenant Colonel Stephen G. Henry under the guidance of Brigadier General Adna R. Chaffee, for whom the headquarters building is now named after. On 1 July 1957, the school was given its current name. It originally consisted of seven departments: Tank, Wheeled vehicle, Motorcycle, Communication, Tactics, Gunnery, and Field engineering. The United States Army Armor School is now located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Its primary focus is the training of United States Army Soldiers, NCOs, and commissioned officers in the operation, tactics, and maintenance of Armor forces and equipment, including the M1 Abrams main battle tank, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, assorted crew served and personal weapons, and various other equipment including radios. The school is also the site where U.S. Marines are sent for training on the Abrams tank. The Armor School moved to Fort Benning in 2010 as part of the United States Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program.

RESOURCE

Lineage and Honors information can be found online by searching the U.S. Army Center of Military History at www.history.army.mil

THE ARMOR BRANCH NARRATIVE



The United States Army Armor Branch is the Combat Arm of Decision. We are the premier mounted maneuver force comprised of the best trained, best led, best equipped, and most lethal Tankers and Scouts in the world. Soldiers first, we are experts in the art of maneuver warfare; mounted and dismounted reconnaissance and security operations; and the employment of combined arms and joint capabilities on the battlefield.

Armor and cavalry troopers thrive in conditions of ambiguity, uncertainty, and complexity; comfortable away from the main body-out front or on the flanks-and decisive when leading it. We operate with a mission command mentality always seeking opportunities to seize, retain, and exploit the initiative; creating and preserving freedom of action for our force while denying the enemy options.

Armor and cavalry leaders combine the superior capabilities of our equipment with the ingenuity of our Troopers to find, fix, close with and destroy the enemies of our nation through combinations of mobility; precise, lethal, and overwhelming firepower; and devastating shock effect.

Armor branch is a team of teams ready to fight and win anytime, anywhere, under any conditions of battle.

FORGE THE THUNDERBOLT!

I AM ARMOR

I came of age as a mounted arm of decision at Cowpens, during our war of independence-surprising Tarleton's brigade and driving them from the battlefield. I later served as a commander's eyes and ears-locating, probing, and dispersing the enemy throughout the War of 1812 and into the American Civil War. The exploits of Forrest, Mosby, Custer, Sheridan, Stuart, and other proponents of fast-moving decisive warfare and tactics, developed and refined, strengthened the Union beyond Appomattox and the hostile hour.

On Europe's Western Front in 1918 my fledgling Tank Corps was the mechanized force that helped bring victory, Over There. After World War I, I matured as a tank organization, crafting combined arms teams with Tankers and Infantrymen. At Fort Knox, I pioneered a new type of organization built around the tank. Through hard work and large-scale maneuvers, I developed revolutionary principles of organization, command and control, and battlefield operations that became the foundation of today's Armor.

In 1941 I battled the Japanese defiantly in the Philippines. I rose above defeat at Kasserine Pass to drive the Germans from North Africa. I freed Sicily and contributed to Italy's liberation from Fascism. In my Sherman tanks I doggedly pushed beyond Normandy, defeating elite German forces. In the snow and ice of the Ardennes, I blocked the German offensive and relieved Bastogne. I crossed the Rhine River at Remagen and loosened the tyrant's grasp on Germany. I led the American columns as they raced through northern Italy after the fall of Rome. I pursued the Germans in their retreat from France, and linked up with our Russian allies at Torgau.

War in Korea came as a surprise in 1950, when my Shermans again saw service defending the Pusan Perimeter. I beat back North Korean attacks before leading the United Nations counteroffensive that drove to the North Korean capital. When the Chinese intervened, I protected the columns of UN Soldiers during their withdrawal. For the rest of the war, I ensured no communist offensive would break our lines and secured South Korea's freedom. In my jeep, Chaffee tanks, and halftracks, I secured our flanks and rear area, always probing for mines and enemy infiltrators.

In Vietnam I hunted the Viet Cong and NVA with my M48s, M113s and Sheridans. On desolate roadways I defeated ambushes. I drove through the jungles, clearing safe trails, destroyed his safe havens and defeated him wherever I found him. I developed new counterinsurgency tactics that drew the enemy to fight and lose. I protected convoys, conducted cordon and search missions, and hunted the enemy wherever he went day and night.

During the Cold War, in my M60 mount I stood guard along West Germany's borders-a reminder to the Soviet horde that any invasion would meet formidable resistance. The Fulda Gap was my sector and Germany became my second home. I was the tripwire to provide early warning of any Warsaw Pact invasion and disrupt hostile forces, while my American and NATO brethren practiced Airland Battle and rehearsed their battle plans.

In 1991 I took my M1 Abrams and Bradleys to war, tasked to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation and secure the Saudi kingdom. I fought the Republican Guard and left them shattered at the foot of Medina Ridge. My presence was enough to make Iraqi units surrender en masse. I led the advance of the VII Corps through the sandstorms and Iraqi defenses, leaving in our wake the smoke plumes of many enemy armored vehicles. At 73 Easting, I drove through Iraqi defenses and overran their positions without stopping.

In 1995, I crossed the Sava River into Bosnia to enforce the peace. In 1999, I accompanied NATO forces when they entered Kosovo to protect another emerging nation from the horrors of civil war. I served in Bosnia and Kosovo and along the Macedonian border to preserve peace in the Balkans.

I was the steel wave that crossed into Iraq in March 2003. I battled my way to Baghdad and conducted the Thunder Runs that toppled Saddam's evil regime. I set the stage for the birth of a new Iraq. I shaped the battlefield and set the conditions for victory. I fought militias, insurgents, and terrorists in the desert and in the cities. I bled to make a better tomorrow for Iraq. I used my scout skills to find terrorists wherever they lurked. I was an emissary of democracy but I used my combat skills to crush those who sought to sow the seeds of chaos and anarchy.

I helped build and train the Afghan National Army, and together we took the fight to the Taliban in the mountains of Afghanistan. I trained their scouts and mounted soldiers, and showed them how best to employ their Russian vehicles and weapons. Through my actions and sacrifice I showed the Afghans an alternative to a future of poverty and violence.

“The Combat Arm of Decision always stands ready to destroy the enemies of our Nation”

FORGE THE THUNDERBOLT!



THE STORY OF “OLD BILL”

Of the many fine artists who turned their talents to portraying the great American West, Frederic Remington came perhaps closest to being the United States Cavalry's own. The noted artist contributed materially to the enduring historical record of our western frontier and the Cavalry was a major subject of his pen and brush.

This facet of his work brought Remington single recognition from the mounted fraternity during the 1890's when the United States Cavalry Association, professional society of the mobile arm, and the publishers of the famous Cavalry Journal awarded him a lifetime membership.

Several years later Remington took occasion to show his appreciation of this honor. In his gesture lies the story that spans over a century and holds elements of genuine interest for the collector, the historian, the artist, and the Soldier.

In 1898, Remington visited the camp of the 3rd Cavalry at Tampa, Florida where the regiment was staging for the Santiago campaign. The artist, on his way to cover the war in Cuba for Harper's Weekly, was a close friend of Captain Francis H. Hardie, commanding Troop G of the 3rd.

During his visit, Remington's attention was drawn to one of the troop's noncommissioned officers, Sergeant John Lannen. A superb rider and an imposing figure, Lannen impressed Remington as the epitome of the Cavalryman. The artist made several rough sketches of the white-haired, white-mustached noncommissioned officer in front of the troop commander's tent.

From these roughs Remington later executed the now famous drawing entitled “The Trooper” portraying a Cavalryman mounted on his horse with a carbine cradled in his arms. This he presented to the Cavalry Association in 1902. In January 1903, this drawing first appeared on the cover of the Cavalry Journal. And there it stayed for forty years.

Always a branch of great esprit, and highly conscious of history and tradition, the Cavalry took the Remington masterpiece to its heart. Somewhere through the years it picked up the label "Old Bill" and became a sort of symbol, so that, although it was shouldered off the front cover of the Cavalry Journal in mid-1942, and was displaced in turn from the back cover of the successor Armored Cavalry Journal in late 1948, it appears to this day on the masthead page of ARMOR - continuation magazine of the mounted arm- as a trademark of mobility in war.

What of the man who served as model for the Remington sketch? At the time he posed, Sergeant John Lannen was approaching thirty years of service and anticipating retirement. The blue-eyed, ruddy-complexioned soldier was held in high esteem by his officers as an outstanding noncommissioned officer-loyal, a stern disciplinarian, but with unflinching good humor under trying conditions. Hardie pictured him a "strikingly

handsome soldier, a gallant man and a noncommissioned officer of the old-fashioned kind whose orders were always obeyed." Frederic Remington certainly has captured all of this in "Old Bill" and the result is an effective personification of the mounted Soldier.

Fate was not to grant Sergeant Lannen the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved retirement, nor would it be his destiny to fall gloriously on the field of battle. At the end of the campaign and on the eve of his retirement, he succumbed in Cuba, along with many of his comrades, to yellow fever.

But if the manner of the veteran noncommissioned officer's passing was something of less than heroic, he left a legacy in compensation. Everything he represented - a man, a Soldier, a service - lives on after him, immortalized in the work of Frederic Remington.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, SQUADRON, CAVALRY REGIMENT
111 NORTH EAST STREET
Ft BENNING, GEORGIA 31820

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Stetsons and Spurs

1. The wearing of "Cavalry Stetsons" and Spurs goes back to the late 1800s when Cavalry troops were stationed on the frontier during America's westward expansion. In 1865, John Stetson started the John B. Stetson Hat Company and began making a durable, reliable hat for cowboys and soldiers. A year later the now famous "Boss of the Plains" hat was born and the name Stetson became synonymous with the Cavalry's headgear.

2. Today's Cavalry units still wear the Stetson as a link to the traditions of the Cavalry of past. This memorandum defines how this squadron honors those traditions.

3. The Stetson

A. All Officers and Troopers assigned to Cavalry Squadrons are authorized and encouraged to purchase and wear a Stetson. There are many vendors but only one Stetson. Take care to ensure that your Stetson is authentic. There are several styles of Stetson's available. No one style is more prescribed than the other, so long as it is a valid Cavalry-style Stetson. The wearer must be prepared to answer challenges as to the style's authenticity. It is considered bad form to refer to a Stetson as a "hat," though calling it a "Cav hat" is acceptable.

B. Black is the only authorized color for the Stetson. Rank and regimental crossed sabers or ordinary Cavalry brass will adorn the Stetson. Rank and crossed sabers must be gold or gold in color with the rank centered above the crossed sabers. The braid will be worn around the base of the Stetson either on the leather head band or just above the leather head band. Braid ends or acorns will be centered at the front of the Stetson with no more than one acorn length extending over the brim. Acorns may not dangle. Combat knots are authorized for Troopers who have been awarded gold spurs. One DUI may be worn in the center of the back of the Stetson of the current unit that a Soldier is assigned to.

C. The exception for headgear is 11th ACR. 11th ACR wears headgear is referred to as a "campaign hat." It resembled a fedora with a crease down the middle of the crown. Only rank and regimental crossed sabers or ordinary Cavalry brass will adorn the campaign hat. Rank and crossed sabers must be gold or gold in color with the rank

centered above the crossed sabers. The braid will be worn around the base of the campaign hat either on the leather head band or just above the leather head band. Braid ends or acorns will be centered at the front of the campaign hat with no more than one acorn length extending over the brim. Acorns may not dangle. Combat knots are authorized for Troopers who have been awarded gold spurs.

Officers and Troopers will wear the appropriate colored braid.

- a. Field Grade Officer: Solid Gold
- b. Company Grade Officer: Gold and Black
- c. Warrant Officer:
 1. CW4, CW5: Solid Silver
 2. WO1, CW2, CW3: Silver and Black
- d. Noncommissioned Officer: Yellow
- e. Enlisted Soldier: Yellow

D. The nape strap will be threaded through the eyelets in the brim from bottom to top. It will be affixed in such a manner that it secures the leather head band and braid to the brim, the buckle is fastened, and the strap is worn snug on the back of the wearer's head.

E. The brim will not be curled up or curled down on the sides and will remain relatively flat with a slight droop at the front. A slight droop at the rear is also authorized. The Stetson is worn with the brim parallel to the ground.

F. Before the initial wearing of the Stetson, it must be properly "broken in". For the Stetson to be broken in, it must be brought to a location pre-determined by the ranking Officer prior to the sanctioned function. There a single bottle of "Cavalry Beer" or bottle of water will be poured into the Stetson and consumed by the Trooper. Before consuming the drink, the OIC will recite Fiddler's Green and make the toast "to our comrades waiting for us at Fiddler's Green." This is an old tradition which began when riders, upon reaching a steep river bank, would dismount and fill their hats with water for their horses to drink!

G. Occasions for wearing the Stetson may be Squadron dining-ins/dining-outs, Hail and Farewells, formal Cavalry events in Class A, dress blues, mess dress, or the Army Service Uniform, official gatherings of Spur Holders, Spur Rides, Change of Commands or Responsibility, the last Sunday of the quarter at the end of drill, and when deemed appropriate by the Commander. While on duty, standard Army headgear is the only authorized headgear worn en route to or from any events occurring outside the immediate squadron area.

4. The Spurs

B. On the western frontier, Cavalry Troopers had to undergo rigorous training and professional development before being awarded spurs. Earning spurs was not optional. Today, spurs indicate that the modern Trooper has demonstrated, by test, Cavalry and leadership skills greater than those expected of the common Soldier. Only Officers and Troopers who have passed a legitimate Spur Ride, or served in combat with a Cavalry unit, and been issued a Spur Certificate are authorized to wear spurs.

C. Spurs will be worn as a matched pair. Only silver and gold Prince of Wales type spurs may be worn. The spurs will be affixed to the footgear midway between the upper portion of the sole and the lower part of the heel along the seam of the shoe or boot. The U-shaped portion shall enclose the footgear in such a manner as to ensure that the stub curves down towards the ground. The strap will be black leather and must be clean and polished. It will be fastened over the instep of the footgear in such a manner that the buckle faces to the outside of the foot and the free-running end of the strap points down toward the ground.

D. Occasions for wearing Spurs may be Squadron dining-ins/dining-outs, Hail and Farewells, formal Cavalry events in Class A or dress blue uniforms, official gatherings of Spur Holders, Spur Rides, Change of Commands or Responsibility, and when deemed appropriate by the Commander. Spurs are not authorized for wear en route to or from any events occurring outside the immediate squadron area. (Same as F above)

5. POC for this memorandum is the Command Sergeant Major.

///Original Signed///
I.M. Scout
LTC, AR
Commanding

TAKING CARE OF YOUR STETSON

Your Stetson adds the final accent to compliment your dress. When a Trooper dons his Stetson lesser men step aside, children stop to stare in awe, and the ladies whisper his name. Preserving your Stetson's original appearance will bring years of Stetsoning pleasure. Proper care is the key to extending the life of your Stetson, as well as ensuring you look like a gentleman.

Below are some general tips on caring for your Stetson.

1. Avoid placing the brim of your Stetson on a flat surface. This may cause the brim to flatten and lose its shape. Instead, place the Stetson upside down on its crown or store it in a Miller Hat Box.
2. Avoid handling your Stetson by the crown. If your hands are dirty or oily they will leave spots on the fabric. When donning, adjusting or removing your Stetson hold it by the brim.
3. Never leave your Stetson in a hot car or anywhere that may become exceptionally warm. Heat causes the sweatband to shrink. If this happens, your Stetson may no longer fit properly.
4. Avoid storing your Stetson in a humid place. Moisture will distort the shape of the brim and may cause mold and other little nasties to grow.
5. Remove surface dirt from a Stetson with a soft hat brush. Use a dark colored hat brush since your Stetson is black. Do not scrub your Stetson; be gentle. Use a lint brush or gently pat the Stetson with masking tape to remove lint.
6. To keep the sweatband dry of perspiration occasionally turn down the sweatband to dry. With the leather sweatband turned out, perspiration and hair oil will evaporate instead of soaking into the Stetson.





THE SOLDIER'S CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Note: The warrior ethos is the bold portion of the Soldier's Creed which must be memorized for the Spur Ride.

FIDDLER'S GREEN

A ballad was written anonymously for the US Cavalry, published in a 1923 US Cavalry Manual. It is still used in modern Cavalry units to memorialize the deceased.

*Halfway down the trail to hell
In a shady meadow green,
Are the souls of all dead troopers camped
Near a good old-time canteen
And this eternal resting place
Is known as Fiddler's Green.
Marching past, straight through to hell,
The infantry are seen,
Accompanied by the Engineers,
Artillery and Marine,
For none but the shades of Cavalrymen
Dismount at Fiddlers' Green.
Though some go curving down the trail
To seek a warmer scene,
No trooper ever gets to Hell
Ere he's emptied his canteen,
And so rides back to drink again
With friends at Fiddlers' Green.
And so when man and horse go down
Beneath a saber keen,
Or in a roaring charge or fierce melee
You stop a bullet clean,
And the hostiles come to get your scalp,
Just empty your canteen,
And go to Fiddlers' Green.*

