

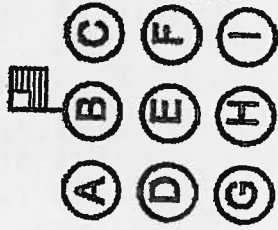
# Civil War Color Guard and Color Company



Color Company in Battle Formation

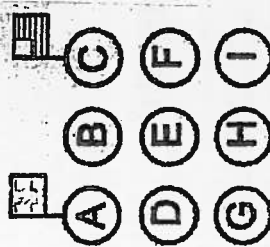
# The Guard

- It was a very high honor to be selected to carry the colors- and very dangerous.
- There were generally 8 men in the color guard, although often 8 were also used (especially reassembling units)
- The men selected for this honor would be responsible and preferably large, since strong winds could pull the flags, a strong presence in the color guard would help to steady the men, and it was useful to have brute strength in hand to hand situations
- The make up of the guard could affect the performance and reputation of an entire regiment
- The color bearer would hold the rank of Sergeant, and the other men would be either Sergeant or Corporal. The Color Sergeant gives the commands
- This guard does not perform drill, unless on Battalion Parade



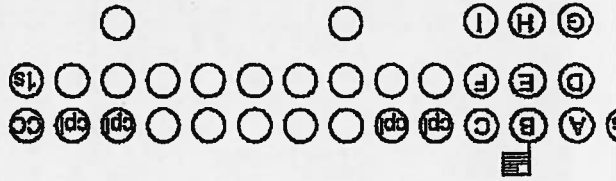
# The Flags

- The Color Sergeant always carries the National flag, unless he chooses to allow two corporals to carry the flags
- If the party is carrying 2 flags, the National will be carried on the right, and the Regimental or State flag is carried on the left (usually done in the Union)
- If the party is only carrying 1 flag, then the Sergeant will carry it in the middle file of the front rank
- The flag would be carried on the right hip, with the bearer's right hand at shoulder height (fish), many used a carrier which held the staff in front around the lower abdomen
- The rest of the color guard would carry loaded and capped muskets, but would not fire unless the flag(s) were being threatened



# Within the Color Company

- Color guard forms on the left of the company (see first slide illustration)
- Some mixed information about manual of arms- some say it should occur per the company, others say the guard should stay at the shoulder arms -- we change with the color company
- Manual of arms would be performed by the musketeers in the guard, while the flags would remain stationary on the hip
- 'Present arms' would result in the flag being held at the hip of the bearer and dipped, with the right hand being raised on the staff to eye level and extended, so the staff would then be at a 45 degree angle
- While on campaign, the flags would remain with the Color Sergeant, although they would be stored in the Colonel's quarters when in an established camp



## Within the Regiment

- A Color Company would be posted in the field first, by the Adjutant, and the companies of the regiment would form on them for parade (see illustration)
- The Color Company is in the middle of the regiment, with the flag being the 'center' of the line
- All regimental companies dress on the center in this formation



## On the March

- When marching in column of companies, the Color Guard stays with its company and guides on the company in front
- When marching in columns of 4, there is mixed information available: a) the color guard stays in its formation of 3 rank and 3 file, while everyone else goes into fours (logically) or b) the color guard performs in tandem with the color company (what we do as reenactors)

Column of 4s

Column of Companies

## In the Field

When in the line of battle, the colors are kept on line with the rest

When the command to advance is given, the front rank of the color party advances before the rest of the regiment, while the second and third ranks of the color party step forward to hold the front rank's place in line. Many problems can occur at this time. When a halt is ordered, the colors post, and the rear ranks step back into their original positions

When the command to fire is given, the color party will step back one pace, so the front rank of the party is aligned with the rear rank of the company- preservation of the colors

When a charge is commanded, the Colors would advance as above, risking the loss of the colors to the enemy, so most often, the guard would have knowledge of an impending charge and remain in the ranks with the rest of the company



## The Retreat

The intent is the preservation of the colors, so if there is an about face, then the front rank would switch places with the center rank

If the whole battalion is broken, then the guard must be able to run faster than the rest and attempt to place the bulk of the regiment behind them

## Casualties and Capture

- Because of the nature of the flag being a prime target, there are many casualties
- As reenactors, we can take his most successfully and convincingly within the Color guard. When this occurs, the fallen should be left with the new bearer's musket to decrease danger and bulk in movement
- If the flags are captured, then it should be the Color Sergeant whom accepts the capture. If in reality, the bearer could either accept capture himself but keep the flag safe, or give up the flag and go wherever it goes

## A "Mini-manual" on the Practices and Evolutions of the Color Guard and General Guides.

by John E. Tobey

One of the most curious of all reenactor battalion practices is the assignment of untrained or inexperienced color guards and general guides. In general, battalion maneuvers consist of the individual companies aligning themselves on the guides and color guard. The placement of the flags was developed to facilitate this. It is doubtful that an experienced regiment during the Civil War could have maneuvered efficiently without at least a competent color guard. It should not be a surprise when our reenacting units have similar trouble today.

What we will be concerned with here is the "how to" of flag-bearers and some historical data relative to their day-to-day activities.



### Men of the Color Guard.

By regulation, color guards were supposed to consist of nine men. If one flag was carried, the sergeant carried the flag and stood between two corporals in the front rank. If two flags were carried, the color sergeant stood between two other sergeants who carried the flags.<sup>1</sup> In either case, the color sergeant was the "color guard commander." Historical sources also reveal some color guards in which two flags were carried with a sergeant bearing the "Stars and Stripes," and a corporal bearing the state or regimental flag.<sup>2</sup> As one would expect, some color guards consisted of less men—the color guard of the 124th New York Infantry at Gettysburg consisted of six men.<sup>3</sup>

There were a number of different procedures used during the war to fill the ranks of the color guard. Some regiments awarded the colors to a particular company, and others selected a single man from nine different companies. No matter what method was used, however, the actual choice of soldiers was made carefully, for duty in the color guard

was considered a high honor and could have a profound effect on the performance and reputation of the regiment.

In general, the ideal color guard soldier was *responsible* and a *large* man.

Size was important for a number of reasons. John Gould's company of the First Maine Infantry was supposed to get the colors of their regiment, but did not have any sergeants who were big enough:

The regiment formed outside the Depot and received the colors. Our company having no sergeant of sufficient physical powers, [one of the other companies] furnished one which was too heavy to be blown away. . .<sup>4</sup>

As indicated by this quote, the primary reason for having big fellows as color bearers was due to the physical strength needed to control the colors in a strong wind. Another substantial reason behind choosing strong men was to lessen the potential of having enemy soldiers overpower the guard and swipe the flags.

There are other references to large color guards. Corporal Buffum of the 52nd Massachusetts Infantry was six foot, two or three, and Corporal Van Wyck of the 150th New York Infantry was six foot, two. Photographs of color guards also commonly show large men.<sup>5</sup>

Responsibility was another desirable trait for obvious reasons. Peter Welsh wound up bearing one of his regiment's colors because the old color bearer neglected to bring his flag when the battalion fell in!<sup>6</sup>

Occasionally, a member of the color guard would surprise his comrades with a show of self-preservation that was not considered proper for a man in his esteemed position. William DeForest wrote,

We had two flags, the United States Flag borne by a sergeant named Edwards and the Connecticut flag borne by a sergeant whom I forbear to name. This last man, on hearing the rebel bullets, [during a charge on the Confederate lines!] faced about and started rearward. I never saw anything done more naturally and promptly. He did not look wild with fright; he simply looked alarmed and resolved to get out of danger . . . he was not a thorough coward, and never afterward turned tail that I know of . . . I pounced upon him as he was struggling through the color corporals . . .<sup>7</sup>

DeForest got him turned around and the charge succeeded, but the dangers of an unreliable flag bearer are self-evident—a frightened one could take the whole regiment along with him.

There were also some perks to being a member of the color guard. Peter Welsh wrote to his wife on 31 March 1863 that he,

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... did not lose [his] comfortable little house by being made color bearer. I am still in it and attend to the drawing of rations . . . i am not required to do any duty only go out with the colors which is only on dress parade reviews or battalion drill i do not have to keep a musket nor carry any ammunition nothing but my knapsack, grub bag and canteen.<sup>8</sup>

It was common knowledge, both among soldiers and their families, that service in the color guard was hazardous duty. Charles Hickok, one of the color bearers of the 106th Pennsylvania Infantry, had to console his family who apparently wrote to him, expressing their concern that he was performing extra-dangerous duty.<sup>9</sup>

The color guard was usually a tempting target, for infantrymen of the period could appreciate the demoralizing effect of falling colors during an advance. Even during the height of battle, when powder smoke would largely cover the field, the only aiming point available would be a stand of colors, dimly visible through the haze. In most cases, the color guard could count on attracting more than its share of enemy bullets.

Anyone tasked with forming a color guard for a living history battalion is faced with a different set of problems than those faced by the original regimental staffs. There is almost always a shortfall of knowledgeable NCOs, and even those with color guard experience will often be unwilling or unable to leave their companies for service on the guard. Although it would seem to be critical from the living history standpoint, the chances of getting experienced NCOs who are also of *large stature* is almost impossible. Here is a checklist that could be followed to form a functional living-history color guard, in the order of importance:

1. Choose experienced men who are intelligent, or at least mature and steady. Not only will they produce better results with the limited amount of training they are likely to receive, they will also reduce the risk of the guard doing something really stupid and embarrassing the whole battalion.
2. Get men with color guard experience. The most experienced men should be placed as the two end file men in the front rank of the color guard.
3. Get men with stripes. Sergeants should carry the flags, or command the guard, and the rest should be corporals.
4. Get *tall* NCOs. If you've managed to satisfy all four of these conditions for the whole color guard . . . congratulations! You have outdone about ninety-nine percent of every reenacting color guard ever put together!

And last, one *must* commit the battalion to some battalion-level training, including the color guard.

### The Basic Guard Formations.

The two different "formations" are shown below. FIG 1 shows a color guard carrying a single flag (carried by soldier B) and two flags (carried by soldiers A and C), with the National Colors being carried on the right. If the color guard has one sergeant and one flag, the sergeant should carry the flag. If it has one sergeant and *two* flags, he should carry the US flag, or command the guard from position B.

Two sergeants and two flags—the sergeants should carry the flags. If there are three sergeants, the entire front rank should consist of sergeants.

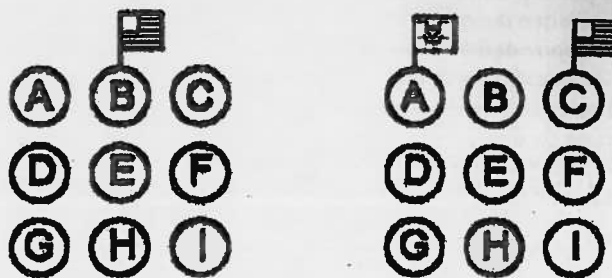


FIG 1. Flag placement showing a one flag (left) and a two flag (right) arrangement of the men of the color guard.

When in line of battle, the color guard forms on the left of the color company (FIG 2). According to one source, it counts off, changes arms and acts as a part of that company.<sup>10</sup> There is some evidence, however, that other systems were sometimes used. Hosmer describes a formation of the color guard while marching by the flank that would be impossible to achieve with the normal counting-off and doubling:

Hardiker carries the . . . state flag; the tall sergeant, the stars & stripes . . . between Hardiker & the sergeant marches Wilson—a fine looking corporal... Prince and Claypole cover Hardiker & Wilson; while I march behind the sergeant. Alongside, in the line of file closers, go West . . . Wiebel, and last, Bias Dickinson . . .<sup>11</sup>

The last three men are in their expected places, marching along in the line of file closers, but the other six are still formed in three files, instead of four!

How this arrangement was actually accomplished is unknown; it is possible that the guard "wheeled on itself," which would preserve the positions of the flags relative to one another. Otherwise, one color would wind up *behind* the other when doing a right or left face. In a left face, the National Colors will actually be behind the lesser color.

### The Manual of Arms.

The basic position for bearing a flag is with the butt of the staff on or about the bearer's right hip, and the right hand at about shoulder height on the staff, and the right elbow resting against the staff.<sup>12</sup> The "over the shoulder" flag carriages were intended to hold the flag in this position. Many color bearers, however, used a flag carrier that placed the flag directly in front, with the butt end resting in a socket over the lower abdomen or loins.<sup>13</sup> Either method of carrying the flag is correct.

"Present arms" (also called a "color salute") is done in the following manner. If being done as a salute, the movement commenced when the party to be saluted is six paces away. While resting the end of the staff on the right hip, as in the basic carry, the right hand is slid upward on

the pole to about eye level, and the arm extended. This will slant the staff forward—the staff should be at roughly a forty-five degree angle. When the person to be saluted is about six paces past the color, it is returned to the basic position.<sup>14</sup>

When the command “rest” is given, the butt of the staff is often rested on the ground.

Stacking arms cannot be done as part of the color company, since the flag is not stacked like a musket. Instead, the six or seven men not bearing flags will make two stacks of their own, and the flag is supported horizontally between them. Again, we quote Hosmer:

... the stacks of guns, as usual, running in a long line with the shelter-tents behind them, the two flags in their glazed cases, crossed on the middle stack, indicating the center of the line.<sup>15</sup>

Many color guards are instructed to keep their muskets at the shoulder, although this issue needs some further research. While it is true that the usual positions other than “shoulder arms” will put the weapon in a higher position and risk snaring the flag, the instruction to always “carry arms” may be a carry-over from some incorrect interpretations of the sergeant’s manual of arms. Until some good documentation surfaces one way or another, it is probably best for the color guard to remain at shoulder arms.

Bayonets on weapons within the color guard can rip holes in the flag, so they should not be unless some special circumstances require that they be fixed. This was a problem during the war as well, and at least one color guard approached the situation with good Yankee sense:

I take off my bayonet, and invert it, that it may not wound the flag it is to defend. So does jovial Bias Dickinson, the corporal who is my file leader, and the rest of the guard.<sup>16</sup>

Color guards were not supposed to fire their weapons unless the flags were “especially threatened.” This is a real boon to old hands who dread cleaning their muskets, but a real disappointment for powder burners who wind up in the color guard. This was aggravating to the original soldiers, too, who had to endure the fire of the enemy without being able to retaliate:

... The color guard is under orders not to fire, except when the colors are especially threatened. My piece is loaded and capped; but I can only be shot at, without returning the discharge.<sup>17</sup>

A final note about the flags themselves: although the colors remained with the color guard on campaign, they were usually stored in the colonel’s quarters when the unit was in an established camp.

#### Let ‘em Fly!

As could be expected, there was much sentiment attached to the display of a regiment’s colors. Occasionally, this led to a conflict between the display and care of the colors. For example, the members of the Twelfth Connecticut Infantry were treated to the following exchange between their lieutenant colonel and their color bearers:

Lieutenant-Colonel: ‘Color guard, why didn’t you shake out those colors?’

Color Sergeant: ‘We rolled them up to go through the woods, Colonel.’

Lt. Colonel: ‘That was all right. But next time, whenever you come to a clear spot, let them fly. Never mind the battle rents! They only make the old flag more glorious.’<sup>18</sup>

The flag was not always prominently displayed on the battle line; especially when the regiment was lying down to hide from the enemy. Sometimes the terrain prohibited the color bearers from holding it high, as well.

“Forward!” is the order. We all stoop... Wilson springs from cover to cover, and I follow close after him. It is hard work to get the flag along: it cannot be carried in the air; and we drag it and pass it from hand to hand among the brambles, much to the detriment of its folds. The line pauses a moment . . . Presently we move on again . . . tearing our way, and pulling after us the colors; creeping on our bellies across exposed ridges, where bullets hum and sing like bees . . .<sup>19</sup>

#### The Color Company.

FIG 2 shows the color company (including the color party) drawn up in line at the halt. Note the position of the second sergeant, who is normally the company’s left guide.

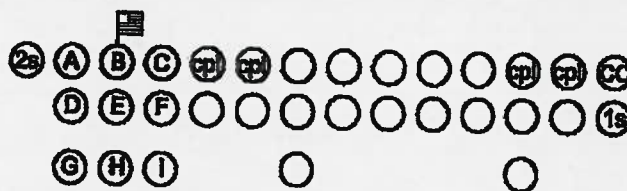


FIG 2. The Color Company.

When in a *battalion* front, this sergeant will take position behind the first sergeant of the company to his left. When the regiment is in firing position and this first sergeant moves into the line of file closers, the color company’s second sergeant should stand just to his right.

When the color company is maneuvering independently or the regiment is in column of companies, etc., the color company’s second sergeant will step up and take his proper place as the left guide of the company, as shown in FIG 2.

Although outside the scope of this article, note the position of the corporals in FIG 2. This simplified formation was used in regiments that had platoon-strength companies—rather than using them to mark the flanks of platoons; they were positioned on the flanks of the company. This would cause the corporals to “bunch up” as seen in the illustration. For companies that were this small, platoon breaks were unnecessary.<sup>20</sup>

#### The General Guides.

Much less is known about the lives of the men assigned to the important job of right and left general guides. There were two, one for each flank, each carrying a small flag.

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The function of these guides is *as important* as that of the color guard, for without competent guides, it is difficult for a regiment to stay aligned, especially in any movements made in line of battle.

Some limited research has shown that guides were sergeants, corporals, and even privates! Apparently, it took some time for the original regiment to realize the value of guides, and some of them did not bother appointing them until months into their service. For example, the 107th New York Infantry appointed two outstanding corporals from different companies to be guides after being in the field for almost two months! For some reason, they didn't receive their guide flags until a few weeks before this; they had gotten their stand of colors (two flags) in Washington but no guide flags!

For reenacting purposes, the guides *must* be every bit as knowledgeable as the men in the color guard, and possibly more so, as they do not benefit from the proximity of others to provide advice.

Oftentimes today's battalion commander will appoint a color guard, but without the general guides—reenactor color guards should insist on the establishment of guides!

### Under-strength Color Parties.

At full strength, the color guard will have a total of nine soldiers, plus the two guides, brings the total number of men needed for this system to eleven. In reality, original regiments sometimes functioned with less than that number, and in addition the question arises regarding what to do after a full-strength color guard begins to suffer casualties.

The *minimum* strength for color parties is eight men (before casualties). This provides six men for the color guard, and two guides. The highly informative battle line diagram of the 124th New York Infantry at Gettysburg shows this arrangement. In fact, this diagram also shows a few other interesting details as well:<sup>21</sup>

1. One of the guides is a sergeant from Company A; the other was a corporal from Company D.
2. The color guard consisted of a "Color Bearer" who was probably a sergeant, and five corporals.
3. Members of the color guard were drawn from different companies: A, C, F, G, I and K.
4. The color-company was Company C.

For the specific problems that occur when maneuvering with an under-strength color guard, see the appropriate comments under the sections on maneuvers. These are important topics to be learned by a well-drilled guard, for even a nine-man party will experience casualties and will have to maneuver with less than their normal complement.

### The Regiment on Parade.

The real purpose of the colors and guides is, of course, to regulate the position of a regiment in the field, and the remainder of this article will discuss the function of the colors in several battalion-level maneuvers.

When forming the regiment on parade, the Color Company and guides will arrive first, since the other companies will dress upon it, and will take its position in the place indicated by the regimental adjutant. The right and left general guides will not be able to gauge the location

of the regimental flanks until all of the companies are present, although they can mark the relative alignment of the companies. The best option is for the guides to position themselves further apart than needed to accommodate the entire regiment, and move inward upon the flank companies when they are dressed. This prevents a constant movement inward and outward of the guides as they gauge their final position as the companies come on line.

### Advancing and Halting.

At the command, "Battalion, forward . . ." the front rank of the color guard takes six paces forward, placing it well in front of the regiment. The rear two ranks move forward one step, aligning themselves with the two ranks of the battalion and thereby preserving the position of the color party in the ranks. The guides also take position six paces before the front rank, aligning themselves on the colors.

At the command "March!" the whole regiment steps off together. The direction of march is taken from the colors, but the rate of march is taken from the battalion. In other words, the captains of companies will insure that their companies are aligned on the colors for the direction of march, but the colors will be responsible for making sure that they remain six paces in front of the battalion. They will slow up when the distance increases from six paces, and speed up when it decreases.

The entire battalion will *immediately* stop at the command "Halt!" The alignment and spacing can be adjusted after the halt (topping at the command, "halt" is just as essential to good marching order as everyone starting off on the left foot at the command "march"). The colors and guides will return to their positions at the command, "Guides and Colors, Post!"

Assuming that the color guard and guides are full strength and know their business, the following items are potential problems.

1. The second two ranks of the color guard get "popped" out of position. This is due to inward pressure as the line companies dress inward on the colors, and exert so much pressure that the color guard gets squeezed out. There are two techniques to prevent this. First, the color guard must be prepared to push outward with all of its strength; another good reason for having large lads in the guard. Second, the color company and the company to the left of the colors should be especially vigilant to resist pressure that would cause their inward flanks to displace the color guard. In units where the end guides are extremely competent, this is usually avoided since the guides can regulate the distance between themselves and the center, giving at least the flank companies forewarning of a drift inward as their flanks pass the guide. In a battalion consisting of more than four companies, a pair of good guides is a sure insurance policy against this.
2. The direction of march is not a straight line, and the whole battalion loses cohesion as the guides and companies attempt to maintain their alignment. It is hard enough to remain aligned in a march directly forward, and impossible for a regiment of weekend warriors to remain aligned with numerous course changes. In cases where the color guard knows its job and marches in a straight

line, this is problem is usually due to having a battalion commander who is inexperienced. This writer was in a color guard that attempted to follow a colonel who was leading from the front, pointing out the direction of march with his sword, but walking a crooked course, weaving left and right and constantly changing directions. The color guard changed course in an attempt to follow, but the battalion could obviously not change direction that rapidly and the whole unit drifted off leaving the colonel and colors advancing on their own course.

#### Firing.

When the regimental commander orders any kind of firing, the entire color guard will take one step backward, with the color rank aligned with the rear rank of the battalion.

#### The Charge.

If the standard advance was used to charge into the enemy's line, the colors would arrive at bayonet's point well in advance of the rest of the unit, thereby risking the loss of the colors. On the other hand, the color guard will have knowledge of the colonel's intent if a unique command is used for the charge and can make the proper preparations. Using the commands outlined by Kelton, the command will be, "Prepare to Charge," followed by "Double Quick—March!" At the command "Prepare to Charge," the color guard will know what's afoot and take position with the colors in the front rank of the battalion.<sup>22</sup>

#### The Retreat.

The intent here, again, is the preservation of the colors. If the battalion does an about-face, the color-bearers should switch places with men in the center rank of the guard. If the whole battalion is broken and running for the rear, the guard must be able to run *faster* than the rest, and attempt to place the bulk of the regiment behind them, between the colors and the enemy. This is yet another reason for bearers to have long legs!

#### Casualties in the Color Guard.

Losses to Color Guards were inordinately high during the war, and this should be properly represented in battle scenarios. One reason this phenomenon is aptly given by Greg Coco,

The color company usually suffered more casualties. Even with smoke on the battlefield, usually the only thing visible as an aiming point was the stand of colors.<sup>23</sup>

When smoke did not obscure the field, the effects could probably be even worse, for soldiers of both sides knew

that the presence of a color on the line was often an incentive for men to stay on the line. When the two lines met in hand-to-hand combat, there was often a pitched fight to capture or save the flags. All of these factors led to high casualties.

In a reenactment, the maximum effect of single casualties can be achieved by having the bearers take the hits, and other members of the guard pick up the flag(s). This way, the colors can fall and be retrieved the most times without running out of color guards to pick up the colors and depending on someone from the rest of the battalion to become the bearer. Rather than burden himself with a flag and a slung weapon, the new bearer should leave his musket with the fallen bearer.

#### Capture of Colors.

This event was both the high and low points of many original Civil War units. Unfortunately, it is seldom seen at reenactments, usually due to a concern over the safety of an expensive flag or sentimentality towards the flag as a symbol. Nevertheless, it is a facet of Civil War combat that deserves re-creation. How can this be done without provoking a genuine donnybrook? The bearer or leader of the color guard should be able to make the decision whether to accept capture or not—sometimes the captors will find an officer of the captive's side and let *him* work out the details. At any rate, assuming that the capture of the flag was not scripted, we can turn to Elmer Woodard for some excellent suggestions on what comes next:

[The Color Guard] has two good choices. First, the bearer may allow himself to be captured, but keep physical possession of the flag. The more preferable option, and much more fun for the conqueror, is to deliver up possession of the flag, but to accompany it wherever it goes.<sup>24</sup>

#### Some Suggestions for Reenactors.

The best policy that could be adopted by reenacting "companies" would be for each one of them to have at least half-dozen members (who reliably attend) who are trained in the duties of a color guard and guides. Assuming a four company battalion, this would require a three-man contribution for the color guard and guides from each company. With a half-dozen trained members (preferably able to portray NCOs), any man in this "color pool" would only have to serve on the color guard at every-other battalion-level event. In the absence of trained men, untrained corporals could be used, but it is vital that trained men be present in at least the guides' positions and that of the color bearer (and his relief, if he expects to become a casualty).

#### NOTES AND SOURCES:

All illustrations are by the author.

1. *Abstract of Infantry Tactics* (Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little and Wilkins, 1830), para. 51. For a historical example of a two-flag scenario in which the flags are both borne by sergeants, see John W. DeForest, *A Volunteer's Adventures: A Union Captain's Record of the Civil War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1946), 63.
2. James K. Hosmer, *The Color-Guard* (Boston: Walker, Wise & Co., 1864), 93.
3. Charles Weygant, *History of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment NYSV* (Newburgh, New York: Journal Printing House, 1877), 185.
4. William B. Jordan ed., *The Civil War Journals of John Mead Gould* (Baltimore: Butternut & Blue, 1997), 17.

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5. Hosmer, *The Color-Guard*, 12; Virginia H. Kaminsky, ed. *A War to Petrify the Heart: The Civil War Letters of a Dutchess Co. NY Volunteer* (East Fishkill, New York: East Fishkill Historical Society, 1997), 34.
6. L. F. Kohl and M. C. Richard, eds., *Irish Green and Union Blue: the Civil War Letters of Peter Welsh* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1986), 82.
7. DeForest, *A Volunteer's Adventure*, 63.
8. Kohl and Richard, *Irish Green and Union Blue*, 82.
9. Charles Hickok to his sister, undated manuscript in the author's possession.
10. Elmer Woodard, "The Correct, Complete, Perfect, Revised, and Improved School of the Color Guard." <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/8135/articles>.
11. Hosmer, *The Color-Guard*, 93.
12. United States War Department, *Abstract of Infantry Tactics; Including Exercises and Maneuvers of Light Infantry and Riflemen; for the use of the Militia of the United States* (Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1830), 65. This explanation practically the same as given in Casey's (225) except that Casey leaves out the detail about resting the right forearm against the staff. Neither manual explains the proper place for the left hand.
13. A good example of this can be found in National Historical Society, *The Image of War: 1861-1865, Volume V: The South Besieged* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1983), 302.
14. Brigadier General Silas Casey, *Infantry Tactics*, vol. 1 (reprint, Crescent City Sutler, Evansville, Tennessee, n.d.), 225.
15. Hosmer, *The Color-Guard*, 105.
16. Hosmer, *The Color-Guard*, 19.
17. Hosmer, *The Color-Guard*, 192.
18. DeForest, *A Volunteer's Adventure*, 68.
19. Hosmer, *The Color-Guard*, 191-2.
20. The best illustration of this procedure known to this writer is the regimental battle-line diagram shown in Weygant, *History of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment NYSV*, 185.
21. Ibid.
22. J. C. Kelton, *New Manual of the Bayonet, for the Army and Militia of the United States* (New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1862), 79-80.
23. Greg Coco, ed., *From Ball's Bluff to Gettysburg . . . And Beyond* (Gettysburg: Thomas Publications, 1994) 119.
24. Woodard, "The School of the Color Guard."

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