

Battle Certifications

Basic Rules:

- This is "take until you pass" type of test. Not all horses and riders are accustomed to the "rigors" we put ourselves and horses through!
- Rider/horse combination must have passed the Basic Riding test before taking the Battle tests.
- The Battle Certifications are broken down to three levels, Rear Guard, Reserves, and Front Line.
- Every rider/horse will pass at least the Rear Guard part of the Battle Certification test every year to be on the battlefield.
- Battle Certifications can be given any time during the year as long as there are adequate members to administer the tests, AND it is before an event (Friday to 7am Saturday)
- When a first time horse or rider comes to an event they will be with the Rear Guard, even if they passed at a higher level. This will allow them to "see and feel" the battle environment without engaging. At the discretion of the Safety Officer, or his appointee, the rider or horse can move up to the next level.
- At any time when the Safety Officer or his appointee feels that a rider or horse has become unmanageable at a given level he will ask the rider to work with the horse at a lower level. If the rider is unwilling to do so they will be asked to leave the field for that event. This is for the safety of the rider and horse as well as the safety for all riders in our unit.
- To cross certify on any horse the rider and primary horse has to be certified for one season as a Front Line rider.
- Infantry will consist of at least 3 people and will be on the ground. (more the merrier)
- **Judging:**
- 2 judges will judge all riders and horses and ruling must be unanimous.
- Judges ruling will be final. (You can retake the test later or next event)
- Judges are looking for unsafe conditions or practices and willingness of horse to work under battle conditions.
- Judges must be certified for 2 years as a Front Line rider.
- Judges will be on the ground to better observe and judge rider and horse.

Battle Tests

Rear Guard:

Level:

First level of battle certification. On the edge of the field, does not engage.

Test:

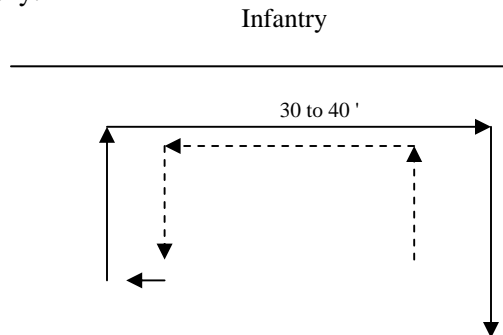
Individual pass, at a trot, forward toward a line of infantry then within 30 to 40 feet turn in front of infantry. The Infantry will fire by volley then at will, rider will fire at least once while passing the infantry line. Rider to turn away from the infantry line and at about 40 to 50 feet from the line turns and repeats attack, this time from the opposite direction, firing at least once at the infantry line.

Results:

Rider will have control of horse at all times. Horse will not balk, stop, or turn away from firing line.

Reasoning:

First time for horse OR rider in battle. Will allow rider and horse to get a feel of being fired on and to fire off the horse. Judges will have the opportunity to evaluate the rider and horse individually.



Reserves:

Level:

Second level of battle certification. Can be in the middle of the field, does light engagements.

Test:

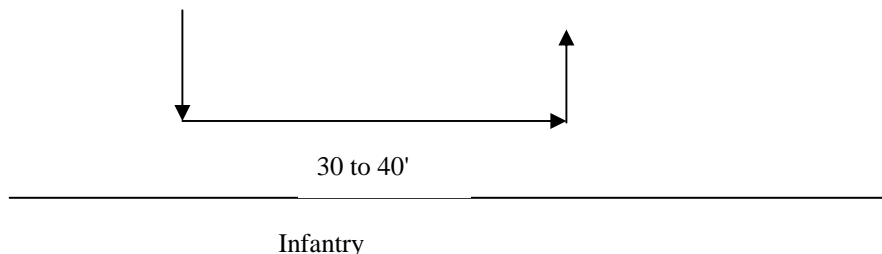
In a single column of riders, at a trot, sweep past a line of Infantry, judging the 30' safety distance, both sides firing. They will make at least two passes from both directions. Firing from the right side of body and across the body. Commands will be given and followed.

Results:

Rider will have control of horse at all times. Horse will not balk, stop, or turn away from firing line. Rider and horse will stay in position and not break rank. Rider to have control of revolver and fire at a safe distance or direction.

Reasoning:

Higher expectations of a horse and rider, need more control while shooting and moving past men on the field. Will have light contact with the enemy and under the direction of a senior rider and horse. Each judge will watch one of the column of riders to better evaluate the riders and horses ability to stay in formation and follow commands.



Front line:

Level:

Third and highest level of battle certification. Can be in full battle skirmishes and can be anywhere on the field.

Test:

Alan's joust. This test has three phases. It will be done as a column of riders against another column of riders. Each company will line up and follow the directions of the commanding officer or NCO.

1. First pass will be made in a column where each unit will turn in front of the other unit and return to starting point. They will fire only two rounds.
2. Second pass each unit will advance a line, and at the command turn and fire two rounds. Each unit will withdraw to regroup.
3. Third pass will be an individual joust, firing twice, from the regroup area. Infantry will be utilized for harassing fire.

Results:

Rider will have control of horse at all times. Horse will not balk, stop, or turn away from firing line or other horse. Judges will evaluate the willingness of the horse to go forward and engage without stopping, balking or turning away.

Reasoning:

Highest expectations of a horse and rider, need more control while shooting and moving past men on the field. This is done on an individual level so horse and rider can be observed without distraction of other riders on the field.

