

Pacific Area Civil War Reenactors

New Rules regarding Mortars and Gatling Guns

Ground Mortars – Section 6: Artillery Safety; Subsection D: Mortars

Please note that 3 new test questions have been added to the Artillery Safety Test

1. Whenever specific mortar loading requirements are not required, muzzle loading procedures are used.
2. All cannon regulations that pertain to training, fire prevention, the care and use of mortar implements and the tasks of the mortar crew, which are almost the same as a muzzle loading cannon, shall be used by mortar crews and enforced by the “Chief-of-the-Piece”.
3. The “Chief-of-the-Piece” is responsible for the muzzle loading artillery regulations for cannons and mortars with all crew members.
4. Muzzle loading mortar artillery pieces are to be manned by a crew of at least 3 (up to 4), one of whom is the “Chief-of-the-Piece”/Gunner, who has been trained in the proper operation of the gun which they are operating and runs powder and two who work the front of the gun. If operating with a crew of 4, the 4th member will run powder.
5. Mortars are to be placed on a wheeled cart, specifically made for the mortar, that seats the mortar for placement on the gun line, and can be chocked or secured for stability when firing the mortar. A mortar may not be placed on the ground.
6. Crew members will stand well away from the piece when fired because of the vent blast. The “Chief-of-the-Piece” will call clear front, prior to firing the mortar.
7. In the event of a misfire:
 - a. The “Chief-of-the-Piece” ensures that everyone and everything are in safe order and calls “Clear Front” before giving the order to fire.
 - b. If the second firing attempt fails, after a minimum interval of 3 minutes, the vent and bore are flooded completely with water and, after a minimum interval of 3 minutes, following flooding, worming clears the bore.

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New Rules regarding Mortars and Gatling Guns

Gatling Guns – Section 6: Artillery Safety; Subsection E: Gatling Guns

Please note that 4 new test questions have been added to the Artillery Safety Test

1. The Gatling gun is to be manned by a minimum of 3 men, two who have been fully trained in the proper operation of the gun.
2. The Gatling gun must have been manufactured by a known Gatling gun manufacturer (such as Battery Gun Company). Determination of suitability shall be the responsibility of the senior artillery officer. The senior artillery officer must approve the Gatling gun before it is placed on the field.
3. The Gatling gun munitions box will be next to the Gatling gun for ease of loading the magazine on the gun.
4. The Gatling gun munitions box will be constantly manned when unlocked. When not in use, the box will be stored in a safe and secured area.
5. The placement of the Gatling gun is the responsibility of the Senior Artillery Officer and the gun owner.
6. The safety zone for the Gatling gun is 15 feet to the sides and 20 feet to the front and rear. Only Gatling gun crew members or authorized personnel are allowed within the safety zone when the gun is loaded or the munitions box is open.
7. The Gatling gun shall not be loaded when the safety zones are not clear. The gun shall not be fired when the frontal safety zone is not clear.
8. The Gatling gun blank will be a .45 Long Colt brass case loaded with 30 grains of 3F (FFF) black powder with floral foam as wadding. The blank will be placed in the steel cylinder provided by the Gatling gun manufacturer. Each blank being loaded in the munitions box shall be inspected by the gun owner and the senior artillery officer.
9. There shall be no hand to hand combat at the Gatling gun.
10. No one shall touch the Gatling gun without the permission of the gun owner or his designated artillery representative.
11. Gatling gun ammunition removal:
 - a. Call for a cease fire
 - b. Twist the locking screw closed
 - c. Remove the magazine
 - d. Open the top receiver
 - e. Remove the two live rounds in the receiver with a magnetic tool
12. Misfire Procedure:
 - a. Call for a cease fire
 - b. Cross the rammers over the barrel of the gun
 - c. Twist the locking screw closed
 - d. Remove the magazine
 - e. Open the top receiver
 - f. Remove the two live rounds in the receiver with a magnetic tool
 - g. Wait 3 minutes before reloading
13. The host club at a club event has the right to allow or disallow the use of Gatling guns on the field.