



# U. S. Muddy River Battalion

## Organizational Guidelines and By-Laws



*March 17, 2007*

### **Article I:** (DESIGNATION & REASON)

**SECTION 1** - The name of this organization shall be the "U.S. Muddy River Battalion". The organization, hereafter called the "Battalion", or "MRB" is a basic union and a loose nit alliance of various company level Federal Infantry Reenactment organizations in and around the Missouri River Region. This mostly is Northwest Missouri, Eastern Kansas, South Eastern Nebraska, South Western Iowa and it's surrounding area's.

The Reason for the Battalion, is to unite said Union Infantry Companies into a larger and more authentic full time Battalion style organization, that is with-in the basic home region of each member unit. One that will allow each unit to belong to an organization that is not unrealistic and so far out of reach to actually support.

**SECTION 2** - The Battalion, may adopt other unit or historical designations on a temporary basis for specific events or impressions without altering these by-laws.

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### **Article II:** (PURPOSE)

**SECTION 1** - The Purpose of the Battalion shall be to form and re-create a basic and scaled down version of a U.S. Civil War Federal Infantry Regiment. To coordinate and act as a higher level military organization and command structure for member units in order to participate in historical Living History, Reenactments, and Encampments.

**SECTION 2** - The Battalion shall participate through a proper selection process and member approval in various events in and around the basic Missouri river region, Department of the Frontier, Trans-Mississippi theater, and/or other designated national level events.

### **Article III:** (OBJECTIVE)

**SECTION 1** - The MRB is a basic (non incorporated) non-profit historical organization (Living History). Other than recompense for expenses incurred in conducting normal business, no individual or member unit is permitted to profit from its activities. Those in positions of leadership are expected to declare a conflict of interest and excuse themselves prior to consideration of any matter causing a potential or actual conflict of interest.

**SECTION 2** - It's objective is to provide an authentic 19th century army experience, and a better understanding of the Union Infantry soldier of the Frontier and Trans Mississippi Theater's during the war commonly known as the American Civil War (1861-1865). This objective will be accomplished by:

- 1.) Fielding a basic scaled down version of a Union Infantry Battalion, that fields multiple companies, and allows each member to feel like they are serving as part of an actual Civil War Regiment, and not just part of an independent company (which was not that common during the Civil War).
- 2.) Improving the knowledge and understanding of its members by the sharing of research, documentation, and historical items of interest.
- 3.) Presenting Accurate and authentic "living history" demonstrations at Encampments, Skirmishes, Preservation Marches, Battle Re-enactment's, and other appropriate events in and around the basic Muddy River region.
- 4.) Giving a home organization to be a part of and to fall in with at national and large scale regional level events for those units who want to be member units, and not considered independent others.
- 5.) Honoring the valor and sacrifice of our ancestors by doing it historically correct to the best of our abilities, and giving an authentic impression to not only ourselves, but to all who see us.

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### **Article IV: (DEFINITION)**

**SECTION 1** - The MRB, will largely be considered by most as a mainstream organization. This will typically be because the battalion will normally use tents laid out in company streets, and also will not regulate authenticity to a scale that is considered to be completely progressive.

Generally, if a member unit has a fairly good look and (for the most part), a historically correct impression, then the Battalion will not have any issue or major concerns. However the MRB, will maintain the official attitude, of trying to find a proper balance between progressive and mainstream re-enacting. It will strive to become the most authentic battalion as possible without alienating its member units and driving them away due to authenticity becoming to stringent. But at the same time, the MRB will be an active battalion, that strives to do it right, and will take an active influence in encouraging its member units to improve there impressions, and strive for a higher level of authenticity, (with- in reason). There fore officially, the MRB, will consider its-self as a "Progressive Mainstream" type of organization.

**SECTION 2** - Those units wishing to belong to the battalion that consider themselves Progressive, will generally be allowed and welcomed as member units as long as they fully participate with the battalion while at events and occupy there assigned company street or area.

Tents will be optional for them but they do need to at least stay in there assigned company area. If the company wants to camp in another area, then if permission is received by the Battalion Commander, they may do so as long as the area is close enough to the battalion camp to allow for them to receive orders, and quickly assemble on the color line. But this would only be for specific events in which this is possible, and would have to be determined on an event by event basis.

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### **Article V: (ORGANIZATION)**

**SECTION 1** - The Muddy River is an Infantry Battalion, and its basic organization shall be organized as such, with what ever member units that may belong to the battalion.

The MRB as a battalion is to be made up primarily of multiple Infantry companies, and member units will be assigned to and/or as companies to the Battalion, depending on membership strength, and the ability to field numbers.

**SECTION 2** - At battalion events, Infantry Units fielding at least 14 Rifles or more, will be guaranteed

separate Company status and will be allowed to march as a stand alone company. The definition of number of Rifles is the number of Corporals and Privates in the ranks, and not counting the number of Sergeants and Officers.

Member units fielding a detachment of less then 14 Rifles shall be attached and/or temporarily Consolidated with standing Companies, or formed with other detachments to form a Provisional 14 Rifle or more Company. Companies may from time to time be allowed to march as stand alone companies with a minimum of 12 Rifles (with the Battalion Commanders approval) and if the battalion is fielding at least 4 to 5 companies.

**SECTION 3** - The Battalion Commander shall appoint, approve or determine the Company Commander's of Combined and/or Provisional Companies for any official battalion level event. Combined and Provisional Companies will generally be allowed to work out its additional rank structure on its own and should be one that is agreeable to all units/detachments involved. However, on occasion if potential conflict could arise, the Battalion Commander might issue orders detailing which units/detachments will provide particular rank positions for the combined company at said events.

**SECTION 4** - Each Company of the Battalion should insure that its rank structure is that of a proper ratio to reflect its size while at battalion level events. It would be ridicules for a 5 man unit/detachment to show up to an event with an officer, a Sergeant and only 3 Privates and expect the battalion to fill them out. The Battalion expects a common sense approach from its member units on this. Those holding rank should always be prepared to drop their respective ranks and fall into the ranks as privates. This would of course be to help out their respective companies and the Battalion as a whole. Those units with larger numbers will of course receive priority.

If a unit only brings a detachment sized unit of 4 to 6 men then they should only have a Corporal and should be prepared to serve in a combined company. If they bring 7 to 9 men then a regular Sergeant's rank would be acceptable. Only with at least 10 men or more should an Officer's position be activated and expected to be able to serve. All Member Units will need to strive to follow this guideline while attending Battalion events.

**SECTION 5** - The MRB as a Battalion will always field a minimum of 2 Companies. However the goal of the Battalion should be to strive for at least 3 to 5 Companies at any given event. If the Battalion can not for some

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reason field at least 2 companies, then it may consolidate all detachments and form a single consolidated company, and serve with what ever reenactment organizations that may be present. If this happens then the said consolidated company will serve as a Detachment from the Muddy River Battalion.

**SECTION 6** - The Battalion will be mostly Infantry. However it may have attached to its organization, a Battalion Hospital, a single Battery of Artillery, and possibly a detachment of Engineers. These said organizations will be organized into an authentic manner, that will properly reflect such organizations historically correct.. There shall be no Cavalry (Mounted or Dismounted) organizations with-in the Battalion. The only horses allowed, will be for Battalion staff and/or Couriers as needed.

**SECTION 7** - The MRB at minimum will fly at least 1 flag and will field some type of appropriate Color guard at any given event that the Battalion Commander directs. The flag that shall be used will be the Battalion's National Color (Stars and Stripes), and will ideally be a standard design without any type of designation or battle honors upon it. It must be authentic in design and material for a proper 19th century army infantry flag of the Civil War era.

When the Battalion is able to secure its 2nd flag and battalion turnout warrants the use of it, then upon direction of the Battalion Commander it may also be flown alongside the national colors. This flag shall be the Battalion's Regimental Color and it shall be patterned after a standard dark blue army infantry flag with the national eagle and a scroll with the Muddy River Battalion designation painted on it.

Until such time as permanent flags can be secured the Battalion Commander may direct flags of Member Units to be used on a rotating basis as he deems appropriate. Further more Special impression flags may be flown for specific events and impressions as needed, without altering these by-laws. Only the battalion flags may be flown at any given event, and no individual companies may fly flags in their company streets or while in formation unless being used as the Battalions colors for the said event.

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### **Article VI: (MEMBERSHIP)**

**SECTION 1** - Membership in the MRB is by units, and there shall be no individual memberships in the Battalion.

All individuals who are members in good standing of a member unit, shall also be considered members of the Battalion. Member Units shall, with-in the authenticity and safety regulations of the MRB, establish their own membership requirements.

**SECTION 2** - Units that field a stand alone company, and who have attended at least one Battalion event while serving as part of the MRB during the last 12 months shall be considered active member units of the Battalion.

Units that fail to attend at least 1 Battalion event in stand alone company strength, but who field's a detachment of at least 8 rifles to one regional Battalion event and 1 Maximum Effort Battalion event in the last 12 months shall be considered active member units.

Units who on average send some type of smaller detachment of less then 8 rifles or troops to a majority of battalion events will largely be considered as making an effort, and will be looked at in a favorable manner, and will largely be considered as an active member unit, unless it becomes obvious that the said unit is taking advantage of the situation, and not trying to meet the above main standards.

Units that completely fail to participate with the battalion as prescribed above, and who fail to rectify the situation with the Battalion shall consider their active membership with the MRB in jeopardy, and will likely lose their active membership. These units will be reviewed by the Battalion Congress, which will make a recommendation to the battalion commander on the said units continued status with-in the battalion. These units, if recommended to be dropped from active membership, may however, remain as affiliate members, but with no voting rights. They may petition the Battalion for re-admission under guidelines as stipulated by the Battalion Congress.

**SECTION 3** - New Units who wish to join the battalion, must apply in writing to the battalion, and must be willing to prescribe to these by-laws. They must be sponsored by a member unit and must serve a probationary status of 1 year or 3 full battalion events, which ever may come first and will consist of limited voting rights. New units must also be accepted by the Battalion Congress with a majority vote. The MRB may establish a basic set of additional guidelines for new units wishing to join the battalion.

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**SECTION 4** - The MRB is a Western Battalion, and its member units need to reflect that in their impressions and home designations. Units must reside in a state that is connected by the actual Muddy River (unless given a special waiver from the Battalion Congress, and approved by the Battalion Commander). In addition said units must have a home designation of an actual western unit, that served in the Frontier and/or Trans Mississippi Theaters of the war. East Coast designations will only be allowed if proven to have served in the above mentioned theater of operations at one point during the war.

Units who can not meet these guidelines or who wish not to be full member units, but rather wish to be friends of the MRB can apply to be accepted as Friends of the Muddy River (Which is a form of associate or provisional membership), and from time to time, be allowed to march with the battalion as a Provisional company.

Specialty impressions, such as Zouave's, sharpshooters, and other type of less than average units, will generally not be allowed, unless said units can alter their uniform impressions to that of a standard Union army, Frontier theater impression for MRB events and can qualify for membership as stated previously.

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### **Article VII: (BATTALION CONGRESS)**

**SECTION 1** - All business of the Battalion shall be conducted by a majority vote of the Battalion Congress with the colonel having the deciding vote in case of a tie. Each member unit will be allowed one seat in the Battalion Congress, and each Company Commander will be considered as each home unit's member of the battalion congress (unless that member unit requests, that someone else in their unit be elected and allowed to serve).

The Battalion Congress serves as the representative governing body of the Battalion. In most instances each member of the battalion congress, will take any questions or issues back to their respective companies for consideration and a vote and will return with the member unit's decision and cast a vote as decided by the home unit. Or if they know what their unit will want or decide, they may cast a vote on behalf of the unit. But each member unit in good standing is allowed 1 vote on any issue or vote held.

**SECTION 2** - The election of Battalion Commander, MRB event selection, authenticity issues, safety regulations, and any amendments to these by-laws shall

be done in writing and by mail or e-mail, through the members of the Battalion congress, so all member units can participate.

Additionally, after the conclusion of any election, or important vote the battalion Commander shall then certify it, if acceptable or desired. If something doesn't seem right or a vote could potentially have conflict, then the Battalion Congress may be requested by a majority, that they may have access to the record of the vote for review. Upon being accepted after such a review, then the Battalion Congress shall authorize the publishing of at least the numbers to the Battalion.

**SECTION 3** - Any Member Unit or individual may in writing propose to the Battalion Adjutant, who will present the proposal to the Battalion congress, events for consideration as MRB events. These events should be proposed as far in advance of the event as possible in order to allow for dissemination of information and for the voting to take place.

**SECTION 4** - In the event a special meeting needs to be called to conduct business of an urgent matter in which by using the normal mailing process would be impractical, the battalion commander may call for such a meeting. The Battalion Commander may also designate an event to be the site of said special meetings as a majority of unit representatives will be present.

**SECTION 5** - A quorum must be met before any business can take place, otherwise it shall be considered a meeting for discussion. Unit Commanders or Representatives may designate in writing a proxy for events or special meetings they are unable to attend. The Adjutant shall receive all proxies to be delivered to the membership for any vote. In any vote each unit in good standing is entitled to a single vote based on participation as stated in Article 6 - Section 1. The Adjutant is expected to keep records of events attended to include the number fielded by what Companies. A copy will be kept on file, and forwarded to the Battalion Commander periodically.

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### **Article VIII: (ELECTIONS & MEETINGS)**

**SECTION 1** - Regular meetings of the Battalion Congress are to be held when possible and are for the purpose of selecting events, determining unit membership status, adopting authenticity and safety regulations, considering amendments to the bylaws, or other items of

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normal business other than elections. They may be held either in person, by email, or conference call.

**SECTION 2** - The Adjutant of the battalion is not a standing member of the Battalion Congress but is to be present at any Battalion Congress meeting held. He is to act as the Secretary and will keep a record of any meetings. He will publish meeting notes (Unless directed not to do so) and will keep all meeting notes on file. In addition, the Adjutant receives items to be discussed and prepares a meeting agenda before any meeting is to take place.

For elections he receives candidate filings and prepares and distributes the ballot. He receives ballots and presents election results to the Battalion commander and the Battalion Congress for certification and publishes the results to the Battalion. Elections are held by mail, phone, fax or email so that all members of the Battalion Congress can participate.

Regular battalion meetings when held should have a quorum consisting of a majority of the unit representatives being required. Unit commanders may designate proxies for those meetings they are unable to attend.

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### **Article IX: ( FIELD OFFICERS)**

**SECTION 1** - The Battalion shall be commanded by a Battalion Commander who's rank shall be that of Colonel. The availability of other field staff positions shall largely depend on the number of Member Units, and the number of Companies being fielded on average at MRB events as described below, in the included chart.

2-3 Companies ----- Adjutant and/or Sergeant Major  
4-5 Companies ----- Major  
6 Companies -----Lieut. Colonel  
7 Companies + -----Full Battalion Staff

**SECTION 2** - The Battalion Commander shall be elected for a two year term in November by a majority vote of the Battalion Congress. Any individual who is a member in good standing of a member unit (for at least 1 year), and who has actively participated with the Battalion is eligible to file for this position. The individuals home unit should also needs to have been active on average and supported the Battalion over the last year on average, including the last Battalion event in strength. - The filing deadline shall be the 30th of September of said year.

**SECTION 3** - In the event that the duly elected Battalion Commander (for what ever reason) cannot fulfill his term, he will appoint the next senior field staff officer currently available to serve as an interim Battalion Commander. The Lieut. Colonel or Major will serve the remainder of the term at the respective rank.

If no field Staff Officers are available at the time the battalion commander steps down, then the senior Captain will be appointed to serve as interim Battalion Commander at the rank of Captain. The Interim Battalion Commander may serve out the balance of the term at his respective rank, or request that a special election be held in accordance with procedures outlined in Article 7. Appropriate notification must be provided to the members of the Battalion to allow interested parties to file for the position.

**SECTION 4** - The Battalion Commander shall act as the Chief Executive Officer for the Battalion, and shall be its spokesman in dealing with event sponsors, any type of Brigade or Division level organizations, and of course to our Confederate Brethren units. In the field, the Battalion Commander, shall command the Battalion. He shall, through his staff, inform all unit commanders of proposed Battalion events, and supervise elections to select Battalion events. He shall correspond with event sponsors and see to the registration of the Battalion for events. He shall preside at meetings of the Battalion Congress, but shall cast no vote except in case of a tie.

**SECTION 5** - In the event the Battalion Commander is unable to attend an event, he shall appoint the next senior officer to command as an acting Battalion Commander (at that persons respective rank) for the duration of event in question. If MRB field staff is not able to be at an event, then the Battalion should fall under the command of the senior Captain, who will command the Battalion as such. There will be No Brevet promotions to Major and above, unless authorized by the Battalion Congress.

**SECTION 6** - A list of seniority of Captains should be maintained and published periodically for the above mentioned purposes and even for times during battle so that Captains would know who should take over.

**SECTION 7** - The Battalion Commander shall appoint his staff, consisting of the Battalion Adjutant, Sergeant Major, and as many Aid de Camps as he deems necessary for the conduct of Battalion business and field operations.

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They serve at the pleasure of the Colonel and can be released by him at any time.

**SECTION 8** - If there is available, the other field staff ranks of Major or Lieutenant Colonel, then those positions will be nominated by the Battalion Commander and presented to the Battalion Congress to be voted upon and confirmed or declined by that body of organization.

Furthermore, if another member, is interested in running for such positions, and who has not been nominated by the Battalion Commander, then said person, can still file to run for said positions, and be included on the list, for the Battalion Congress to vote on. The vote and ultimate decision of the Battalion Congress shall determine who will hold these positions, as available. If no interested parties file to run for said position, and if the Battalion Commanders nominations are declined by the Battalion Congress, then the Battalion Commander will be free to make additional nominations, until such time as the Battalion Congress gives a vote of confirmation.

**SECTION 9** - Other specialty impressions, such as Battalion Surgeon, Battalion Chaplain, Color Sergeant and such will largely be appointed by the Battalion Commander. At the end of each year these individuals shall be reviewed by the Battalion Congress and will need to receive a Vote of Confidence to continue to serve in these positions. If for some reason the Battalion Congress dose not give a vote of confidence to any of these positions, and recommends a change, then the Battalion Commander will make new appointments.

If the Battalion Congress overlooks this at the end of the year and fails to take a vote, then it will be considered as a Vote of Confidence, and the individuals will continue to serve at the Battalion Commanders discretion.

**SECTION 10** - The Battalion Commander shall labor to ensure that the battalion staff is trained, and knowledgeable in their duties and he will supervise them, and ensure that they are doing there jobs. This includes the ranks of Major and Lieutenant Colonel (If such positions are available), Surgeon, Chaplain, and Battery Commander of the Battalion's Artillery Battery. These positions may be expanded as the situation demands.

**SECTION 11** - The Battalion Adjutant, shall keep and publish the Battalion Schedule and communicate the orders of the Battalion Commander. The Adjutant with the concurrence of the Battalion Commander will speak to

the MRB. He may in the absence of the Battalion Commander sign and issue necessary orders as needed for Battalion functions. Orders issued by the Battalion Adjutant, in the name of the Battalion Commander shall be received as if issued by the Battalion Commander himself. The Adjutant shall attend all officers calls with the commander to keep notes and will keep notes of the Battalion Congress meetings, organize and supervise Battalion formations. The Battalion Adjutant shall hold the rank of 1st Lieutenant, but on occasion may be a Captain, if the adjutant's position was filled by a company commander who already holds the rank of Captain, or who is temporarily filling the Adjutants position.

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### Article X: (AUTHENTICITY)

**SECTION 1** - Authenticity is a slippery slope, and it is assumed and expected that each member unit, shall set its own standards regarding basic Authenticity in the ranks. However, the Battalion Congress may by a majority vote establish authenticity guidelines, recommendations, and/or regulations for the entire Battalion. Proposals for such guidelines may be proposed at any Battalion event or by mail to the Adjutant. Voting on any proposal shall be done by mail, giving all eligible units the opportunity to vote.

**SECTION 2** - The Battalion commander shall have company commanders conduct an authenticity inspection at the beginning of each event. Based upon their recommendations, the Battalion Congress representatives present may vote to bar individuals and/or units from participation with the Battalion if they are found not to conform to minimum standards. Individuals or units so barred shall not be given credit in turning out in support of the Battalion. With the concurrence of the colonel, the Battalion Congress may issue standing orders outlining authenticity concerns not covered in these bylaws or their amendments, or the existing safety regulations.

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### Article XI: (SAFETY)

**SECTION 1** - Each Member unit shall follow a common sense approach as regarding safety in the ranks; however the Battalion may impose specific guidelines it wishes to follow. In addition the Battalion Congress may

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by a majority vote, establish safety regulations for the entire Battalion. Proposals for such regulations may be made by any individual of a member unit and may be proposed at any Battalion event or by mail to the Battalion Adjutant. Voting on any proposal shall be done by mail, through the battalion congress, giving member units the opportunity to vote.

**SECTION 2** - The Battalion Commander shall cause Company Commanders and/or the Battalion to hold authenticity and safety inspections at the beginning of each Battalion event. Based on their recommendations, the Battalion Commander and/or the Battalion Congress (those who are present), may vote to bar any individuals and/or units from participating with the battalion if they are found not to conform to minimum standards. Individual/units so barred shall not be counted in determining unit participation status. The Battalion Commander, may issue standing orders outlining safety or authenticity concerns not covered by the bylaws or its amendments. The Battalion Commander may also issue an executive order which will be enforced until such time as that the Battalion Congress can meet and accept it or override this with a veto.

**SECTION 3** - A Battalion Safety Officer will be appointed by the Battalion Commander. This will be an additional duty of one of the normal field staff officers, Aid de camps, or Battalion NCO's. This individual will be doing extra duty, as the Safety Officer's position, and will not be a separate officers position.

If in the event that the above mentioned positions are unavailable or unable to be used for an appointment to Battalion Safety Officer, then the Battalion Commander can appoint a Company Commander or a Lieutenant from one of the companies to be Safety Officer.

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### **Article XII:**

#### **(WEB PAGE & NEWSLETTER)**

**SECTION 1** - The Battalion needs to have a basic organizational web page that will represent the MRB on the internet. This will help establish the MRB as a legitimate organization in the Reenactment community. It will also allow for communication and easy access to basic information about the battalion to all members, guest, and potential recruits.

**SECTION 2** - There shall be only one official web site for the Battalion, and this site shall be maintained and updated with in reason by a Battalion Web Master.

The Battalion Web Master, (who must be a member of the MRB in good standing) will be chosen by the Battalion Commander with the approval of the Battalion Congress. The Battalion Web Master will develop, maintain, and upkeep the web site as needed, and as directed by the Battalion Commander.

**SECTION 3** - Each member company of the Battalion will be guaranteed some type of representation on the Battalion web site. At minimum a list of member units a link to each home units web site and the email address of the Captain.

Ideally though the MRB would like to give each member unit at least one single (very basic) page of its own on the battalion web site. This page would be maintained by the battalion web master and would describe the said company, its home unit designation, contact information, individual schedule, links (to home units web sites), and where individual Company Commanders can post Company Level orders. This would help out those units which do not have actual home unit web pages.

**SECTION 4** - The MRB will also publish any battalion orders and instructions on the web page and will archive these for the battalion records.

**SECTION 5** - A battalion Newsletter of some sort shall be published, at least quarterly and will be sent out to Company Commanders and Battalion Staff. Company Commanders may then make additional copies and distribute it and its information to their respective companies at meetings or as an insert in their own company newsletters. If possible, the Battalion Newsletter may also be published on the Battalion Web site and made available to any member of the Battalion, by internet access. This version however may be edited for MRB personal business, for certain items of Battalion business that may not be wanted for public display.

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### **Article XIII: (BATTALION LOGO)**

**SECTION 1** - The MRB, shall have a Logo, which will represent the Battalion and be used for official Battalion Business. This logo will also be used on Battalion

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Stationary, and be used on items such as unit T-shirts and/or hats, if the Battalion ever decides to produce such. The Battalion Logo is pictured here:



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### **Article XIV:** **(HIGHER LEVEL MEMBERSHIP)**

**SECTION 1** - If and when the MRB, join's any type of larger affiliation, such as a Brigade, Division, or Army level organization, then this move will need to be approved by the Battalion Congress with a simple majority vote of the Member units. Any such membership will have to follow the following minimum guidelines as described in the following Sections of this article.

**SECTION 2** - In order for the MRB to join a larger organization such as a Brigade, Division, or Army, then said organization must be organized in an authentic and believable way for that level of organization. At least in the sense of being a scaled down version. For example, if joining a full time Brigade organization, then said Brigade needs to be composed of more then one full time standing Battalion. The MRB will not join any type of higher level organization that claims to be a brigade, but which dose not have full time standing member battalions.

**SECTION 3** - The MRB will never join any higher level organization that requires member companies of the Battalion to join its organization separately. The MRB joins as a Battalion and leaves as a Battalion of any organization as decided by the member units and the vote of the Battalion Congress.

**SECTION 4** - The MRB must be recognized as a separate and stand alone Battalion organization, with its own by-laws, rank structure, and internal organization being left alone. In addition the MRB also must have the right to display its own Colors, if able to field a stand alone battalion.

**SECTION 5** - No higher level organization will have a say in the MRB's internal organization, rank structure, and/or the choosing of its leaders, or issue any type of directive that would force the MRB to violate these By-Laws or the basic organization of the Battalion. The

Battalion is a member of that organization as a member Battalion, and not individual member companies. Member units of the MRB can not be required to join a higher level organization individually in order for the MRB to become a member Battalion.

**SECTION 6** - If the MRB as a Battalion can not muster enough companies at an event in which it belongs to a larger organization, then the MRB (as a whole) may Consolidate temporally into 1 or 2 companies, and combine with another Battalion, as a detachment of the Muddy River Battalion. If this takes place then it must be a fair Consolidation, and all MRB companies must be kept intact. Furthermore the MRB commander must be allowed to serve in that Battalions field and Staff with a reduced rank, but one which still gives the MRB leadership and fair representation. Said organization that the MRB is serving with must also give the MRB proper detachment recognition.

**SECTION 7** - In no way can any detachment of the MRB be broken up and distributed amongst other companies and/or battalions, of any other Battalion or Brigade to strengthen other units. The MRB serves together as a whole.

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### **Article XV:** **(U.S. MUDDY RIVER BRIGADE)**

**SECTION 1** - The Frontier Brigade's ultimate demise was largely due to that organization being so stretched out (originally being as far north as South Dakota and as far south as Texas) that ultimately it became almost impossible for the two Battalions to come together to form an actual Brigade in the field. Although not the entire reason which led to the organization of the MRB, this was indeed a large contributing factor. Thus the MRB was organized and the distance scaled down in order to belong to an organization more realistic to support. However it is understood that even the MRB region at this time is also a bit stretched out and may prove to be difficult to support that of a single battalion. With Member units as far north as the South Dakota and Nebraska Territories, and member units as far south as Springfield Missouri. Even the MRB may eventually have some trouble getting member units to turn out in solid numbers due to distance.

The MRB recognizes that in order to reduce the

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distance between Company level units, that new and more localized battalions may one day need to be organized. If and when the Battalion ever grows large enough, and if this is needed then the MRB would need to become a Brigade level organization on its own.

**SECTION 2** - If this was to (ever need to) take place, then the MRB organizational designation would then need to change to that of the U.S. Muddy River Brigade and the established Purpose and Objective of the Battalion will change from that of portraying a Regiment to that of portraying and fielding a scaled down version of an actual Civil War Brigade.

Each Member Battalion will need to adopt a set of its own battalion level organizational Guidelines based off of these current MRB guidelines and by-laws. In addition the current Muddy River Battalion organizational guidelines and By-Laws will also then need to be re-worked in order to properly lay out the foundation and organization of such a brigade level organization.

**SECTION 3** - A new battalion will only be allowed to be organized if that new Battalion will not cause the original battalion organization to be stripped of member units and its ability to be able to field as a stand alone battalion. In order for a new battalion to be formed and the creation of the Muddy River Brigade, their must be at least 2 battalions minimum that are able to field 2 stand alone battalions as an actual brigade. Ideally we would like to see it be two Infantry battalions. But mixed brigades were well documented in the Frontier Region and if a mounted Cavalry Battalion was to join, then the MRB can obtain Brigade status that way until a 2nd Infantry Battalion can be organized.

**SECTION 4** - Mixed Battalions are not allowed and units must serve in Battalions of the same branch of service. The only exception being that each Battalion will be allowed 1 battery of artillery to be attached to it as a member unit.

**SECTION 5** - Infantry battalions should average at least forty rifles (excluding officers, color bearers and musicians). Infantry Battalion's fielding only a minimum of 2 companies will need to field at least two 18 to 20 man

companies in order to march as a stand alone battalion. However if additional companies are added, then the average company strength needed at minimum could go down. For example a 3 company battalion might be able get by with each company fielding 14 Rifles and a 4 company battalion would only require 12 Rifle companies at minimum. However all stand alone battalions should field on average close to 40 Rifles and no single company in any battalion should ever be less then 12 Rifles.

While at events - those Battalions of lesser size may at the discretion of the Brigade commander, be combined to form consolidated battalions of forty rifles or more. If no infantry battalion is present with forty rifles, the Brigade commander may organize and assume command of a single consolidated battalion.

**SECTION 6** - The rank of actual battalion commanders will depend on the number of companies fielded as shown in the following chart.

2 - 3 Companies = Major  
4 Companies = Lieut. Colonel  
5 Companies+ = Colonel

**SECTION 7** - The Brigade Commanders rank will be that of Colonel unless the Muddy River Brigade can field 3 Battalions on average (2 of which must be Infantry Battalions), in which case the Brigade Commanders rank may then become that of Brigadier General (But only with the approval of the Brigade Congress).

The Brigade Commander would still serve a standard 2 year term, the same as described in these organizational guidelines and by-laws for that of (MRB) Battalion Commander (but with each member battalion having a single vote). The Brigade Commanders duties are also the same as described above for the MRB, but on a Brigade level instead of a Battalion level.

In the event that 3 full time Infantry Battalions are ever able to be formed, then the Brigade Commanders rank will automatically become Brigadier General.

**SECTION 8** - In each Battalion, member Companies appoint or elect their own field staff officers without interference from the Brigade or other none member units of their particular battalion. But none may hold a rank

# U.S. Muddy River Battalion

## Organizational Guidelines & By-Laws

higher than what is authorized according to the Muddy River Brigade By-Laws.

**SECTION 9** - Battalions are allowed to have their own battalion level schedule and events. Even if it is not an official Brigade Level event. - With this said however, member battalions are obligated to support brigade level Max Effort events or any other brigade event that has been voted as such by the member battalions of the brigade. This should equal out to only 1 or 2 events a year.

**SECTION 10** - An actual Muddy River Brigade needs to take to the field as an actual Brigade at least twice a year. Otherwise this would be a pointless re-organization. To do this, the organization needs to choose several events each year that will allow it to field at least 2 stand alone battalions.

### **NOTE**

*The above article and its Section's are placed here for future use in the event that this might be needed. This is just a basic outline to help get things started. Of course any such activation of a full time Muddy River Brigade will need to be presented too and approved by the current Muddy River Battalion Congress.*

### **Article XVI: (THINGS OF MISCELLANY)**

**SECTION 1** - At any event, that is not an official MRB event, but which there are multiple member units of the battalion in attendance, then those units should seek out fellow MRB units, and band together in some type of detachment organization of the Muddy River Battalion. The senior Officer should take command, and lead the detachment for the said event or weekend. After the event is concluded, then said officer will submit an after action reports to Battalion Headquarters, which will be filed in the Battalion records, and used for publicity on the web site and newsletter. Further more, individual member units, are encouraged to submit After Action Reports to the Battalion, at the conclusion of individual company events, in which they may participate in.

**SECTION 2** - The MRB, as a Battalion, has a responsibility to its member units, and will take an active part, and actively encourage recruiting for each of its member units. Potential recruits will be referred to member units when discovered by such sources like the battalion web page, the internet, or through the Battalion recruiting depot, and if the recruit resides in the home

region of any said member company.

**SECTION 3** - The MRB, will strive to have at least 2 or 3 MAX EFFORT events each year. However, the MRB, will rarely have more than 5 events in a years time unless special circumstances dictate a necessity to do so. Additional events not listed as Maximum Effort, will be considered, and listed as either Sanctioned events or listed events.

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### **Article XVII:**

#### **(AMENDMENTS & RATIFICATION)**

**SECTION 1** - Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed by any member unit of the Battalion in writing to the Adjutant and shall be ratified by a simple majority of all member units via mail ballot. In the event that an amendment is proposed at a special meeting, the amendment will be considered approved if it receives a simple majority of unit representatives at said special meeting.

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*These By-Laws are hereby Ratified by a simple majority of original member units in March of 2007.*

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