

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
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DEPARTMENT ORDER 8
SERIES 2026-2027

August 10, 2026

FIREARMS SAFETY AT SUVCW ACTIVITIES

1. **Reference:** Department Order 7 (2013-2014), as issued by Department Commander Rocky L. Bartlow on April 17, 2013. The requirements of this order continue the original requirements stated in D.O. 7 (2013-2014).

2. **Purpose:** As we continue our activities for this year, I am re-issuing this directive to make sure we ensure the safety of the brothers and those around us as we are out in public. Frequently, as part of our activities, we have weapons including firearms of various types. Let us ensure we handle them wisely by complying with the following:

3. **Ordered:** Whenever brothers of the Department of Kansas represent the SUVCW, whether the Department, a Camp, or individually, they shall conduct the activity safely by appointing a Safety Officer from among the brothers. The highest-ranking officer present at the start of the event shall make the appointment. The Safety Officer's duties shall be:

- To ensure the general safety of brothers and the public by inspecting the environs and doing what is necessary to prevent injury. This shall include searching for things that might cause trips, falls, or overhead hazards and display items that could cause injury.
- Ensuring all firearms are unloaded and ammunition and primers are separated so firearms cannot be loaded while on display.
- Ensuring that those entering any area under SUVCW influence unload any loaded firearm and do not load it until they exit same area.
- Removing items or people who are not in conformance with the requirements in the SUVCW area until such time they are in conformance. Should that not be possible, the Safety Officer has the authority to close the SUVCW portion of the event until such time that there is conformance.

4. Any brother acting as a re-enactor jointly with a SUVCW event shall comply with the above while in an area represented by the SUVCW. When he departs from same he would fall under the safety procedures of the re-enactment group of which he participates.

5. If a brother is the only member at a SUVCW represented event, he shall consider himself the appointed Safety Officer and ensure the above rules are followed.

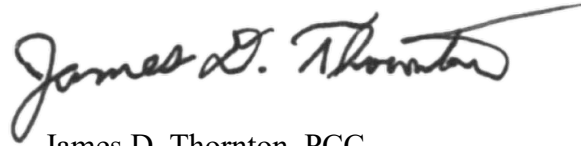
6. It is the intent of this directive that brothers of the Department of Kansas represent our Order in a way consistent with our high calling. Ensuring the safety of our brothers and the public is paramount.

So ordered this 10th day of August, 2026.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



ATTEST



James D. Thornton, PCC
Department Commander



Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary