

## NOTES TO EVALUATORS: NCWC Driving Skills Test v. 08.21.03 - Final

### I. Hitching and Mounting.

A. The horses are harnessed and hitched correctly. Harness is in good repair and adjusted correctly. The horses stand quietly while being hitched.

**Note to Evaluators:**

(I a) Use the "Pre-Competition checklist" published by the American Driving Society, and the "Required Artillery Team Equipment List."

B. The driver enters the vehicle or mounts his horse correctly.

**Note to Evaluators:**

(I a) Horses are not hitched to a vehicle until their bridles and reins are put on.

(I b) It is preferable for horses to be held rather than tied when the vehicle is being put to, with one assistant per horse. The assistant(s) holding the horse(s) do not let go of the horse's lead until the driver has mounted and taken up the slack in the reins.

(I c) If horses are tied while being put to, they must be tied to an immovable object and be tied at the level of the withers, or higher.

(I d) The horse(s) stand quietly while the driver enters the vehicle or mounts. In artillery teams, wheel drivers mount first, then swing drivers, and then lead drivers.

### II. Driving test at the walk and working trot.

#### Advanced

10 Excellent  
9 Very Good  
8 **Good (average score)**  
7 Fairly Good  
6 **(nothing below) Satisfactory**  
5 Sufficient  
4 Insufficient  
3: Fairly Bad  
2: Bad  
1: Very Bad  
0: Not Executed

#### Intermediate

10 Excellent  
9 Very Good  
8 Good  
7 Fairly Good  
6 **Satisfactory (average score)**  
5 **(nothing below) Sufficient**  
4 Insufficient  
3: Fairly Bad  
2: Bad  
1: Very Bad  
0: Not Executed

#### Novice - Qualified

10 Excellent  
9 Very Good  
8 Good  
7 Fairly Good  
6 Satisfactory  
5 **Sufficient (average score)**  
4 **(nothing below) Insuffici**  
3: Fairly Bad  
2: Bad  
1: Very Bad  
0: Not Executed

The average of the scores for each movement will be the HORSE/TEAM SCORE.

**Note to evaluators:**

(II a) Traces of artillery horses must not become slack, except on the inside of turns.

(II b) Breaking into a canter is not grounds for failing the test, however the driver must be quickly able to reestablish the trot. At times some horses in a team may be cantering while others trot; this is permissible as long as speed is controlled.

(II c) Artillery teams should start and halt from back to front. Swing and lead drivers shall not halt their horses until the traces tighten under their leg.

(II d) Quicker horses should be used for the lead team (a slow horse in front can cause an accordion effect.)

(II e) Teams must maintain forward movement during turns (not slow down). Swing horses must move laterally, to the outside, during turns.

### IV. Dismounting and unhitching.

A. Driver exits the vehicle (or dismounts) correctly.

**Note to evaluators:**

(IV a) An assistant is holding the horse's lead while the driver exits the vehicle, or while the artillery drivers dismount. Drivers and passengers should dismount the vehicle facing the vehicle.

B. Horse is disengaged from the vehicle correctly.

**Note to evaluators:**

(IV a) The traces are the last item to be disengaged from the vehicle. The horse's bridle and reins are not removed until the horse is disengaged from and clear of the vehicle.