

2009 Jackson After Action Report

This is an easy review of the Jackson event...everything went fine once the weather cleared on Saturday morning.

Done

Seriously, it is difficult to recall any event that went as smooth and on schedule as this past Jackson.

The two battalion commanders, Tom Emerick (in his first large battalion command) and Craig DeCrane, the seasoned veteran, did a fine job. Jim Newkirk managed the artillery with his usual finesse and the cav. folks did their usual expert task on Sunday when they were blue.

The 8th Michigan Medical was their typical efficient selves, even providing a bandage to my poor heel after puncturing it with a nail that went through my shoe.

The Brigade staff, from Keith Harrison, Matt Merta down, were superb. Never did I ever have to intervene to get something on track or correct a situation....a delight in the eyes of all who command.

And then there is the men...the men who tolerated amazingly heavy rain on Friday to persevere and the resulting mud throughout the weekend. The men who shivered in the mornings and sweated in the afternoons. And all without so much as one complaint. That's the stuff us westerners are made from.

The rebs were numerous and did a great job of keeping to the scenarios and being great sports in portraying Saylor's Creek and their resultant surrender on Sunday.

My heartfelt thanks to the 7th Michigan for the honor they bestowed upon me on Friday with a plaque thanking me for 25 years of service at the event. It took me to tears.

What a glorious reunion it was too. Chuck Peterson showed up after 20 years!!! Think about that, kind reader.

The spirit of cooperation and support given by all of the participants was beyond reproach. That event could be used as a model for all events, east, west, north and south.

In closing, I am certain I have overlooked some folks who deserve mention. I beg their forgiveness and trust they know of my gratitude for their contribution to an extraordinary experience.

I will see many of you at Atlanta this weekend, others at Hartford City and many of you at the Annual Cumberland Guard meeting in November at Conner Prairie.

Yours in service,
Colonel Dave