



Figure 1 Stacking arms video demonstration at <https://youtu.be/NBah7dVzIOw>

Stacking and unstacking of arms can be accomplished smartly in a matter of seconds. Care is required to provide a rigid stack, as well as to prevent damage to the rifles and ramrods.

Not only are the arms supporting each other, but the placement relative to the feet guides the unit when returning from rest.

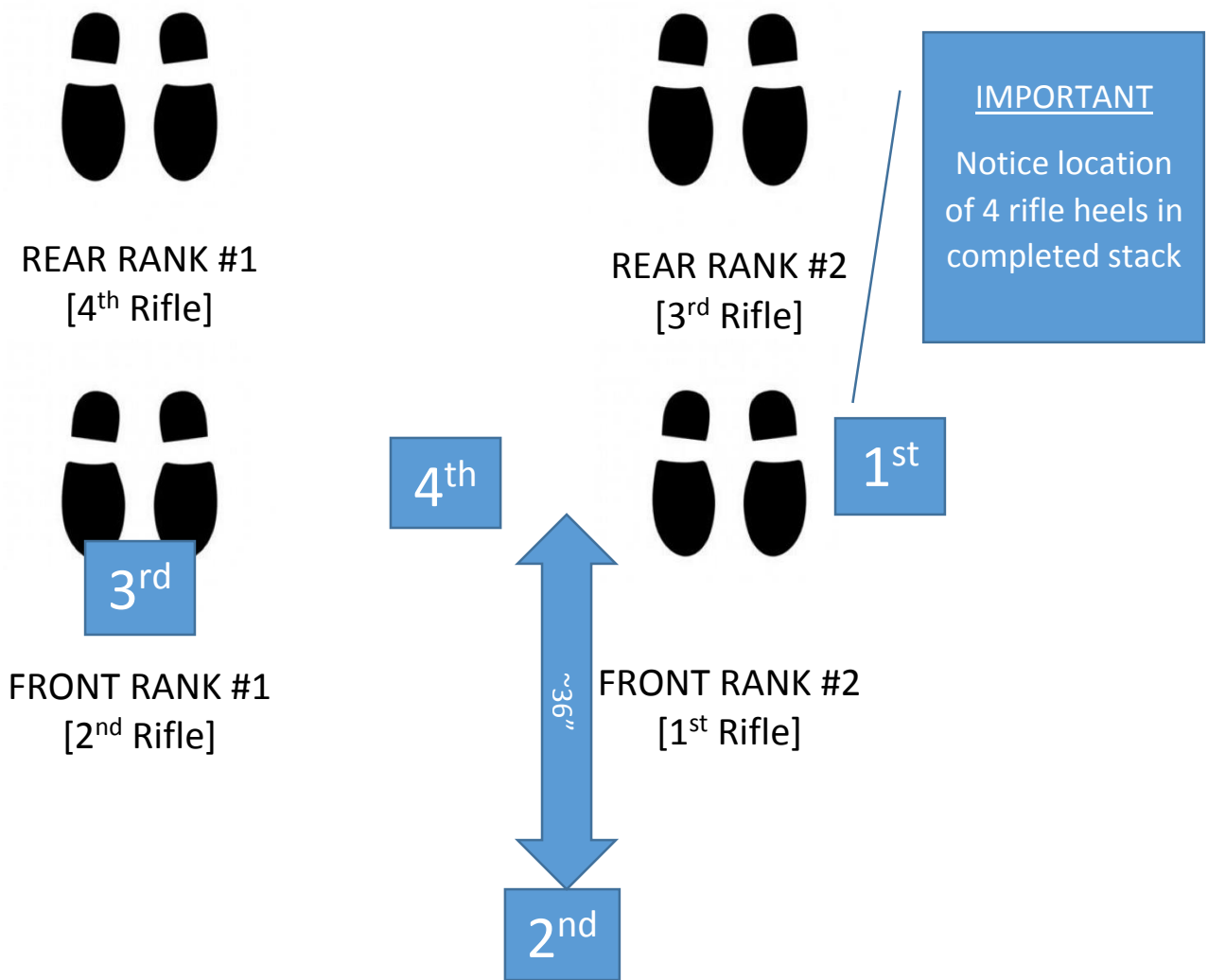
Working in teams of four, the FRONT RANK #2 soldier manages assembly. In the following images, note the placement of each rifle relative to the feet. Also notice the orientation of the bayonet "flats" relative to each other, as well as hand placement used to support the rifles as they are guided into position.

Your obedient servant,

Pvt. Ed Glantz, 148<sup>th</sup> PVI



Figure 2 148<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry <http://148thpvi.org>



FRONT RANK #2 soldier rotates 1<sup>st</sup> rifle and places the 1<sup>st</sup> rifle heel next to left-foot, retaining hold of rifle with left-hand. FRONT RANK #2 then uses right-hand to take 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle from FRONT RANK #1 soldier, and places the 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle heel about 36" in front of right-shoulder. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle bayonets are placed "flat to flat." The FRONT RANK #2 soldier can then support these two rifles with only the left-hand, after moving the left-hand from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle, and leaning them towards FRONT RANK #1 soldier.

The REAR RANK #2 soldier can then carefully feed the 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle's bayonet, flat side up, through the opening created by the bayonets of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rifles. The 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle is held horizontally by REAR RANK #2 soldier until able to be taken in the right hand of the FRONT RANK #2 soldier. The FRONT RANK #2 soldier places the heel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle between the feet of the FRONT RANK #1 soldier, forming a rigid stack.

The REAR RANK #1 soldier can then place, unassisted, the 4<sup>th</sup> rifle with the heel located between the feet of the front two ranks.



Figure 3 FRONT RANK #2 soldier rotates 1<sup>st</sup> rifle and places heel outside of left foot, and then uses right hand to take 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle from FRONT RANK #1 soldier. The 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle is NOT rotated. The heel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle is placed about 36" in front of FRONT RANK #2'S left shoulder. The bayonets of the first two rifles are placed "flat to flat".



*Figure 4 FRONT RANK #2 soldier then shifts left hand to rifle #2. These two rifles can now be supported with only the left hand, if they are leaned towards the FRONT RANK #1 soldier.*





*Figure 5 Front image shows the first two rifles supported with FRONT RANK #2'S left hand as they are leaned toward FRONT RANK #1 soldier.*



*Figure 6 REAR RANK #2 soldier carefully feeds 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle with bayonet flat side up through the bayonet opening from the first two rifle, and holds rifle #3 horizontally until FRONT RANK #2 soldier is able to take the rifle with the right hand.*





Figure 7 Front view showing the heel location of the first three rifles. This is now a rigid, self-supporting stack.



Figure 8 The REAR RANK #1 soldier leans the 4<sup>th</sup> rifle, unassisted, against the rigid stack, placing the heel of the 4<sup>th</sup> rifle between the feet of the front two ranks.



*Figure 9 The command “take arms” reverses the above steps, beginning with the REAR RANK #1 soldier taking unassisted the 4<sup>th</sup> rifle. The FRONT RANK #2 soldier puts left hand on 1<sup>st</sup> rifle, and uses right hand to move and lift 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle towards a horizontal position where the REAR RANK #2 soldier can grip the rifle and withdraw it from the stack. The FRONT RANK #2 soldier can then hand the 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle to the FRONT RANK #1 soldier. Finally, the FRONT RANK #2 soldier can rotate and return the heel of the 1<sup>st</sup> rifle to the outside of the right foot.*