

# DISTRICT 8 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES



**THE PIPES & DRUMS  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATED FIREFIGHTERS OF ILLINOIS  
HONOR GUARD**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the AFFI Honor Guard shall be to Promote the Associated Firefighters of Illinois, the Locals therein and the fire service as a whole to the public in a positive and proper fashion. To be provided as a line of duty death benefit that will allow for dignified, honorable services for fallen AFFI members. To show Honor for their surviving family members and union brothers and sisters through organization of and participation in funeral and memorial services.

It is the mission of the AFFI Honor Guard Pipes and Drums to provide ceremonial music, drill and ceremony in honoring our Brothers and Sisters in the Fire Service.

We are dedicated to maintaining the highest standard of uniform dress and appearance and providing the highest level of musicianship, drill and ceremony.

In order to accomplish this mission, the members of the AFFI Honor Guard Pipes and Drums strive to be become proficient both musically and ceremonially.

## **HONOR GUARD OATH**

**TO HONOR,  
TO CHERISH,  
TO REMEMBER,  
TO SALUTE,  
WITH OVERWHELMING PRIDE  
FOR YOU, MY COMRADE  
I WILL.**

## DISTRICT 8 HISTORY

In the early part of our last century, firefighting and law enforcement jobs were considered beneath most people and were very low paying. During this time, the United States was experiencing a large influx of Scottish and Irish immigrants. The immigrants desperately needed work and found that firefighting, and law enforcement fit their needs and personalities. When one of their own was killed in the line of duty, it was a natural thing for them to grieve with the pipes and drums as they did in their old country. This tradition began to spread to the other cultures represented in firefighting and law enforcement and has continued and grown to the fine tribute of today.

On January 30, 1993, Illinois union rank and file fire fighters from across the state came together in Springfield, and decided to try something new. Something that some would say could not be done, because it had never been done before. That was to organize a state wide Fire Fighter Honor Guard and as a line of duty death benefit, assist and guide in the conducting and performance of fallen fire fighter line of duty funeral services. We inducted our colors, the AFFI Flag and the AFFI Honor Guard Flag, presented honor guard rocker patches for the uniform and asked 69 fire fighters to uphold and maintain the traditions of the fire service.

During the next seven years the AFFI Honor Guard grew in membership and capabilities. The Honor Guard was able to provide members that had become proficient in drill and ceremony and in assisting Locals across the state with developing fire department honor guards. One other capability was the addition of the Pipes and Drums. Larry Creviston, a firefighter bagpiper from Springfield and Keith Patterson a firefighter drummer from Monmouth provided some of the first Piping and Drumming capabilities. Larry eventually brought his Highland Guard Pipes and Drums group to the conventions and provided a larger band presence. Larry's group provided much of the information needed for interested pipers and drummers to get started. They gave us the basics in British Foot and Sword drill and instructed us in proper uniform etiquette. Without the efforts of this group the AFFI Honor Guard Pipes and Drums would not be what it is today.

On February 3, 2001 at the Ninth Annual AFFI Honor Guard Convention in Peoria, seven pipers and seven drummers were formally named as District 8 – Pipes and Drums.

## **DISTRICT 8 MEMBERSHIP**

The Pipes and Drums are a 'military-type' band and are considered a line of duty death benefit. Our cadences and movements are consistent with British military drill. The uniform is based on the pipes and drums uniforms of the Scottish Regiments. Our members are proud to carry on the Scottish traditions in the fire service as some have clan affiliations in their families. The group drills monthly at various locations throughout the State and participates in the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Springfield.

Members must spend hours learning and practicing the skills needed to perform within the unit. This includes personal and group practice time with the instrument, equipment, and British Foot drill. All unit members are responsible for their uniform, instrument, equipment and personal music lessons. These costs can be substantial so due consideration and firm commitment are necessary prior to applying for induction into the district.

Candidates for the Pipes and Drums come from the general membership of the Honor Guard. Candidates must complete one year in their Honor Guard district prior to joining the Pipes and Drums of district 8. Applications are accepted from February to July. After applying, the candidate must attend a minimum of 5 training sessions in district 8 to be considered for induction into the district.

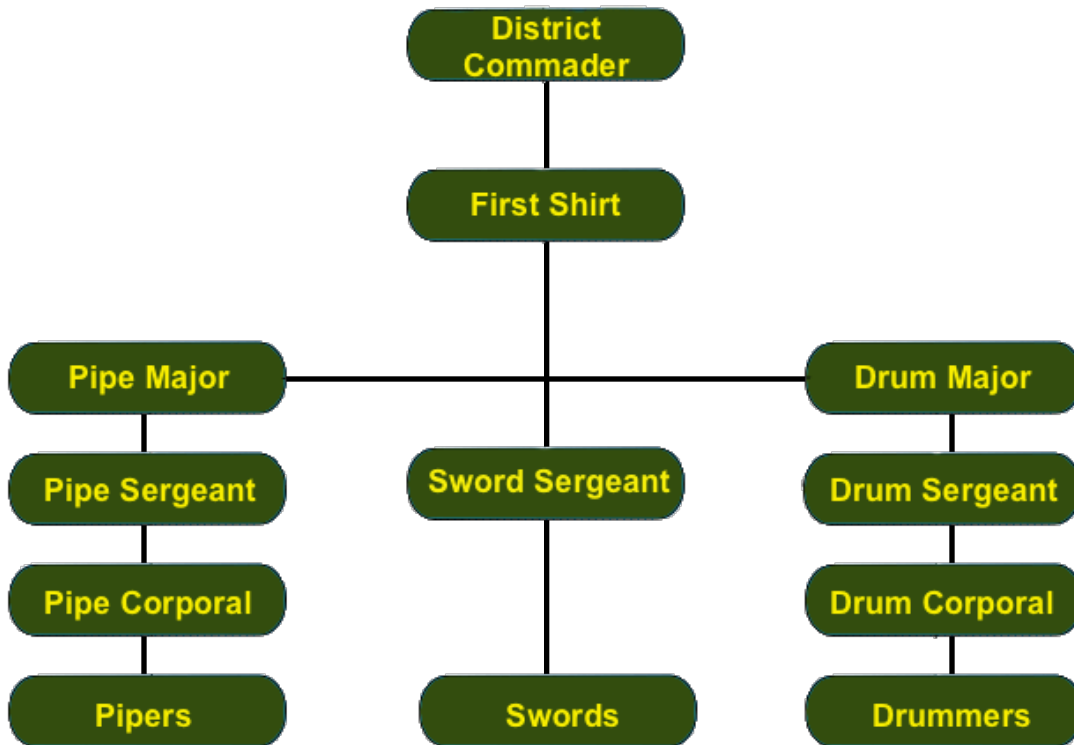
Playing member status is given after the member has performed before either the Pipe Major, Drum Sergeant, or Sword Sergeant. A member can be learning and improving their skill with the instrument and still participate as a Swordsman. The member will have to perform sword drill for the Sword Sergeant before being given approval to perform with the group as a Swordsman.

## **DISTRICT 8 INDUCTION CEREMONY**

The setup occupies an aisle with a width of no less than 8 feet. This aisle width should allow for an approach down the aisle and a retreat back down the same aisle. Variations will be needed if the room is not set up to allow this. The presentation of dog tags and hackle to all new district 8 inductees will be performed. The Swordsmen will draw swords and lead the Pipes and Drums out of the ceremonial room.

The induction ceremony will be coordinated by the District Commander and the AFFI Honor Guard Command Staff. The District Commander will then coordinate with the Pipe Major.

# COMMAND STRUCTURE



Each position should be capable of assuming the roles and responsibilities of the next higher position.

The Pipe Sergeant and Pipe Corporal positions will assist instructing, tuning, and coordinating the Pipers.

The Drum Sergeant and Drum Corporal will instruct, tune, and coordinate the Drummers.

The Sword Sergeant will instruct all swordsmen and complete all swordsmanship evaluations.

The Pipe Major and Drum Major will coordinate all members at an event. In the event of their absence the Sergeant or Corporal will assume the roles and responsibilities.

## **DISTRICT 8 ACTIVATION**

**The AFFI Honor Guard Pipes and Drums shall be officially activated only by Command Staff. Information will be disseminated to the district by the District Commander or First Shirt. The “Engagement Order” will have all available event details. All members are expected to respond with their availability as soon as possible.**

**Any non-official requests for our group should be sent to the District Commander or First Shirt with the requesting parties contact and available event information.**

## **UNIFORM GUIDELINES - DISTRICT 8 PIPES & DRUMS**

### **1. CLASS “A” UNIFORM**

#### **GLENGARRY**

- Worn 1 inch above the left eyebrow and canted slightly to the right with the point aligned with the nose.
- Pipers wear a plain Glengarry
- Drummers wear a diced Glengarry

#### **FEATHER BONNET (if available)**

- Drum Major and Pipe Major typically have five tails(officer pattern) and pipers and drummers have four tails
- Worn touching the right eyebrow and slightly canted to right
- Ribbon tapes are centered on rear of head, chinstrap worn on point of the chin
- All tails displayed. No loose straps

#### **HEADGEAR BADGES**

- Attached securely to headgear
- Clean and polished

## **DOUBLET**

- Military style
- Black with Silver piping
- Shoulder of wings if angled, worn toward the front
- Shoulder wings should not be creased or bent

## **COLLAR PINS**

- AFFI Honor Guard pin worn on left collar one inch from edge centered
- District 8 (Commander or First Shirt) worn on right collar one inch from edge centered
- Rank insignia worn on right collar one inch from edge centered (if no rank worn on sleeve)

## **RANK/INSIGNIA SILVER ON BLACK CLOTH EMBROIDERED**

- Pipe Major/Drum Major- Pipes or Drum insignia in a circle of laurel leaves at the elbow above four chevrons pointed up. The corners of the chevrons should touch the top edge of the gauntlet cuff on the right forearm
- Piper or Drummer insignia patch on right sleeve four inches down from shoulder seam
- Sergeant or Corporal Stripes on right sleeve pointed down one inch below Pipes or Drum insignia
- District 8 Pipes & Drums patch on Left Shoulder
- All Patches Securely attached with no loose threads

## **SASHES/BALDRICS**

- Worn on left shoulder
- District Commander wears a yellow Baldric
- First Shirt wears a yellow Sash
- Drum Major wears a red Baldric
- Pipe Major wears a red Sash

## **WAIST BELT**

- Black for pipers and drummers
- Worn firm to the body so as to allow only one finger to be inserted between the belt and body
- Runners on belt to be pushed up hard to buckle
- Worn level from front to back of body
- Clean with buckle polished and centered on body

## **BELT POUCH**

- Black leather for pipers and drummers

## **CROSS BELT**

- Black leather for drummers only

## **PLAID**

- Pipers wear full plaid to match the kilt
- Drummers wear drummers plaid to match the kilt

## **KILT**

- Black Watch Tartan
- Pattern to be centered at front of body
- Hem to be even and bottom rests at halfway point of knee cap and not lower.

## **SPORRAN**

- Military Horsehair Sporrán
- Worn centrally over apron of kilt
- Generally, the cantle in one hands breadth below the waist belt buckle
- All parts clean, in good order and neatly brushed

## **KILT PIN**

- Worn approximately 4 inches up and 3 inches from right hand side of kilt front apron

## **HOSE/HOSE TOPS**

- Top of hose is worn level side to side and front to back
- Top of hose is three fingers breadth below outside bone at knee
- Patterns and seams vertically straight
- Diamonds straight up and down the shin and centered

## **FLASHES**

- Both flashes to be worn of equal length on both legs. (Black preferred)
- Leading edge of front flash to be vertically up front of leg dissecting the top diamond of the hose.



## **SPATS**

- White canvas with black buttons
- Worn tight to the leg and rear point in line with the center of hose seam
- Buttons on the outside

## **SHOES**

- Black plain toe shoe cleaned and polished

## **SGIAN DUBH**

- Worn inside hose of right leg in center of front right portion of leg bisecting the flash with the handle only
- Scabbard and metal trim concealed by hose

## **DIRK**

- In scabbard attached to waist belt on right rear hip to the rear of the waist belt retaining hook.

## **OPTIONS**

- Flask
- Inverness Rain Cape

Members who have all items except a Doublet can wear their department long sleeve dress uniform shirt with black tie, badge, and nameplate. No crossbealt will be worn.

# UNIFORM GUIDELINES - DISTRICT 8 PIPES AND DRUMS (CONTINUED)

## 2. CLASS “B” UNIFORM

### SHIRT

- Navy Blue Short Sleeve 100% Polyester Shirt with Silver FD buttons down the front, on the pockets and on the epaulets. A zipper closure down the front. District 8 patch on left shoulder.
- AFFI Honor Guard Pin worn above right breast pocket or above name plate.
- Pipes and Drums Musical Rank/Insignia Collar Pin on both collars
- No cross belt with this variation.
- No feather bonnets, Plaids, or Baldrics.
- Command Staff may wear sashes
- Other items from the kilt waist belt down are worn as described in class “A”

If members do not have the District 8 uniform they will wear their department dress uniform.

## 3. CLASS “C” OR “AFTER HOURS” UNIFORM

Pipers and Drummers may wear a laid back uniform variation on day's or evenings that involve entertainment that could involve drinking. Any other uniform that the “after hours” uniform will be expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the AFFI Honor Guard executive board concerning drinking while in uniform.

The Class “C” or “after Hours” uniform can include, but is not limited to:

- Family or Clan tartan kilt, Utilikilts. Sport Kilts
- Day Sporrans or any type
- Tee-shirt
- Cap/Hat
- Boots/Sandles

# MUSICAL SELECTIONS FOR DISTRICT 8

## AMAZING GRACE

(Played 4 times through)

**1ST** - Solo Pipe

- **Played for entering life alone**

**2ND** - All Pipes, Drums crescendo/de-crescendo

- **Played for the Family**

**3RD** - Entire Band, Drums continuously roll

- **Played for Friends**

**4TH** - Solo Pipe

- **Played for we die alone**

### 4/4 SETS

- Robin Adair / Rowan Tree
- Scotland the Brave / Wings / Murdo's Wedding
- God Bless America / Caissons (Army Hymn)/Marine's Hymn / Navy Hymn

### 2/4 SETS

- 42nd Highlanders / Mairi's Wedding / High Road to Gairloch

### 3/4 SETS

- JK Cairns / Michael McGuinness
- Green Hills of Tyrol / Battle's O'er/Balmoral

### FUNERAL SET

- Danny Boy
- Balmoral
- Going Home
- Amazing Grace

