

Section VI

RETREAT

10-22. General

a. The term "Retreat" is taken from the French word "Retraite" and refers to the evening ceremony. The bugle call sounded at retreat was first used in the French army and dates back to the Crusades. Retreat was sounded at sunset to notify sentries to start challenging until sunrise, and to tell the rank and file to go to their quarters. The ceremony remains as a tradition.

b. The old cavalry call "To the Standard," in use from about 1835, has been replaced by the present call of "To the Color." This remains as music honoring the flag as it is lowered in the evening.

10-23. Meaning

Retreat is a ceremony in which the Corps honors the US flag when it is lowered in the evening. This ceremony is conducted at the direction of the unit commanders. The Commandant of Cadets sets the time for sounding retreat.

10-24. Sequence of Events

a. The unit is formed facing the flag five minutes (if possible) before the sounding of retreat.

b. Four minutes before the sounding of retreat, the adjutant or other appointed officer takes his position centered on and facing the line of troops and commands ***Battalion***, **ATTENTION** and then ***Parade***, **REST**.

c. The adjutant faces about and executes parade rest. On the last note of "Retreat," the evening gun is fired. The adjutant then comes to attention, faces about, and commands ***Battalion***, **ATTENTION** and ***Present***, **ARMS** so that the unit is at present arms when the first note of "To the Color" or the National Anthem is sounded. The adjutant then faces about and executes present arms. The adjutant's salute is the signal for the band to begin playing "To the Color."

d. At the last note of "To the Color" or the National Anthem, the adjutant faces about, commands ***Order***, **ARMS**, and then directs **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR UNITS**.

e. Unit commanders render the hand salute. The adjutant returns all salutes with one salute. This terminates the retreat formation.

NOTE: When subordinate units stand retreat, not as a part of a major command, the sequence is the same except the unit commander gives the commands.