

APPENDIX C

Flags and Colors

C-1. General

a. For occasions when the flag of the United States is raised, lowered, or flown at half-staff, see AR 600-25 and paragraph C-2 and C-3.

b. When the flag is to be flown at half-staff, it is first hoisted to the top of the flagpole and then lowered to the half-staff position. Before lowering the flag, it is again raised to the top of the flagpole and then lowered (AR 840-10).

c. Normally, a flag detail consists of one noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), two halyard pullers, and two to eight flag handlers. The purpose of the flag handlers is to ensure correct folding (unfolding) of the flag and to ensure that the flag does not touch the ground. As a guide, two flag handlers are needed when raising or lowering the storm (small) flag, six handlers for the post (medium) flag, and eight handlers for the garrison (large) flag (paragraph E-5).

d. The members of the flag detail are equipped according to local standing operating procedure and/or letter of instructions.

e. The NCOIC inconspicuously gives the necessary commands or directives to ensure proper performance by the flag detail. On windy days, he may assist the flag handlers to secure or fold the flag.

C-2. Raising the Flag (Reveille)

a. The NCOIC forms the detail in a *column of twos* at double interval between files. He secures the flag from its storage area and positions himself between the files and on line with the last two men. He then *marches* the detail to the flagpole.

b. The detail is *halted* in *column*, *facing* the flagpole on the downwind side. They are *halted* so that the flagpole is centered between the halyard pullers. The NCOIC commands **POST**. On this command, the halyard pullers immediately move to the flagpole and ensure that the halyards are free of the pole. The flag handlers *face* to the center. The NCOIC then directs **UNFOLD THE FLAG**. On this directive, the two flag handlers nearest the NCOIC begin to (carefully) unfold the flag lengthwise, passing the freed end to the other handlers. When the two handlers nearest the flagpole have firmly secured the flag, the other handlers move away from the flagpole (as necessary) until the flag is fully extended. The flag is not unfolded widthwise. The flag handlers hold the flag waist high with their forearms horizontal to the ground (Figure C-1).

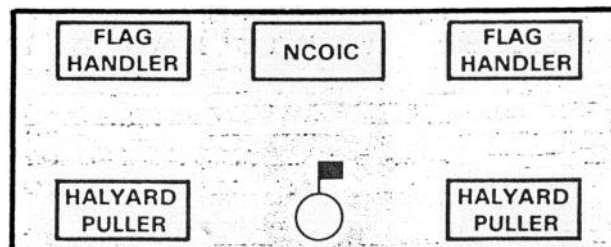


Figure C-1. Flag Detail

c. At the appropriate time, the NCOIC directs **ATTACH THE FLAG**. On this directive, all flag handlers take one side step toward the flagpole. The two handlers nearest the flagpole immediately attach the top of the flag to the halyard. The halyard pullers raise the flag until the bottom of the flag can be attached.

NOTE: When raising the larger flags, the NCOIC may command *Side step*, **MARCH** and **HALT** while the halyard pullers raise the halyard until the lower portion of the flag is attached.

d. At the first note of the music, the reveille gun is fired and the halyard pullers rapidly raise the flag. The NCOIC *salutes*. As the flag is raised from the handlers' hands, they *face* the flagpole and *salute*. (Reveille is about 20 seconds in duration.) At the last note of the music, the NCOIC commands **Order, ARMS** for himself and the flag handlers while the pullers secure the halyards. The NCOIC then positions himself between the halyard pullers, executes an *about face*, and commands **Ready, FACE**. The detail will *face* in the appropriate direction to depart the flag pole. He then *marches* the detail from the site.

C-3. Lowering the Flag (Retreat)

a. The detail is *marched* and positioned at the flagpole in the same manner as when raising the flag. On the command **POST**, the halyard pullers free the halyards, untangle them, ensure that they are free from the pole, and then temporarily resecure them; the flag handlers do not *face* to the center. The NCOIC then commands **Parade, REST**.

b. At the cannon shot or at the last note of "Retreat" (if a cannon is not fired), each halyard puller immediately frees the halyards. The NCOIC commands himself and the flag handlers to **ATTENTION** and **Present, ARMS**. At the first note of "To the Color," the flag is lowered slowly and with dignity.

NOTE: The call, "To the Color," is approximately 40 seconds in duration. As the flag is lowered to within reach, the two flag handlers farthest away from the flag terminate their *salute*, move forward rapidly, secure the flag, and move back from the flagpole. As the flag passes each handler, he terminates his *salute* and assists in securing the flag. The NCOIC terminates his *salute* at the last note of the music. Once the flag is detached, it is then folded. After securing the halyard, the handlers assist in the folding. After the flag has been folded and received by the NCOIC, the detail is *marched* to the storage site. Once the flag has been folded (cocked hat), it is treated as a cased Color and not *saluted* by persons meeting the flag detail.

C-4. Display

The flag of the United States represents the living country and is considered a living thing.

a. Rules and customs for displaying of the US flag, adopted by an act of Congress in 1942 and amended in 1976, are found in Title 36 of the United States Code.

NOTE: No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel, and except as required by multinational agreements to which the United States is a signatory.

b. The union, the field of blue with the grouping of stars representing the individual states, is the honor point and is the flag's right. When the flag is displayed, the union is always to the top and to the flag's own right (the left of the observer). When carried, the flag is always free, never stretched flat or carried horizontally. In the company of other flags, the US flag is always on the marching right (the flag's own right), or if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. When a number of flags of states, or localities, or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs, the US flag is in the center and at the highest point of the group. If all flags are displayed from staffs of the same height, the flag of the United States is placed in the honor position, to the right of the other flags (to the left of the observer). When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are flown from separate staffs of the same height, they are of approximately equal size, and the US flag is to the right of the others.

NOTE: When the US flag is flown in conjunction with other national flags, care must be taken to ensure that the foreign national flag is correct and properly displayed.

c. The flag of the United States is never used as drapery. It is displayed hung flat against a wall or flown free from a staff. It is not festooned over doorways or arches, tied in a bow, or fashioned into a rosette. It is not used to cover a speaker's desk or draped over the front of a platform. For those purposes, bunting may be used, giving the blue of the bunting the place of honor at the top of the arrangement or in the center of the rosette. Traditionally, there is one permissible departure from the rules for display of the flag of the United States: in a dire emergency, the flag may be flown upside down as a distress signal.

NOTE: For a detailed explanation of the regulations concerning the flag of the United States and other flags and colors see ARs 840-10 and 600-25.

C-5. Classification

a. A flag as distinguished from a Color is not *saluted* except during the ceremonies of raising and lowering the flag. US flags used by the Army are classified by size as follows:

- (1) Garrison Flag. It is 20 feet hoist by 38 feet fly of nylon wool and displayed on holidays and important occasions.
- (2) Post Flag. It is 8 feet 11 3/8 inch hoist by 17 feet fly of nylon and used for general display, and flown daily.
- (3) Field Flag. It is 6 feet 8 inches hoist by 12 feet fly of nylon wool and used for display with the positional field flag.
- (4) Storm Flag. It is 5 feet hoist by 9 feet 6 inches fly of nylon and flown during inclement weather.
- (5) Interment Flag. It is 5 feet hoist by 9 feet 6 inches fly of cotton bunting.

b. A Color is the US flag trimmed on three sides with golden yellow fringe 2 1/2 inches wide. The Color is primarily for indoor display. US Colors used by the Army are classified by size as follows:

- (1) Four feet 4 inches hoist by 5 feet 6 inches fly displayed with the US Army flag, positional colors, the Corps of Cadets Colors, 1st Battalion 3rd Infantry Colors, and the chapel flag.
- (2) Three feet hoist by 4 feet fly displayed with the Army field flag, distinguishing flags, organizational colors, institutional flags, and the chapel flag.

c. Other types of military flags include:

(1) Colors. These are flags of organizations and certain civilian and military officials.

(2) Standards. A name formerly used for flags of mounted units.

(3) Distinguished Flags. They identify headquarters, offices, general officers, and organizations, none of which is authorized organizational or individual colors.

(4) Ensign. It is a rectangular flag flown from aircraft, ships, and boats.

(5) Guidon. This is a swallow-tailed flag carried by companies, batteries, troops, and certain detachments.

(6) Pennant. This is a triangular flag used for various utility purposes.

d. Dismounted organizations traditionally carried the Color while mounted (cavalry, mechanized, and motorized) organizations traditionally carried the standard. Colors were larger than standards. Under present regulations, both are called Colors.

e. The organizational color is dipped in *salute* during the playing of the United States National Anthem, "To the Color," "Taps" (funerals only), and during the ceremony at reveille. It is dipped in *salute* when rendering honors to the organization's commander or to a person of higher grade, but at no other time. The US flag is never dipped in *salute*.

f. Until 1813, the colors of an infantry regiment were carried by ensigns, who were the lowest ranking officers of the regiment. In that year, the regulations were changed and the work was entrusted to Color sergeants. Noncommissioned officers carry them today.