

DRILL INSTRUCTION CARDS PACKAGE

Instructions for The Color Guard

CARDS CG-1 THRU CG-17

Adapted from the MCRD, Parris Island Drill Manual and the Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual (MCO P5060.20)

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CG-1

COMPOSITION OF THE COLOR GUARD

- The color guard consists normally of 4 individuals of approximately equal height. The size of the color guard may vary.
- The two senior elements are the color bearers, and the two junior elements are the color guards/rifle bearers.
- The senior color bearer carries the national colors and commands the color guard. The junior color bearer carries the organizational colors.
- If a female is part of the color guard, she wears slacks, not a skirt, for uniformity.
- Color bearers should not wear medals, ribbons or badges because the slings/harnesses will destroy them.
- Unless otherwise directed for special ceremonies, the national colors will always be carried when the organizational colors is carried, but the national colors may be carried alone, in which case, the color guard will consist of only one color bearer.
- Flags or banners of non-U.S. military organizations (e.g., Boy Scouts, Kawanas Club, etc.) are not carried in the color guard.

CG-2

FORMATION OF THE COLOR GUARD

- The color guard is formed and marches in one rank at close interval with the color bearers in the center.
- The bearer of the national colors is always on the right with the bearer of the organizational colors to his/her left.
- The color guards (rifle bearers) flank the color bearers.

Color Guard Formations

Basic Color Guard

LR 0 C N C RR

Navy-Marine Corps Color Guard

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Left R (Navy) | Navy colors (Navy) | Marine colors (Marine) | National colors (Marine) | Right R (Marine) |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|

Joint Armed Forces Color Guard

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| LR (Marine) | USCGC (CG) | USAFC (Air Force) | USNC (Navy) | USMCC (Marine) | USAC (Army) | Nat'l C (Army) | RR (Army) |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE COLOR GUARD

- Color guards (rifle bearers) will execute a modified rifle manual. This involves a pause on the part of one rifle bearer so the rifles move to and from the right and left shoulder at the same time.
- When on the march, the color guard on the right will be at right shoulder arms, and the color guard on the left at left shoulder arms.
- The inboard arms of the color guards remain at their sides and do not swing.
- The color guard does not execute to the rear, facing movements, flanking movements, column movements or fix bayonets.
- When the above commands are executed by the unit to which the color guard is attached (except fix bayonets) the senior color bearer orders the appropriate command (described herein) to bring the color guard into position.

CARRY COLORS FROM ORDER COLORS

- When changing from order colors to carry colors, the command is **“Carry, COLORS”**.
- At the preparatory command, **“Carry”**, change the grasp on the staff to the **“V”** grip so as to grasp it from the rear between the thumb and fingers of the right hand, fingers joined and wrapped around the staff.
- At the command of execution **“COLORS”**, raise the staff with your right hand to a point where the lower ferrule is just above the sling socket.
- While raising it, keep the staff vertical. Grasp the staff at the lower ferrule with the left hand to steady it and align it with the sling. Do not look down.
- All organizational colors are raised to carry with the national colors.
- Seat the lower ferrule in the sling socket. As the ferrule is seated, allow the right hand to slide down the staff to a point directly in front of the color bearer’s chin.
- Color guards armed with rifles execute right and left shoulder arms on the command of execution **“COLORS”** so that the rifles are on the outboard shoulders.
- All members will halt movement before the last count. On the senior color bearer’s command **“Ready, CUT”**, all members will move their free hand smartly to their sides. The right arm is held down without strain, with the staff inclined slightly forward.
- If the color staffs need additional support due to high winds, the color bearers will grip the staff with their left hands just below their right.

ORDER COLORS

- In the position of order colors, the ferrule rests on the deck, touching the outside edge of your right shoe, just opposite your little toe.
- The staff is grasped in the strong grip with the thumb wrapped around the front of the staff and the fingers wrapped to the rear.
- The right elbow is close to your side so the forearm will help support the staff.
- The upper staff rests in the hollow of the right shoulder.
- The staff is vertical with the cutting edge of the battle-axe facing front.
- The color bearer is at attention.
- Color guards armed with rifles are at order arms when the colors are at the order.

ORDER COLORS FROM CARRY COLORS

- When changing from carry colors to order colors, the command is **“Order, COLORS (ARMS)”**.
- At the preparatory command **“Order,”** the color bearers will grip the staff with the left above the ferrule and remove the staff from the sling socket. The staff moves to the right side of the body with the ferrule just forward of the sling socket.
- At the command of execution **“COLORS”**, lower the staff to a point approximately 2 inches above the deck along the outside edge of the right shoe; release the staff with left hand and re-grip it above the right hand.
- Relax both hands so the staff will slide down until the ferrule rests on the deck. Then trim or strip the colors by maintaining a grip on the staff with the left hand and raising the right hand to lightly grasp the fabric of the colors. Pull it down along the staff (do not attempt to throw or tuck it) and re-grip the staff with the right hand with the fabric under the right arm. Then, change to the right hand to the strong grip.
- On the command **“COLORS”**, both rifle bearers will execute order arms from right and left shoulder arms with the right rifle bearer standing fast for one count while the left rifle re-grasps the small of the stock. The remaining 4 counts are executed in unison.
- All members will halt movement before the last count. On the senior color bearer’s command **“Ready, CUT”**, all members of the color guard will return their left hand smartly to their sides, color guards assuming order arms.

PRESENT COLORS FROM ORDER COLORS

- To change from order colors to present colors, the command is **“Present, COLORS (ARMS)”**.
- Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- On the preparatory command **“Present”** change the grasp of the right hand on the staff to the **“V”** grip so as to grasp it from the rear between the thumb and fingers of the right hand with the fingers around the staff. The national color bearer now executes the movement to carry colors.
- At the command of execution **“COLORS,”** the organizational color bearer executes the movement to carry colors. The color guards execute present arms.
- Once the color guard is at present colors (arms), and when appropriate, the organizational color bearer will render a salute with the organizational colors by straightening the right arm and lowering the staff naturally to the front. The sharp edge of the battle ax faces down.
- On the command **“Ready, CUT,”** only the color bearers will lower their left hands smartly to their sides.

Note: Salutes by the Organizational colors are not automatic, and are rendered only during honors to national colors; to the commander of the organization represented by the colors or an individual senior in rank to that individual; when honoring the dead; and during musical honors (on the first note of the music). Colors are returned to the vertical position on the last note of the music or the last volley of a gun salute. If no music is played, and a color salute is appropriate, the organizational colors salute after the color guard has gone to present colors.

RESTS WITH THE COLORS

- The color guard assumes the parade rest position in lieu of at ease or rest.
- At ease or rest are not used by the color guard when carrying uncased colors.
- The command is only given by the senior color bearer (from the position of order colors) or by the person in charge of a formation with which the colors are posted.
- The movement is executed in one count.
- At the command **“Parade, REST”**, **“AT EASE;”** or **“REST,”** all members of the color guard will execute parade rest, the left foot of the color bearer is moved smartly placed 12 inches to the left of the right foot, heels on line, legs straight without stiffness, weight on both legs.
- At the same time, the color bearers will grasp the sling socket with their left hand, the thumb tucked lightly into the socket.
- The colors **remain vertical** and will not be thrust forward as with the guidon staff.
- Color guards/rifle bearers execute parade rest as prescribed in the manual of arms.
- At the command attention, the position of order color is resumed (order arms for the color guard /rifle bearers).

ORDER COLORS FROM PRESENT COLORS

- When changing from present color to order color, the command is **“Order, COLORS (ARMS)”**.
- On the command **“Order,”** if the organizational colors are still saluting, it will be brought back to the vertical position with the cutting edge of the battle-axe facing front.
- On the preparatory command, color guards will return to left and right shoulder arms.
- The color bearers then grip the staff with the left hand and remove it from the sling socket and move it to their right side as per order colors.
- At the command of execution **“COLORS,”** all colors are brought to the position of order colors and the colors are trimmed. Color guards execute order arms from right and left shoulder arms described in order colors from carry colors.
- All members halt movement before executing the last count. At the command **“Ready, CUT,”** all members will return their free hand smartly to their sides as in order colors from carry colors.

EYES RIGHT (LEFT) FROM CARRY OR ORDER COLORS

- The command to execute eyes right (left) from carry or order color is **“Eyes, RIGHT (LEFT).”** It will be given only when marching at carry colors or while halted at order colors.
 1. Eyes right. *When halted at order color:* At the command **“RIGHT”**, all members of the color guard except the national color bearer smartly turn the head and eyes 45 degrees to the right. The organizational colors cannot salute from order colors.
 2. Eyes left. *When halted at order color:* At the command **“LEFT”** all members of the color guard except the national color bearer smartly turn the head and eyes 45 degrees to the left. The organizational colors cannot salute from order colors.
 3. Eyes right. *While marching at carry colors:* At the command **“RIGHT”**, all members of the color guard except the national color bearer and the individual on the right smartly turn the head and eyes 45 degrees to the right. When the reviewing officer of a parade is entitled to a salute by the organizational colors, the salute is executed at the command **“RIGHT”**.
 4. Eyes Left. *While marching at carry colors:* At the command **“LEFT”**, all members of the color guard except the national color bearer and the individual on the extreme left smartly turn the head and eyes 45 degrees to the right. When the reviewing officer of a parade is entitled to a salute by the organizational colors, the salute is executed at the command **“LEFT”**.

CARRY COLORS FROM EYES RIGHT (LEFT)

- The command to execute carry colors from eyes right (left) is “**Ready, FRONT,**” and will only be given from eyes right (left) on the march.

On the March.

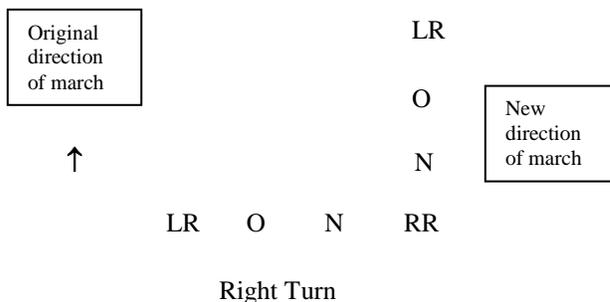
- At the command of execution “**FRONT,**” All members of the color guard who executed eyes right (left) turn the head and eyes smartly to the left (right) so you are again looking straight ahead. Those members of the color guard who did not execute eyes right (left) remain looking straight ahead.
- When the senior color bearer commands “**FRONT,**” if the organizational color saluted, it resumes the carry.

At the Halt (during a review or other ceremony).

- When the reviewing officer troops the line, ready front will not be given after eyes right (left).
- At the halt, as when on the march, each member of the color guard executing eyes right turns his head and eyes toward the reviewing officer on the command of execution “**RIGHT.**”
- As the reviewing officer passes, those color guard members executing eyes right will follow the reviewing officer with their eyes, turning their head and eyes back towards the front as he passes by. Once the reviewing officer is directly in front of them, all movements of the head and eyes is halted.

FACE THE COLOR GUARD TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT

- The command to face the color guard to the right (left) is “**Right (Left) Turn, MARCH.**”
- This movement may be executed while halted, marking time, or marching.
- On the command of execution “**MARCH,**” with the right (left) color guard (rifle bearer) acting as a stationary pivot, the color guard inclines to the right (left) turning 90 degrees until they are facing the new direction.
- When making the turn, at any one moment all members of the color guard face the same direction maintaining their alignment.
- Upon completion of the turn, the color guard will be marking time.
- The senior color bearer immediately gives the next command such as “**Forward, MARCH,**” or “**Colors, Halt.**”

**FACE THE COLOR GUARD TO THE REAR**

- The command to face the color guard to the rear is “**Countermarch, MARCH.**”
- This movement may be executed while halted, marking time, or marching.
- When marking time or marching, the command of execution “**MARCH**” is given as the left foot strikes the deck.
- On the command of execution MARCH, the entire color guard takes one step forward with the right foot and executes the movement.
- The national color bearer pivots to the left, moving into the position formerly occupied by the organizational color bearer, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time.
- The organizational color bearer takes one half step forward, pivots to the right outside the national color bearer, moving into the position formerly occupied by the national color bearer, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time. The right color guard takes two half steps forward, pivots to the left, outside the organizational color bearer, moving into the position formerly occupied by the left color guard, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time.

FACE THE COLOR GUARD TO THE REAR (Con't.)

- The left color guard takes three half steps forward, pivots to the right, outside the right color guard, moving into the position formerly occupied by the right color guard, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time.
- Upon completion of this movement, the entire color guard marks time until it is halted or until it receives the command “**Forward, MARCH**” or “**Colors, HALT.**”

CG-3(a)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE COLOR GUARD (Con't.)

- The color bearers are unarmed, but the color guards carry either pistols or rifles (Except in a chapel).
- When participating in a ceremony inside a chapel, the color guard will be unarmed and uncovered.

CG-9

PRESENT COLORS FROM CARRY COLORS

- To change from carry colors to present colors, the command is “**Present, COLORS (ARMS).**”
- At the command of execution “**COLORS,**” the color guards (rifle bearers) execute present arms from the shoulder as described on drill card # CG-16(c)
- The national color bearer remains at carry colors.
- The organizational color will salute if appropriate in accordance with card # CG-17.

CG-10

CARRY COLORS FROM PRESENT COLORS

- To change from present colors to carry colors, the command is “**Carry, COLORS.**”
- At the command “**Carry,**” if the organizational colors are saluting, it will be brought back to the vertical position with the flat side of the spearhead facing the front.
- At the command of execution “**COLORS,**” the color guards (rifle bearers) return to the shoulder as described on drill card #
- Before executing the last count, the color guards will await the senior color bearer’s command “**Ready, CUT.**”

CG-16

SYNCRONIZING THE MANUAL OF ARMS FOR THE COLOR GUARDS ARMED WITH RIFLES

- The manual of arms for color guards armed with rifles must be synchronized so that the rifles move (e.g., off of, or to the shoulder) at the same time. Since the left rifleman is at left shoulder arms, and the right rifleman is at right shoulder arms, moving to and from the right/left shoulder to the order, present or back to the shoulder often involves a different number of “counts” in the movement for each rifleman. To ensure that the rifles are moving together, one or the other of the riflemen must pause occasionally in the manual of arms to allow the other rifleman to catch up.
- When executing the rifle manual both riflemen will wait for the senior color bearer’s command of “**Ready, CUT**” before executing the final count of the movement.

CG-16(a)**SYNCRONIZING THE MANUAL OF ARMS
FOR THE COLOR GUARDS ARMED WITH
RIFLES (Con't.)**ORDER COLORS TO CARRY COLORS.

The command is “**Carry, COLORS.**” This is a four-count movement for both riflemen. The right rifleman goes to right shoulder arms and the left rifleman goes to left shoulder arms.

CARRY COLORS TO ORDER COLORS

The command is “**Carry, COLORS.**” This is a four-count movement for the right rifleman and a five-count movement for the left rifleman. In order to have the riflemen move to the order together, the “counts” are modified as follows: (see card # CG 16(b))

CG-16(b)CARRY COLORS TO ORDER COLORS Con't.

The right rifleman starts at right shoulder arms and the left rifleman starts at left shoulder arms.

Count one

- Right rifleman: Stands fast.
- Left Rifleman: Re-grasps the small of the stock.

Count two

- Both rifles are moved from the shoulder.

Count three

- Both riflemen re-grasps the barrel.

Count four

- Both rifles are moved to the right side.

Count five

- Both riflemen execute “Ready, CUT” on command.

CG-16(c)ORDER COLORS TO PRESENT COLORS

- The command is “**Present, COLORS.**” This is a two-count movement for both riflemen, with both executing present arms with the rifle.

PRESENT COLORS TO ORDER COLORS

- The command is “**Order, COLORS.**” This is a three-count movement for both riflemen, with both executing order arms with the rifle

CARRY COLORS TO PRESENT COLORS

- The command is “**Present, COLORS.**” This is a three-count movement for both riflemen; however, it becomes a four-count movement to synchronize the rifles being brought from the left and right shoulder to present arms.
- The manual “counts” are modified as follows:

CG-16(d)CARRY COLORS TO PRESENT COLORS Con't.

The right rifleman starts at right shoulder arms and the left rifleman starts at left shoulder arms.

Count one

- Right rifleman: Stands fast.
- Left Rifleman: Re-grasps the small of the stock.

Count two

- Both rifles are moved from the shoulder.

Count three

- Right rifleman re-grasps the small of the stock.
- Left rifleman stands fast.

Count four

- Both rifles are rotated to present arms.

COLOR SALUTES

PRESENT COLORS TO CARRY COLORS

- The command may be “**Carry, COLORS**” or “**Shoulder, ARMS.**” This is a three-count movement for the left rifleman and a four-count movement for the right rifleman to return the rifles to the left and right shoulder from present arms. The “counts” are synchronized as follows:

Count one

- Both rifles are rotated to port.

Count two

- Right rifleman grasps the butt of the rifle.
- Left rifleman stands fast.

Count three

- Both rifles are moved to the shoulder.

Count four

- Both riflemen execute “Ready, CUT” on command.

- **By the National Colors (Standard).** The national colors (standard) renders no salute, except as specified in U.S. Navy Regulations, paragraph 1263.1)
- **By the Organizational Colors.** In military ceremonies, the organizational colors salutes while the “National Anthem,” “To the Colors,” “Retreat,” or “Hail to the Chief” is being played, and when rendering honors to the organizational commander, individual of higher rank, or the dead, but in no other case.
- **By the Organizational Standard.** The organizational standard renders no salutes as it is mounted on a vehicle.