

DRILL INSTRUCTION CARDS PACKAGE

Instructions for *Posting and Retiring the Colors / Indoor Ceremonies*

Adapted from the MCRD, Parris Island Drill Manual and the NAVMC 2691 Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual

PRC1	ELEMENTS OF INDOOR CEREMONIES
PRC2	NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR POSTING THE COLORS
PRC3	NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR RETIRING THE COLORS
PRC4	UNUSUAL SITUATIONS WHEN PERFORMING AN INDOOR CEREMONY

PRC1

ELEMENTS OF INDOOR CEREMONIES

- March on the colors
- “National Anthem” (or pledge of allegiance).
- Posting the colors
- Retiring the colors

Note: Close coordination with the master of ceremonies , and an on-site rehearsal (if possible) are needed to preclude confusion and misunderstanding during the ceremony.

PRC2

NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR POSTING THE COLORS

- The master of ceremonies asks the guests to rise for *march on the colors* and remain standing for the “*National Anthem*” and the posting of the colors.
- The national color guard marches in from the designated entry and moves to its position, and does a right (left) turn or countermarch to face the audience and remains at the carry.
- The senior color bearer then gives the command “**Present, COLORS,**” – the color guard executes.
- After the National Anthem is played, the senior color bearer gives the command “**Carry, COLORS.**”
- The senior color bearer then gives the necessary commands to move the color guard to 3 paces in front of where the colors are to be posted, halts, and gives the command, “**Order, COLORS.**”

PRC2a

NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR POSTING THE COLORS (Con't.)

- Once the color guard is at the order, the organizational color bearer then steps to the right oblique and places the organizational colors in the stand.
- Once the organizational color bearer is back in position, the national color bearer steps to the left oblique and places the national colors into the stand.
- When the national color bearer is back in position, the senior color bearer commands **“Present, ARMS.”**
- The riflemen execute present arms and the color bearers execute a hand salute

The senior color bearer then commands **“Order ARMS;”** **“Shoulder, ARMS;”** and then using whatever commands necessary, marches the color guard from the auditorium.

PRC3a

NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR RETIRING THE COLORS (con't.)

- The national color bearer then steps to the oblique and retrieves the national colors.
- When the national color bearer is back in position the organizational color bearer steps to the right oblique and retrieves the organizational colors.
- When the organizational color bearer is back in position the senior color bearer commands, **“carry, COLORS”** and then, using whatever commands necessary, marches the color guard from the auditorium.

PRC3

NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR RETIRING THE COLORS

When it is time to retire the colors, the color guard assumes its position to re-enter the auditorium for that part of the ceremony.

- The master of ceremonies would then ask for the guests to rise for the retiring of the colors.
- The color guard marches to a position 3 paces in front of where the colors are posted, halts and goes to the order.
- The senior color bearer then commands **“Present ARMS;”** the riflemen execute present arms and the color bearers execute a hand salute.
- The senior color bearer then commands **“Order, ARMS.”**
- The color guard goes to the order.

PRC4

UNUSUAL SITUATIONS WHEN PERFORMING AN INDOOR CEREMONY

When performing an indoor ceremony, oddities will be encountered that will necessitate some adjustments by the color guard. Some examples are:

- If performing in a house of worship, covers are not worn and weapons are not carried. Those portions of the ceremony requiring present arms are deleted and the riflemen may be omitted.
- The ceiling may be too low to carry colors; if so, march in at the trail.
- The flag stands you will be posting the colors into may be on different sides of the stage. If this occurs, the recommended sequence is:
 - 1) Execute the ceremony as discussed earlier.
 - 2) After the *“National Anthem”* the colors countermarch and halt facing the new direction.
 - Senior color bearer commands: **Post the Colors**
 - National color bearer and right rifleman steps off to the left oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time.

UNUSUAL SITUATIONS WHEN PERFORMING AN INDOOR CEREMONY (Con't.)

- The right rifleman positions himself so as to be outboard of the national colors.
- After the national color bearer and right rifleman have cleared, the organizational color bearer and left rifleman step off to the right oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time.
- The left rifleman positions himself so as to be outboard of the organizational colors.
- Once both colors are in position, the senior color bearer commands "**Colors, HALT,**" and "**Order, COLORS.**"
- The organizational colors is placed in the flag stand, then the national colors is placed in the flag stand.
- The senior color bearer then commands "**Present, ARMS.**"
- The rifleman execute present arms, and the color bearers execute a hand salute.
- The senior color bearer then commands "**Order, ARMS;**" "**Center, RACE;**" and "**Forward, MARCH.**"
- The riflemen march at trail arms. The color guard moves to the center of the stage and marks time, slowly turning left or right towards the audience.

UNUSUAL SITUATIONS WHEN PERFORMING AN INDOOR CEREMONY (Con't.)

- The senior colors bearer then commands, Colors, HALT;" "Shoulders, ARMS;" and then marches the color guard from the auditorium.
- 3) To retire the colors from separated flag stands:
- The detail is marched into position facing the colors and halted. The senior color bearer then commands "**Present, ARMS.**"
 - The color guard riflemen execute present arms and the color bearers execute a hand salute.
 - The senior color bearer then commands "**Shoulder, ARMS.**" And riflemen return to **the shoulder.**
 - The national color bearer and right rifleman step off to the left oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time.
 - The right rifleman positions himself so as to be outboard of the national colors.
 - After the right rifleman and the national colors have cleared, the organizational color bearer and left rifleman step off in the left oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time.

UNUSUAL SITUATIONS WHEN PERFORMING AN INDOOR CEREMONY (Con't.)

- The left rifleman positions himself so as to be outboard of the organizational colors.
- Once all are in position the senior color bearer commands "**Colors, HALT,**" and "**Order, ARMS.**"
- The senior color bearer then retrieves the national colors.
- The organizational color bearer then retrieves the organizational colors.
- The senior color bearer then commands "**Center, FACE,**" and "**Forward, MARCH.**"
- The color guard, at trail arms, moves to the center of the stage and marks time, slowly turning left or right towards the audience.
- The senior color bearer then commands "Colors, HALT;" "Carry, COLORS;" and then marches the color guard from the auditorium.
- The rule of thumb for all unusual situations not covered by this manual is to perform in a military manner. However, never do something that would embarrass the unit or the United States Navy.

