

NATIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL FLAGS

16-1. GENERAL

a. When flown from ships or craft of the Navy or from a flagstaff at commands ashore, the national flag will be displayed in accordance with the provisions of U.S. Navy Regulations. The national flag is also called "national ensign" or "ensign."

b. Designated Marine organizations, including divisions, regiments, and battalions, are equipped with a national flag and an organizational flag.

c. When mounted on a staff (pike) and carried by an individual on foot, or displayed or cased in a fixed location, the national flag is called the "national color" and the organizational flag is called the "organizational color." The term "color" means the national color only. The term "colors" means both the national color and the organizational color.

d. When mounted on a vehicle, the national flag is called the "national standard" and the organizational flag is called the "organizational standard." The term "standard" means the national standard only. The term "standards" means both the national standard and the organizational standard.

e. In garrison or on board ship, the colors of an organization, when not in use, are kept by the commanding officer. Whenever practicable, colors should be kept uncased and displayed in the office of the commanding officer, or other appropriate place. They may be cased, however, by placing them within a protective covering and, in such case, are kept in his office. Colors which are kept cased and not used often should be unfurled and aired frequently.

f. The colors (standards) may be carried in any formation in which two or more companies participate, and in escorts and honor guards when ordered. Unless otherwise directed for special ceremonies, the national color will always be carried when the organizational color is carried, but the national color may be carried alone.

g. In regimental formations, only the colors (standards) of the regiment will be carried. When two or more separate battalions are formed as a regiment, only the colors (standards) of one battalion will be carried for the regiment.

h. In battalion formations, the colors (standards) will be posted with a designated color company and in regimental formations with a designated color company or color battalion. For the position of the color company within the battalion formation, see chapter 10. For the position of the color company or battalion within the regimental formation, see chapter 11. In any formation involving two or more organizations which could carry colors (standards) in that formation, the number of colors (standards) to be carried and their positions within the formation will be prescribed by the formation commander.

i. When the formation is broken up, the colors (standards) join the organization commander (or respective organization commanders, if more than one organization in the formation is carrying colors) or are dismissed.

j. When the organizational color is draped in mourning, the mourning shall consist of a black crepe streamer 7 feet long and about 12 inches wide. A bow knot, the loops of which are 6 inches long, is tied in the center. The streamer is attached by this knot to the upper ferrule, just below the spearhead.

k. Colors remain at order color during the manual or arms. Standards remain mounted with the staff vertical.

l. Colors (standards) are never allowed to touch the deck.

m. Color guards do not fix bayonets.

16-2. SALUTES

a. By the National Color (Standard).

The national color (standard) renders no salute.

b. By the Organizational Color.

In military ceremonies, the organizational color salutes while the "National Anthem," "To the Color," or "Retreat" (played in lieu of the "National Anthem" in the absence of a band), or "Hail to the Chief" is being played, and when rendering honors to the organizational commander or individual of higher rank, but in no other case. When marching, this salute is rendered when 6 paces from the reviewing stand or person to be saluted. Carry color is resumed when 6 paces beyond the reviewing stand or person to be saluted.

c. By the Organizational Standard.

The organizational standard renders no salute.

d. Salutes to the National Flag.

Salutes are rendered to the national flag in accordance with U.S. Navy Regulations and chapter 18 to this manual.

16-3. HOISTING, LOWERING, AND FOLDING THE NATIONAL ENSIGN

a. General.

- (1) The ceremonial hoisting and lowering of the national ensign at 0800 and sunset, respectively, shall be accomplished ashore in accordance with the provisions of U.S. Navy Regulations and this paragraph.
- (2) A detail consisting of a noncommissioned officer and two nonrated men of the guard will hoist and lower the ensign. This detail will be armed with sidearms, if the special equipment of the guard includes sidearms; otherwise, the pistol belt only will be worn.
- (3) The commander of the guard ashore will see that the proper ensign is flown at the appropriate time and under all weather conditions. For different types of ensigns, see figure 16-1. For U.S. Marine Corps flag size standards, see MCO P10520.3, Flag Manual. Any member of the guard who observes any hazard to the ensign such as loosened halyards, fouling, etc., will immediately report them to the commander of the guard.

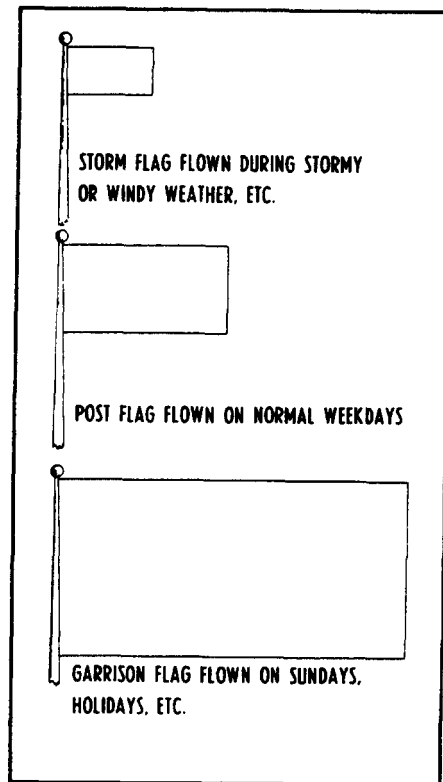


Figure 16-1.--Different Types of Ensigns.

b. Positions of the Ensign.

The ensign is flown from the peak or truck of the mast, except when directed to be flown at hair-mast. The ensign at half-mast is flown, when possible, with the middle point or its hoist opposite the middle point or the mast. The middle point of a guyed mast is midway between the truck or the mast and the point or attachment of the guys. The middle point of a mast with a yardarm is midway between the truck of the mast and the yardarm. Technically, an ensign at any position other than at the truck of the mast is half-masted. Local conditions may require other positions. To hair-mast the ensign, it is first hoisted to the truck and then lowered to the half-mast position.

c. Hoisting the Ensign.

The detail assigned to hoist the ensign is formed in line at the guardhouse with the noncommissioned officer carrying the ensign in the center. It is then marched to the flagstaff, halted, and the ensign attached to the halyards. The halyards are manned by the two nonrated men who take positions on opposite sides of the staff facing it, so they will be able to hoist the ensign without fouling it. The noncommissioned officer continues to hold the ensign until it is hoisted clear of his grasp to prevent it from touching the deck. When the ensign is clear, he comes to attention and executes the first motion of the hand salute. The other members of the detail grasp the halyard in their left hand and execute the first motion of the hand salute after the ensign is hoisted. On the last note of the "National Anthem" or "To the Color," all members of the detail execute the second motion of the hand salute. If the ensign is to be half-masted, it is then lowered smartly to that position. The halyards are then secured to the cleat of the mast. The detail is again formed, marched to the guardhouse, and dismissed.

d. Lowering the Ensign.

The detail is formed at the guardhouse, marched to the flagstaff, and the halyards manned in the same manner as for hoisting the ensign. On the first note of the "National Anthem" or "Retreat," the ensign is slowly lowered. If at half-mast, it is first hoisted smartly to the truck on the first note of the music and then slowly lowered. It is caught by the noncommissioned officer at the last note of the music. The ensign is detached from the halyards and folded as prescribed below. The halyards are secured to the mast, the detail is formed and marched to the guardhouse, and the ensign turned over to the commander of the guard.

e. Folding the Ensign.

The ensign is folded in half the long way so the crease parallels the red and white stripes. It is folded in half again so the new crease parallels the red and white stripes and the blue field is to the outside. The fly end (away from the blue field) is folded up to the top so the single edge lies perpendicularly across the stripes. By repeatedly folding the thick triangle thus formed about the inboard edge of the triangle, the ensign is folded into the shape of a cocked hat (see fig. 16-2).

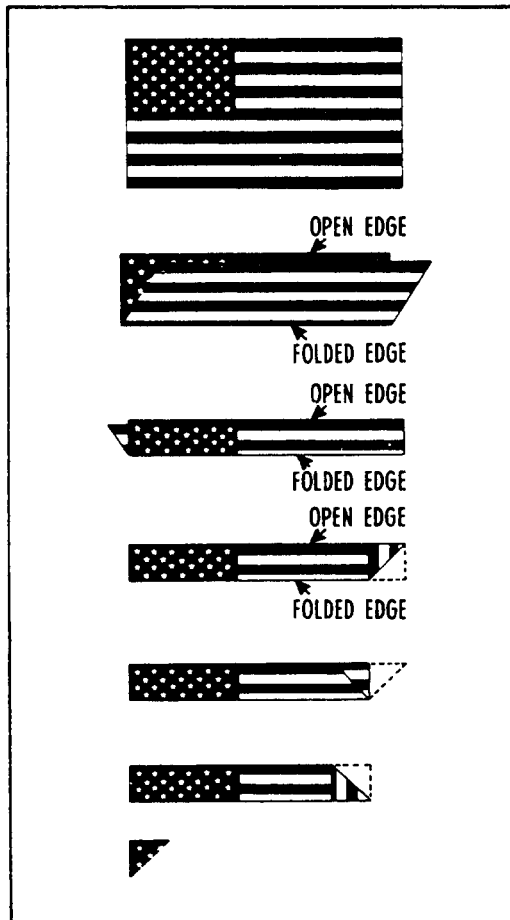


Figure 16-2.--Folding the Ensign.

16-4. MANUAL OF THE COLOR(S)

a. Order Color.

- (1) At order color, the lower ferrule rests on the deck touching the outside edge of the right toe just opposite the little toe. The staff is gripped from the

right in the "V" formed by the thumb and fingers on the right hand, back of the hand to the right front. The right elbow should be close to the side so the forearm will help support the staff. Hold the staff against the hollow of the shoulder so it points straight up. The rest of the body is at attention (see fig. 16-3).

- (2) Color guards armed with rifles are at order arms when the colors are at the order.

b. Carry Color From Order Color.

- (1) When changing from order color to carry color, the command is CARRY, COLOR.
- (2) At the command CARRY, change the grip on the staff so as to grasp it from the rear between the thumb and fingers of the right hand, the fingers around the staff.
- (3) At the command COLOR, raise the staff smartly with the right hand to a point where the lower ferrule is just above the sling socket. While raising it, keep the staff pointing straight up. Grasp the staff just above the lower ferrule with the left hand to steady it.
- (4) Seat the lower ferrule in the sling socket. As the ferrule is seated, permit the right hand to slide down the staff to a position directly in front of the color bearer's face.
- (5) Grip the staff firmly with the right hand and move the left hand smartly to the side. In this position, the right hand is directly in front of the face and the staff is inclined slightly to the front (see fig. 16-4).
- (6) Color guards armed with rifles execute right and left shoulder arms at the command COLOR so that the rifles are on the outboard shoulder.



Figure 16-3. Order Color



Figure 16-4. Carry Color

c. Order Color From Carry Color.

- (1) When changing from carry color to order color, the command is ORDER, COLOR (ARMS). Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- (2) At the command ORDER) grip the staff with the left hand below the right hand and remove the ferrule from the sling socket.
- (3) At the command COLOR (ARMS), lower the ferrule to a point above the deck along the outside edge of the right toe; release the staff with the left hand and replace it above the right hand.
- (4) Relax the right hand so the staff will slide down between the thumb and fingers. Then change the position of the color and the grip of the right hand to that described in paragraph 16-4a(1).
- (5) Move the left hand smartly back to the left side.

d. Present Color From Order Color.

- (1) To change from order color to present color the command is PRESENT) ARMS. Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- (2) At the command PRESENT, change the grip on the staff so as to grasp it firmly from the rear between the thumb and fingers of the right hand, the fingers around the staff.
- (3) At the command ARMS, raise the staff smartly with the right hand to a point where the lower ferrule is just above the sling socket. While raising it, keep the staff pointing straight up. Grasp the staff just above the lower ferrule with the left hand to steady it.
- (4) Seat the lower ferrule in the sling socket permitting the right hand to slide down the staff to a point where it is directly in front of the face. Grip the staff firmly with the right hand.
- (5) Move the left arm smartly back to the side. In this position, the right hand is directly in front of the face, and the staff is perpendicular to the deck (see fig. 16-4).
- (6) Lower the staff smartly to the front by straightening the right arm (see fig. 16-5)
- (7) The national color bearer executes the movement to carry color upon the command PRESENT. The national color does not salute; therefore, he remains in this position.
- (8) Color guards armed with rifles execute present arms at the command ARMS.

c. Order Color From Present Color.

- (1) When changing from present color to order color, the command is ORDER, COLOR (ARMS).
- (2) At the command COLOR (ARMS), raise the staff so the right hand is again in front of the face and the staff is inclined slightly to the front. The national color bearer remains at carry color until the organizational color bearer comes to this position.
- (3) Come to the position of order color as described in paragraph 16-4c.

f. Rests With the Color.

- (1) The color bearers and color guards assume the parade rest position in lieu of at ease or rest. At ease or rest are not used by the color guard when carrying colors. The command is given from the position of order color only by the senior color bearer or person in charge of a formation with which colors are posted. It is executed in one count (see fig. 16-6)
- (2) At the command REST, the left foot of color bearers is moved smartly to the left as in the position of parade rest for individuals. The left hand is placed behind the back with the forearm parallel to the deck.
- (3) Color guards assume the position of parade rest as prescribed in chapter 3.

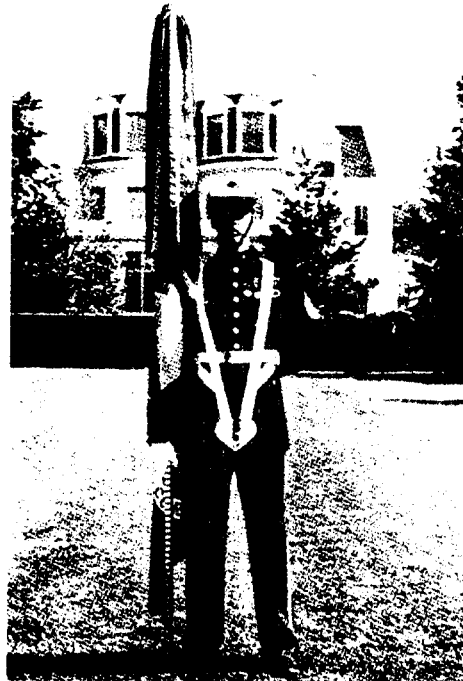


Figure 16-5. Present Color.

Figure 16-6. Parade Rest.

g. Eyes Right (left) from Carry or Order Color.

- (1) The only command is EYES, RIGHT (LEFT). It will be given only when halted at order color, or while marching at carry color.
- (2) At the command RIGHT (LEFT), if at order color, turn the head at look 45 degrees to the right (left). If at carry color, the organizational color bearer also lowers staff smartly to the front by straightening his right arm (if the person saluted is entitled to a salute by the organizational color). The right (left) man in the color guard and the national color bearer do not execute the command.
- (3) When the reviewing officer of a parade is entitled to a salute by the organizational color, the salute is executed at the command RIGHT (LEFT).

h. Carry Color From Eyes Right (left)

- (1) The command is **READY, FRONT**.
- (2) At the command **FRONT**, the head and eyes are turned smartly to the left (right) so you are looking straight ahead. Those members of the color guard who do not execute eyes right (left) remain looking straight ahead.
- (3) When the senior color bearer commands **FRONT**, if the organizational color saluted, it resumes the carry.
- (4) During a review, when the reviewing officer troops the line, ready front will not be given after eyes right. During such a ceremony, each member of the color guard executing eyes right turns his head and eyes toward the reviewing officer upon the command **RIGHT**. He continues to look at him, turning his head and eyes to the left as the reviewing officer passes, until he is again facing directly to the front.

16-5. COLOR GUARD

a. General.

- (1) The color guard consists of four men. Two noncommissioned officers are the color bearers, and two other men, junior to the color bearers, are the color guards. The color bearers are unarmed, but the color bearer carries the national color and commands the color guard. He gives the necessary commands for movements and rendering of honors. The junior color bearer carries the organizational color, which is always on the left of the national color. When only the national color is carried, the color guard will include only one color bearer. The positions of individuals in the Marine Corps color guard, Navy-Marine Corps color guard, and joint armed forces color guard are as shown in figure 16-7.

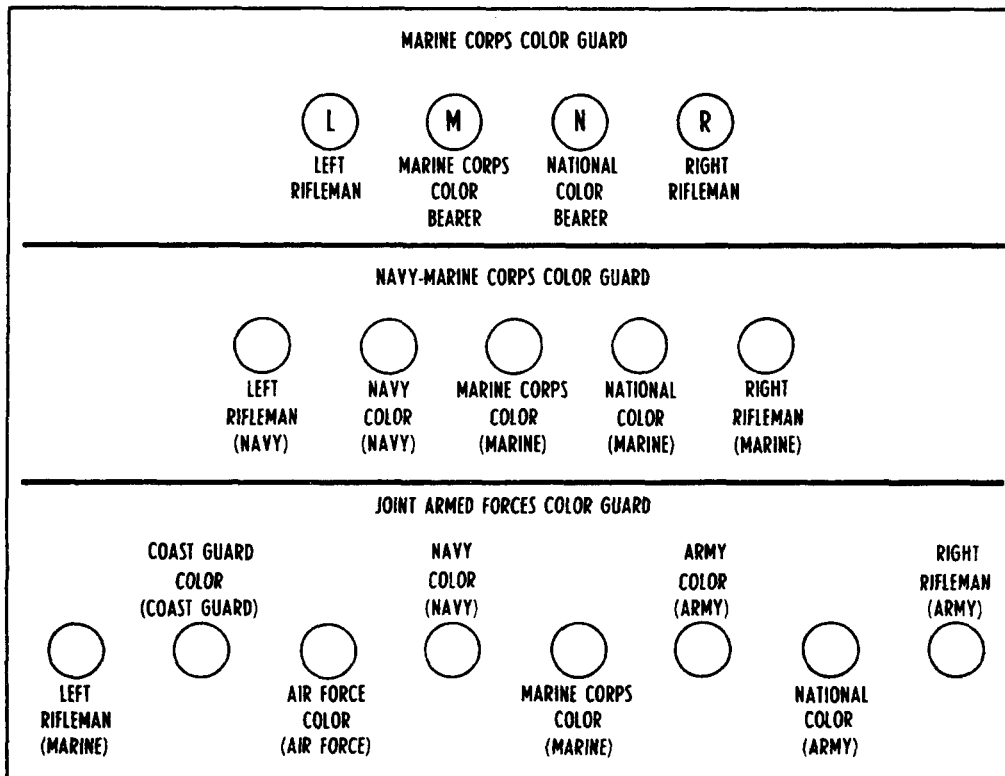


Figure 16-7. Color Guards.

- (2) The color guard is formed and marches in one rank at close interval with the color bearers in the center. The color guard does not execute to the rear march, about face, flanking movements, or fix bayonets. When any such commands are executed by the unit to which the color guard is attached, except fix bayonets, the senior color bearer orders an appropriate movement as described below.

b. Movements of the Color Guard.

- (1) To face the color guard to the right (left):
- (a) The command is RIGHT (LEFT) TURN, MARCH. It may be executed while halted, marking time, or marching.
- (b) On the command MARCH, with the right (left) flank man acting as a stationary pivot, the color guard inclines to the right (left) until they face the new direction. When making the turn, at any one moment, all members of the color guard face the same direction (see fig. 16-8).

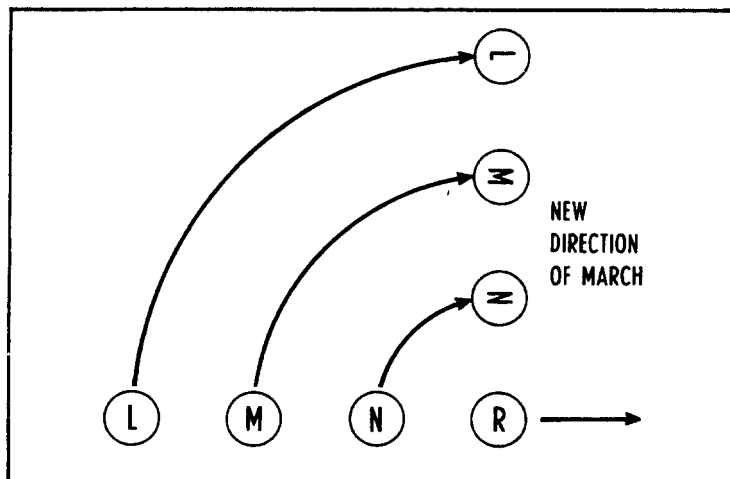


Figure 16-8.--Right Turn.

- (2) To face the color guard to the rear:
- (a) The command is COUNTERMARCH, MARCH. It may be executed while halted, marking time, or marching. When marking time or marching, the command is given as the left foot strikes the deck (see fig. 16-9).

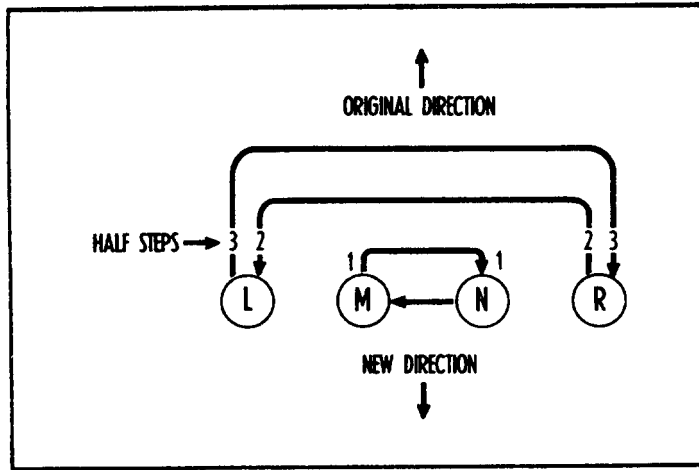


Figure 16-9.--Countermarch.

- (b) At the command or execution, the entire color guard picks up the hair-step. The national color bearer makes a small arc to his left, moving into the position formerly occupied by the organizational color bearer, facing the new direction or march.
- (c) The organizational color bearer makes an arc to his right and outside the national color bearer, moving into the position formerly occupied by the national color bearer, facing in the new direction or march.
- (d) The right rifleman takes two hair-steps forward, then moves in an arc to his left outside the organizational color bearer, moving into the position formerly occupied by the left rifleman, facing the new direction or march.
- (e) The left rifleman takes three hair-steps forward, then moves in an arc to his right outside the right rifleman, moving into position formerly occupied by the right rifleman, facing the new direction of march.
- (f) Upon completion of this move, the color guard marks time until it is halted or until it receives the command FORWARD, MARCH.

c. Receiving the Colors by the Color Guard.

The color guard will use the following procedure in receiving colors:

- (1) The color guard forms and marches to the place designated for receiving colors.
- (2) The color guard is halted 3 paces from the adjutant and sergeant major, who have taken appropriate positions for the presentation of colors to the guard.
- (3) The color guard then executes order arms upon the command of the senior color bearer.
- (4) When the adjutant is ready to deliver colors, the senior color bearer orders present arms. At this command, the color bearers execute the hand salute.
- (5) The adjutant steps to his left oblique and transfers the national color to the senior color bearer, who terminates his salute in time to receive it at the position of carry color. The adjutant then steps back to his original position and salutes.

- (6) Upon the adjutant's salute, the sergeant major steps to his right oblique and transfers the organizational color to the junior color bearer, who has terminated his salute with the senior color bearer, at the position of carry color. The sergeant major then steps back to his original position and salutes.
- (7) When the sergeant major salutes, the senior color bearer commands order arms. The adjutant and sergeant major terminate their salutes as the color guard executes order arms.
- (8) The senior color bearer then marches the color guard to the color company (battalion).

d. Receiving the Colors by the Color Company (Battalion).

Prior to forming for a ceremony in which the colors are to participate, the colors are received by the color company (battalion) by means of the following ceremony:

- (1) The company (battalion) is formed with its commander facing front.
- (2) The color guard approaches and halts 10 paces in front of and facing the company (battalion) commander. It then executes order color.
- (3) The company (battalion) commander faces about and orders PRESENT, ARMS, faces about again, and salutes. Upon this order, the color guards execute present arms (hand salute if armed with pistols) with the company (battalion); the color bearers execute carry color.
- (4) The company (battalion) commander terminates his salute, faces about, and commands ORDER, ARMS. The color guard executes order color as the company terminates its present arms.
- (5) The company (battalion) commander faces about and orders the color guard to take its post. When the color company (battalion) is in line or mass, the post of the guard is 6 paces to the left of the company (battalion). When the company (battalion) is in column, the post of the guard is 6 paces behind.
- (6) When the color company joins the battalion, the color guard takes its appropriate post in the battalion formation. When the color battalion joins the regiment, the color guard takes its appropriate post in the regimental formation.
- (7) When in formation, the color guard executes parade rest when the color company (battalion) executes at ease or rest.

e. Dismissing the Color Guard.

In dismissing the color guard at the conclusion of a drill or ceremony, the procedure is as follows:

- (1) The guard marches from its post and halts 10 paces in front of and facing the company (battalion) commander.
- (2) The company (battalion) then executes present arms in the same manner described in paragraph 16-5d after which the color guard marches the colors to the quarters or office of the organizational commander.
- (3) The color guard is received by and dismissed from organizations smaller than a company (e.g., funeral escort) in a similar manner.

f. Returning the Colors by the Color Guard.

The color guard will use the following procedure when parting with the colors:

- (1) The senior color bearer halts the guard 3 paces in front of the adjutant and sergeant major who have taken positions near the office or operators of the organizational commander in time to receive the colors. The guard remains at carry color.
- (2) When the color guard halts, the adjutant and sergeant major salute. The sergeant major steps to his right oblique and receives the organizational color from the junior color bearer. He then steps back to his original position.
- (3) When the sergeant major is back in his position, the adjutant steps to his left oblique and receives the national color from the senior color bearer. He then steps back to his original position.
- (4) When the adjutant is in position, the senior color bearer commands PRESENT ARMS (order arms first if the color guards are armed with rifles). At the command of execution, the adjutant faces about. The sergeant major passes behind the adjutant to a position at normal interval to his left. They then march to the office or quarters of the commanding officer, where they deposit the colors without further ceremony.
- (5) When the colors are Out of sight or 6 paces away, the senior color bearer commands ORDER, ARMS, and dismisses the guard or marches them back to the color company (battalion), whichever has been directed.

16-6. TROOPING THE COLORS

a. When it is desired to highlight the unit colors and have them formerly received by the entire battalion (or regiment) while forming for a review, parade, or any other ceremony, the ceremony for trooping the colors may be conducted. It is particularly appropriate to include as part of ceremonies conducted to coincide with an important event in the unit's history.

b. Procedures for trooping the colors are as follows:

- (1) After forming at "Assembly," the color guard receives the battalion (regimental) colors as prescribed in paragraph 16-5. The color company may also receive the color guard in accordance with paragraph 16-5, or the color guard may take its position on the battalion (regimental) parade independently. In the former case, coincidental with Adjutant's Call, the color guard initially marches on with the color company then breaks out of formation so as to take post on the left flank of the line of troops. In the latter case, the color guard marches independently on the parade ground and takes post on the left flank of the line of troops at Adjutant's Call, or prior to Adjutant's Call, as appropriate (see fig. 16-10). Regardless, after taking post on the left flank, the color guard comes to order color.
- (2) The troops form at Adjutant's Call according to the commands and procedures prescribed for forming a battalion for ceremonies in Chapter 10 (the regiment in Chapter 11) up to the point where the units complete dressing to the right, the guides are posed (if units marched on), and bayonets are fixed (if so prescribed). Then, the adjutant facing the command and posted midway between the line of company (battalion) and the battalion (regimental) commander, MARCH ON THE COLORS. The band plays appropriate music while the color guard, coming to the carry, marches from its position on the left flank across the front of the battalion (regiment) along a line parallel to the line of troops and midway between the adjutant and line of company (battalion) commanders. On reaching a point in front of the adjutant, the color guard executes a left turn to face the adjutant and halts remaining at the carry. The adjutant then commands PRESENT ARMS, and salutes the colors. The band plays either "To the Colors" or the "National Anthem." The battalion (regimental) commander and staff salute on the first note of the music and terminate the salute on the last note. After completion of the music, the adjutant command ORDER ARMS, POST THE COLORS. The color guard countermarches, moves to the line of troops on the left of the color company (battalion),

countermarches to face the front, halts, and to order color.

- (3) After the color guard is in position on the left of the color company (battalion), the adjutant commands PRESENT, ARMS, and faces the commander of troops if at a review, and the ceremony proceeds as described in paragraph 13-5; if at a parade, the adjutant commands PARADE, REST; SOUND OFF, and the ceremony proceeds as described in paragraph 15-2 for a battalion (and 15-3 for a regiment).

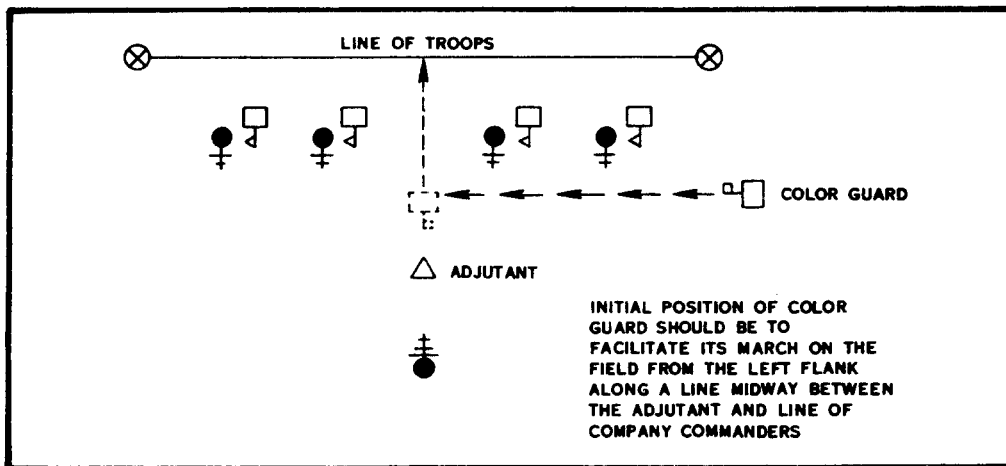


Figure 16-10.-Trooping the colors.