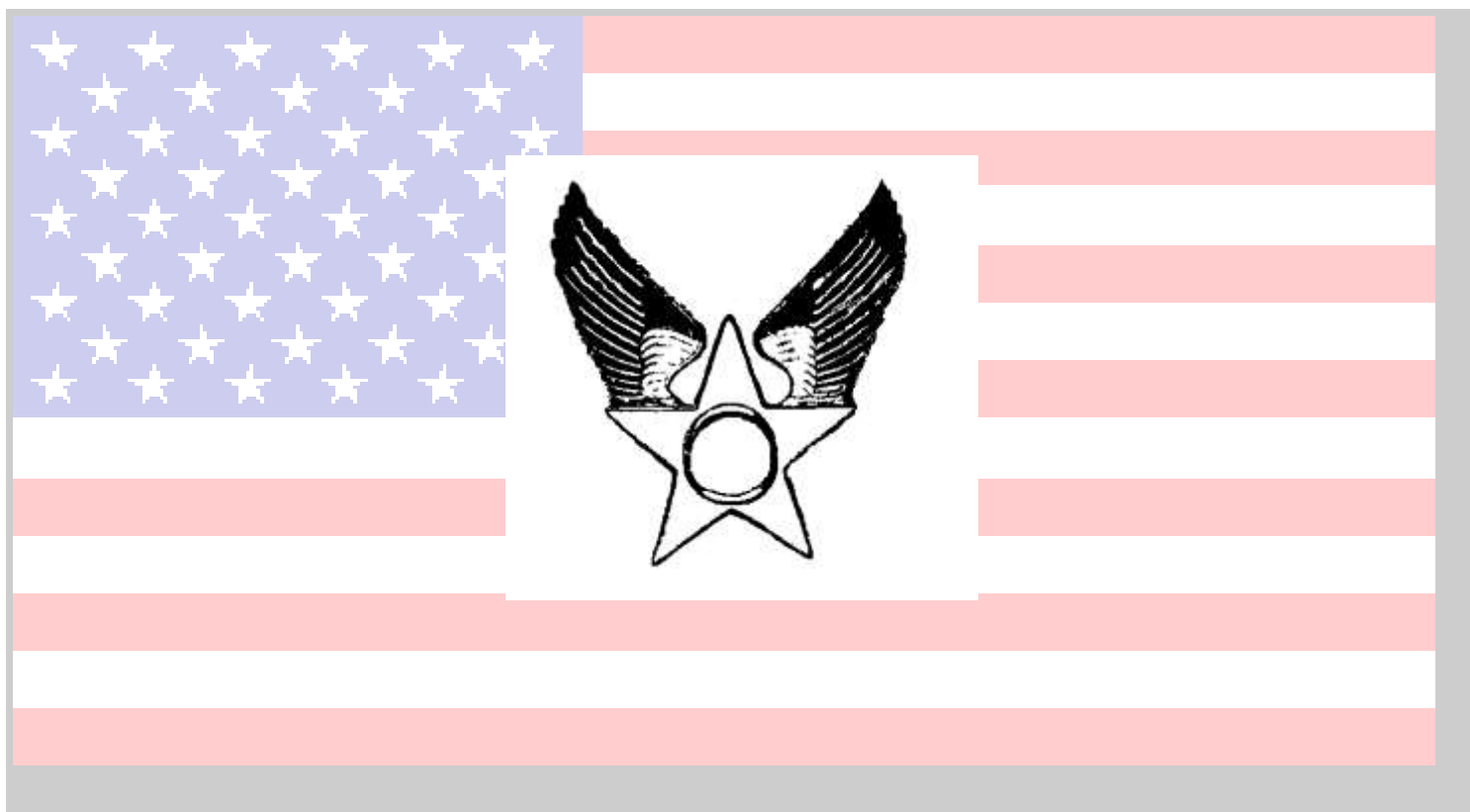


# COLOR GUARD JUDGING PAMPHLET



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The purpose of this judging pamphlet is to emphasize the standards contained in FM 3-21.5.

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## Color Guard Judging Guidelines

The Color guard is formed and marched in one rank at CLOSE INTERVAL, the flag bearers in the center. The guards march at Right Shoulder. The Color Guard executes facing movements by wheeling to the right or left. To execute a wheeling movement the guard nearest the direction of turn serves as the pivot point and executes the movement by marching in place and simultaneously turning in the new direction. Other members shorten their steps and turn in an arc keeping abreast of each other to maintain alignment. When the movement has been completed each member automatically marches in place until the command HALT or Forward, MARCH is given.

### COMMAND/MOVEMENT

**ORDER COLORS:** The Command is either “Fall In” or “Order Colors”. The Color guard is formed and Marched in one rank at Close Interval. The guards march at Right Shoulder Arms.

**Flag Position:**

- Rest the base of the staff on the marching surface touching the outside of the right footgear opposite the ball of the right foot.
- Hold the staff in the right hand with the back of the hand facing outward. Hold the staff in the “U” formed by the thumb and forefinger with the fingers joined. (FM 3-21.5 Page 15-14 Figure 15-6)
- The thumb and fingers should be pointed to the marching surface.
- Rest the staff against the hollow of the shoulder.

**Rifle Position:**

- Place the butt of the rifle on the marching surface, centered on the right foot with the sights to the rear.
- The toe of the rifle is on line with the front of the right foot.
- Secure the rifle with the right hand in a “U” formed by the fingers (extended and joined) and thumb.
- Hold the rifle above the upper band so that the thumb is pointing at the ground and on the seam of the pants with the fingers extended and joined pointing to the ground.



## PARADE REST

Flag position: **Parade rest with the colors is executed with staffs vertical.**

- Rest the base of the staff on the marching surface touching the outside of the right footgear opposite the ball of the right foot.
- Hold the staff in the right hand with the back of the hand facing outward. Hold the staff in the “U” formed by the thumb and forefinger with the fingers joined. (FM 3-21.5 Page 15-14 Figure 15-6)
- The thumb and fingers should be pointed to the marching surface.
- Rest the staff against the hollow of the shoulder.

Rifle Position:

- On the command of execution thrust the muzzle forward while sliding the hand upward to grab the upper part of the stock just below the upper sling swivel.
- Keep the toe of the butt on line with the front of the right foot.
- Keep the right arm straight.

Feet and Hand Positions:

- Feet will be 12 inches apart.
- The left arm will be placed behind you with the hand placed in the small of the back with fingers extended and joined.



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## CARRY COLORS:

Flag Position:

- Rest the ferrule (bottom of flag staff) in the socket of the sling.
- The socket is below the waist and adjusted to ensure that the finial (spear) of both colors are of equal height.
- Grasp the staff with the right hand even with the mouth.
- Incline the staff slightly to the front.
- With the left hand secure the staff in the socket. Note: The left hand may be positioned immediately below the right hand on windy days.
- The elbow of the right arm will descend at approximately a 45 degree angle from the shoulder.



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#### Rifle Position:

- Guards march at right shoulder.
- Grasp the heel of the butt between the first two fingers with the thumb and forefinger touching at the first joint.
- The right forearm will be parallel to the marching surface.
- Keep the elbow in touching the side.
- The left arm will be at the side with the hand cupped and the thumb extended down the seam of the pants.
- While marching the left arm will swing in a coordinated arm swing.

#### PRESENT COLORS:

#### Flags

- The national flag does not change positions.
- Organizational flag assumes present colors by sliding the right hand upward about 4 inches.
- Thrust the right arm forward, shoulder high until the arm is fully extended and horizontal to the marching surface.
- The flag staff should form approximately a 45 degree angle.

#### Rifles

- The rifles will go to present arms on the command Arms.
- The movement is executed in three counts
- On count one the rifles will be moved from right shoulder to port by grasping the rifle with the left hand at the balance so that the rifle is about 4 inches from the waist.
- On count two regrasp the rifle at the small of the stock.
- On count three twist the rifle with the right hand so that the sights are to the rear, and move the rifle to a vertical position about 4 inches in front and centered on the body. Lower the rifle until the left forearm is horizontal; keep the elbows in at the sides.





### **EYES RIGHT:**

#### Flags

- The command is Eyes, RIGHT given as the right heel touches the marching surface.
- The flag bearers will turn their heads sharply 45 degrees to the right.
- The Organizational Flag will execute a color salute on the command Right by moving their right hand about 4 inches upward on the flag staff and sharply thrusting the staff forward until the right arm is straight and shoulder high.

#### Rifles

- The rifles will remain at right shoulder.
- The Left Guard will execute Eyes Right by turning his/her head 45 degrees to the right.
- The Right Guard will continue marching with their head forward.

### **READY FRONT:**

#### Flags

- The command is Ready, FRONT is given as the left heel touches the marching surface.
- The flag bearers will return their heads sharply to the front on the command FRONT.
- The Organizational Flag will return the flag to the carry position by returning their flag staffs to an upright position and sliding their right hand down the flagstaff about 4 inches until the hand is even with the mouth. The elbow of the right arm will form approximately a 45 degree angle from the shoulder.



## Executing Colors Reverse:

Colors reverse may be executed from either the Halt or while marching. If executed from the Halt each member simultaneously executes the following movements.

The National Colors (Commander) Faces to the Left in Marching and Faces to the Left again while mark timing.

The Organizational Flag takes one step forward with the left foot and executes a face to the Right in marching, takes two half steps, faces to the right in marching and takes one step in the new direction. They will then continue to mark time dressed to the National Color.

The Right Guard takes two steps forward, faces to the left in marching, takes one full step and three half steps, facts to the left in marching, and takes two steps in the new direction.

The Left Guard takes one step forward, faces to the right in marching, takes one full step and three half steps, faces to the right in marching and takes one step forward in the new direction.

All members will mark time after executing their movements and will dress to the National Color until the commander directs either them to move forward or halt.

The command to reverse colors can be given from a halt or from marching. If the Color Guard is marching the command Colors Reverse March is given as the Left foot contacts the marching surface.

### **UNCASE/CASE COLORS (FM 3-21.5 sequence only)**

This sequence is to be performed strictly by the manual. The manual leaves very little room for interpretation. There will be no exhibition maneuvers, i.e., rifle spinning, “Queen Anne” salutes, etc. Areas of emphasis are addressed below.

1. “Sling, Arms”: This is to be done at the position of Attention. There will be no kneeling or stepping forward with one foot, etc. Position of the rifle will be on the right hip, not right thigh.
2. “Post” from line abreast formation: Guards execute a Face in Marching to the Left/Right and march 45° away (out) from their respective positions four paces. They halt and execute an about face.
3. The commander then directs “UNCASE THE COLORS”. The flag bearers remove the flags from their harnesses and lower them (same as Present Guidon). The Two guards move forward and untie and uncase the Colors. The Color bearers unfurl and immediately return the Colors to the Carry Position. There should be no extended delays waiting on the Guards to fold their cases. While the Colors are being unfurled, the guards fold the cases and secure them in their left hand.
4. “Present Arms” following uncasing, and prior to casing, of the colors is done from the position of attention. No exhibition salutes. On the command Present Arms the guards will place their left hands (with cases) over the rifle strap at their shoulder. They will then render a standard salute with their right hand. On the command Order Arms the guards will drop their salute and grasp the rifle sling with their right hand then return their left arm to their side resuming the position of attention.
5. Following uncasing, the cases are to be secured in the Guard’s left hand. The Guards are at attention, therefore the cases should be not be held out in the palm of the hand as if “offering them” to someone. They are also not placed under the left armpit. The same goes for the casing routine.
6. On “Post”, following uncasing, the Guards move to behind their respective Color Bearer and place the folded cases inside the cartridge belts. The cases are not placed behind the flag harness or in a pouch. See figure below.



The Color guards will assume their original positions and adjust their slings, without command, and return to Right Shoulder Arms. Sling Adjustment: There is no command given for the adjusting of the rifle slings from “Sling, Arms” after the Guards resume their original line abreast positions. If the command “Unsling, Arms” is given, it will be considered an added command. Again, this is done at the position of attention.

7. To case the Colors, the procedures are basically the same except Present Arms is given before the Colors are Lowered.

**PROHIBITED ACTIONS:**

1. Butt slamming the rifle or flagstaff (viewed as equipment abuse)
2. Either color touching the ground (Team disqualification)
3. Exhibition routines: rifle spinning, “Queen Anne” salutes, fancy colors reverse, etc.