****

**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**

**District Eleven Northern Region**

**Honor Guard**



**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Honor Guard**

**Color Presentation Common Commands/Protocols**

When we arrive at a venue the POC (or their designee) needs to ensure that the Master of Ceremonies (MC) will do the following:

1. Let us know approximately 15 minutes before we present.
2. The POC needs to advise the MC to use the following statement or something similar to begin our presentation.
   1. “**Honor Guard please present the colors**”---at which point we began our presentation.
   2. When colors have been presented and we return to a position of Shoulder Arms or port arms, the MC will say, “**Honor Guard, please post the colors**”---at which point we will begin to post the colors. If the MC may begin the presentation with “**Honor Guard, please present and post the colors**”. If this is done we follow through with our commands.

All Commands should be given by the National Flag Holder in a Command Voice.

Approximately 5 to 7 minutes prior to the event the command should be:

“**Honor Guard, Fall In, Cover down**”---Members should fall in and cover down

This will be followed by one of the following:

**“Honor Guard, Carry Colors”**

Sentries come to port arms

Flag bearers come to shoulder arms placing the end of the staff in the cup. Left hand covers the cup, right hand is in front of the face where if the thumb was extended you could touch your nose. Hold the flag vertical and straight.

(If ceiling height restricts flag bearers from coming to a shoulder arms position they should hold the staff in a strong V grip with their right hand and the left hand horizontal across their chest while the staff is approximately six inches off the floor.

**“Honor Guard, Shoulder Arms”**

Sentries come to shoulder arms

Flag bearers come to shoulder arms placing the end of the staff in the cup. (If ceiling height restricts flag bearers from coming to a shoulder arms position they should hold the staff in a strong V grip with their right hand and the left hand horizontal across their chest while the staff is approximately six inches off the floor. As soon as movement stops and ceiling height allows, flag bearers will raise the flag and place the staff into the cup. Left hand covers the cup, right hand is in front of the face where if the thumb was extended you could touch your nose. Hold the flag vertical and straight.

“**Forward, March**”---move forward with the left foot leading in slow, measured steps.

(March with a slight backward lean, heel striking first and as if on a tightrope)

“**Colors**” will be the command given when executing a previously agreed upon direction from a mark time march. Mark time march will be called or pre-determined. Use marching in place to readjust spacing.

Please note that “Colors” has no preparatory command.

If “**Mark time, March**” is called take one step from the command and march in place with a horizontal knee lift. Use marching in place to readjust spacing.

“**Detail, Halt**”---the group comes to a halt. The command is given on the left foot placement…meaning one more half step with the right and the left foot comes in to strike the heel and assume a 45 degree angle with the right.

When the detail is in front of the audience and it is appropriate to address the MC, the following statement will be given. “**The Colors are Present**”--- followed by, “**Present Arms**” at which time the playing of the National Anthem will commence and the sentries move to a position of presentation while all flags except the National, dip. At the conclusion of the National anthem, the command, “**Shoulder, Arms**” should be given so movement can commence from a position outside of presentation mode. If sentries were in the port position, then the command should be “**ready two**”. In which case flags and rifles return to a positon from which them can move. If we are presenting from sound only, then the sentries and the flags perform as noted above on the first note of the National Anthem. They are to recover on the final note of the Anthem. For moving flags, 3 counts down, 3 counts up for flags. Sentries present in standard movement.

“**Step Off, March**” is the command for the unit to step in front of one another, from Lead Sentry (if present) to National and so on to ensure that the National ensign leads when maneuvering to another position. On command, the right portion of the unit, takes one step with the left and another with the right pivoting 90 degrees to cross the front of the line. When the person to the right has moved past the next in line shall execute the movement.

“**Color Turn, March**” is the command used from a stopped position when all members began to mark time while turning in a four count movement in an agreed upon position 90 degrees from where they started. The fifth step from everyone will be a forward step with the left foot.

When flag bearers are posting the colors and come to a halt in front of the flag stand that they will be placing the staff into, they should move the staff from whatever position it was carried there and place the staff above the stand with horizontal outstretched arms.

Another option is to come to the flag stand at a positon of attention.   
The command then can be “**Prepare to Post Colors**” at which time the flag is placed immediately above the hole.

The next command is, “**Ready, Post**” at which time in unison and authority the flag is plunged into the stand. Follow the next sequence: 1) post 2) attention

3) look and dress the flag high, 4) look and dress the flag middle 5) look and dress the flag low. Hold the flag low 6) Center head

“**Flag Bearers, Present, Arms**”. At which time flag bearers issue a ceremonial salute (7 seconds up, hold 7 seconds) will be followed by the command “**Flag Bearers, Order Arms**” (7 seconds return).

Another option is to call “**Present Arms”**. Rifles come to present arms immediately and flag bearers issue a ceremonial hand salute. **“Ready Two”** returns sentries to port arms and flag bearers (finish the ceremonial salute 7 seconds down and back to attention.

Other marching movements:

“**(Right/Left) Wheel, March**” will be the command given when the entire Honor Guard moves as one horizontal line to an agreed upon point in the direction dictated. The line pivots from the middle (half the line going forward/half backward). When the line has turned 180 degrees they continue marking time until the command, “**Detail, Halt**” is given

When marching in a parade: “**(Right/Left) Turn, March**”

Pivot from the direction you will be marching/not from the center.

**Positions: Order**

Lead Sentry

National Flag

DHS

POW

USCG

AUX

CA

NEV

UT

Dist

WW2

Trail Sentry

**Common Military Commands**

**Almost all commands are executed with a preparatory and execution command.** Commands that are in lower case are the preparatory commands (commands given to tell you are supposed to do). Commands that are in upper case are the execution commands (commands that tell you to do whatever the preparatory command was).

**Basic Commands:**

* "ATTENTION": Heels are brought together and on the same line. Feet are turned out equally, forming a 45° angle with each other, knees straight but without stiffness. Arms hanging straight without stiffness at the sides of the body in such a way that the thumbs are along the trouser seams. The backs of the hands are turned away from the body and hands and fingers are cupped naturally. Chest up, shoulders back and level. Eyes looking straight to the front. When assuming the position of attention, bring the heels together smartly and audibly.
* "(Stand) At, EASE": Move the left foot to the left so that the feet are shoulder width apart. This command allows you to relax. Right foot may not move. You may not talk.
* "REST": Move the left foot to the left so that the feet are shoulder width apart. This command allows you to relax. Except for keeping the right foot in place, you may move around and talk.
* "Parade, REST": Move the left foot smartly 12 inches to the left. At the same time the foot is moved, clasp the hands behind the back, palms to the rear, the thumb and forefinger of the right hand clasping the left thumb. As at attention, the knees are kept straight without stiffness, the weight of the body equally distributed, and silence and immobility are maintained.
* "Dress Right, DRESS": Used to get the proper alignment between ranks. Squad leader, head turns left 45° with left arm out. Squad members head turns Right 45° with left arm out. Members will move to the point where their right shoulder is touching the tips of the other persons left hand.
* "Ready, FRONT": Used after dress right dress. Arm goes down. Head looks forward.
* "COVER": The right arm is brought straight up and extended unbent to the front so that the fingertips are barely touching the right shoulder of the person in front to establish correct spacing.
* "RECOVER": The right arm is moved smartly back to the side in the position of attention.
* "Open Ranks, MARCH": Command to open a step between each ranks, used for inspections.
* "Close Ranks, MARCH": Command to close the above described step between each rank.
* "HAND SALUTE": Present arms when not carrying a weapon, or with a weapon at sling arms.
* "Ready, TWO": Command to drop Hand Salute.
* "Right (left), FACE": A turn to the right (left).
* "About, FACE": A complete 180° turn to the right.

**Rifle Drill:**

* "Order, ARMS": On the command, the butt of the rifle will be lowered to the ground touching the side of the right foot with the hand forming a "V" or "Taco Grip" at the barrel. This is the rifle version of ATTENTION.
* "Port, ARMS": Rifle is held upright at an angle across the torso with the muzzle pointed up and to the left. The left hand is on the handguard and the right hand is on the small of the stock, with the right forearm parallel to the ground/deck. The weapon is held at a distance of one fist width away from the chest.
* "Right Shoulder, ARMS": Rifle is moved to the right shoulder, rifle making a 45° angle to the ground, and right forearm parallel to the deck/ground.
* "Left Shoulder, ARMS": Rifle is moved to the left shoulder, rifle making a 45° angle to the ground, and left forearm parallel to the deck/ground.
* "Present, ARMS": Unarmed Members render a hand salute. While armed members will render a rifle salute.
* "Secure, ARMS": Rifle is turned upside down placed under the right shoulder.
* "Inspection, ARMS": Lock open the bolt of the rifle, then glance quickly into the chamber to ensure that the weapon is empty.

**Marching Commands:**

* "Forward, MARCH": forward marching movement in cadence.
* "Double time, MARCH": commence jogging at 180 steps per minute.
* "Half step, MARCH": marching forward at half steps.
* "Route step, MARCH": You no longer need to maintain cadence.
* "Column Right (left), MARCH": A turn to the right(left) while marching.
* "(By the) right (left) flank, MARCH: Every member in the marching movement turns Right (left) at the same time.
* "Column half right (left), MARCH": A half turn to the right (left) while marching.
* "(By my) right (left) oblique, MARCH": Every member in the marching movement makes a half turn to the right (left) at the same time.
* "Squad/Platoon/Company (or appropriate formation designation), HALT": Take one more step then freeze.

