

Chapter Three:

Color Guard Background

Section One:

Make-up of a Color Guard

- The purpose of a Color Guard is to present the Colors. A Color Guard consists of a minimum of three people: the American flag bearer, which is always the commander, and two guards to defend the flag. Color Guards at Palo Verde AFJROTC may consist of anywhere from three to six people. There are always two guards on the outside and the flags aligned from right to left, from the commander's view, in this order: U.S., POW, Nevada, Air Force. The guard defending the U.S. flag is the senior guard. The other guard is the junior guard. In a four-person Color Guard, the Air Force flag may be called the service flag and its guard called the service guard.
- Commander's note: The American flag always marches in and out before the other flags, and is always higher than the other flags. Additionally, the American flag never moves backward.

Section Two:

Drill

- In addition to the normal drill movements of JROTC, Color Guard has different movements used specifically for Color Guard performances.
- Counters
 - A counter is done for the purpose of turning the team 180° when there are four people on the team. At the command COUNTER, MARCH, the senior guard will take four steps forward, make a 90 degree turn to the left, take four more steps, another 90 degree turn to the left, four more steps, and begin to mark time when dressed with the commander. The commander will take four mark time steps, make a 90 degree, in-place turn to the left, two small steps and two mark time, another 90 degree turn in-place to the left, and begin to mark time. The junior flag will take two mark time steps and two small steps forward, then make a 90 degree turn to the right, four small steps then another 90 degree turn to the right, then four small steps and begin mark time when dressed with the commander. The junior guard will take two mark time steps and two steps forward, then make a 90 degree turn to the right, four steps then another 90 degree turn to the right, then four steps and begin mark time when dressed with service flag (see figure 1).

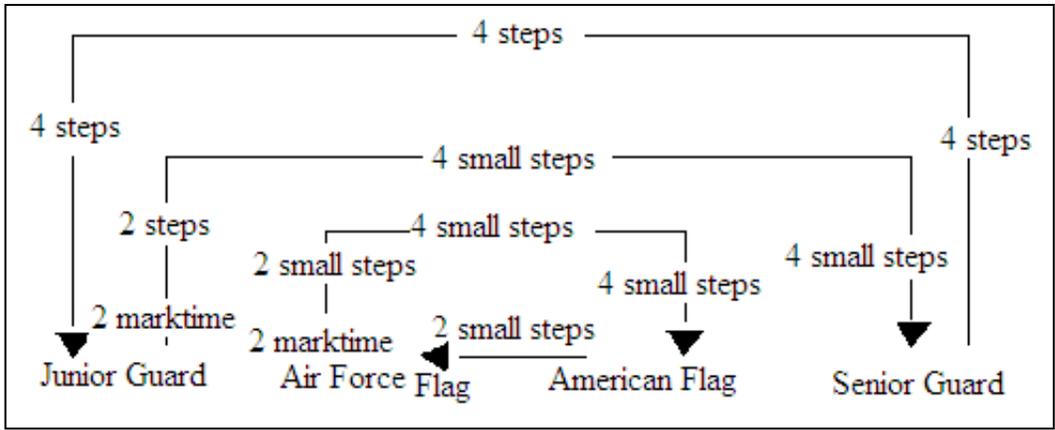


Figure 1.

- Turns/Wheels
 - A turn is done for the purpose of turning the team 90 degrees to the left or right. On a left turn the junior guard is the pivot point and the senior guard leads the turn in eight steps. The flags get their distance from the junior guard and dress to the senior guard (see figure 2). On a right turn the senior guard is the pivot point and the junior guard is the pivot point in eight steps. The flags get their distance from the senior guard and dress to the junior guard.

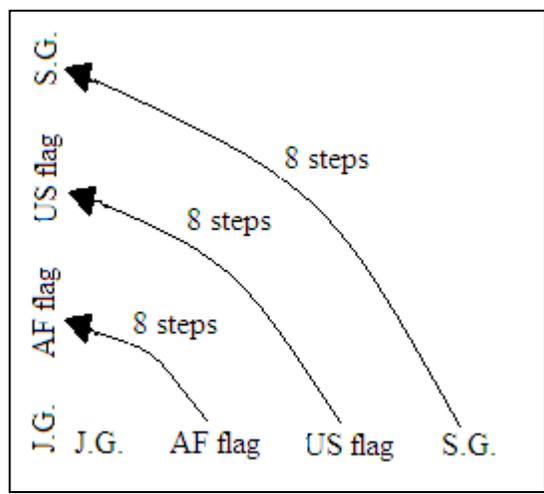


Figure 2.

- A wheel is done for the purpose of turning the team 180 degrees to the left or right. On a left wheel the junior guard is the pivot point and the senior guard leads the turn in 16 steps. The flags get their distance from the junior guard and dress from the senior guard (see figure 3). On a right wheel the senior guard is the pivot point and the junior guard leads the turn in 16 steps. The flags get their distance from the senior guard and dress from the junior guard.

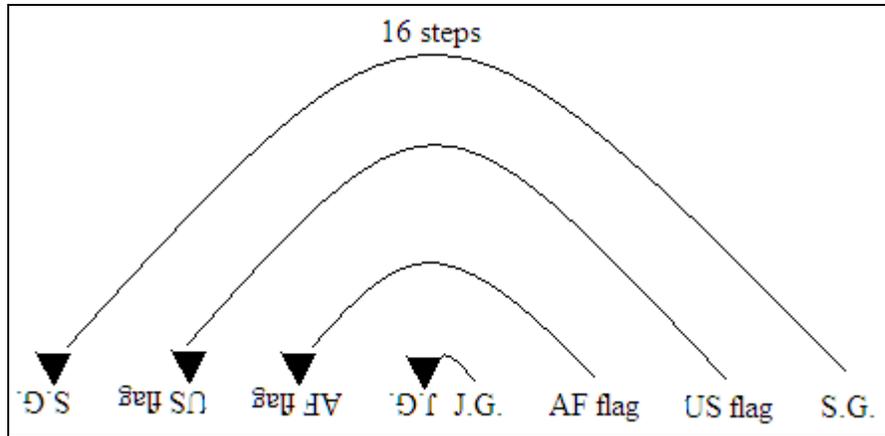


Figure 3.

- On a turn or wheel, dress is to the outside of the movement. As the movement is nearing completion, dress to the pivot point so that you do not over shoot the turn/wheel.
- Tree Maneuver
 - The tree maneuver is a movement to bring the Color Guard from a column formation to a line formation. In this maneuver, the Color Guard will march forward on the command FORWARD MARCH. When the senior guard gets to his/her mark, he/she will halt. The rest of the Color Guard will follow the senior guard and position themselves on the right of the person in front of them, getting their dress and interval from the left (see figure 4). At this point, the commander will give POST and the Color Guard will perform the Eight Count About Face (see glossary).

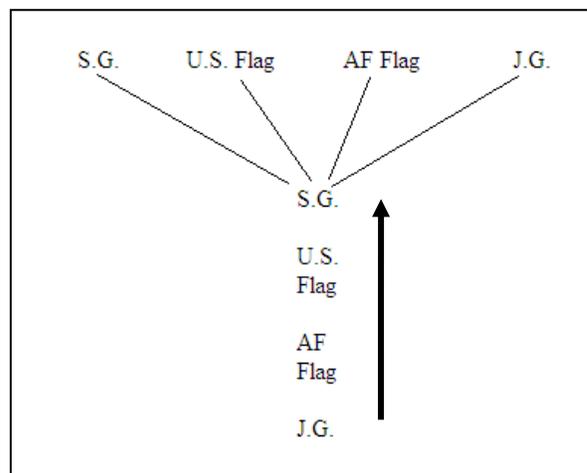
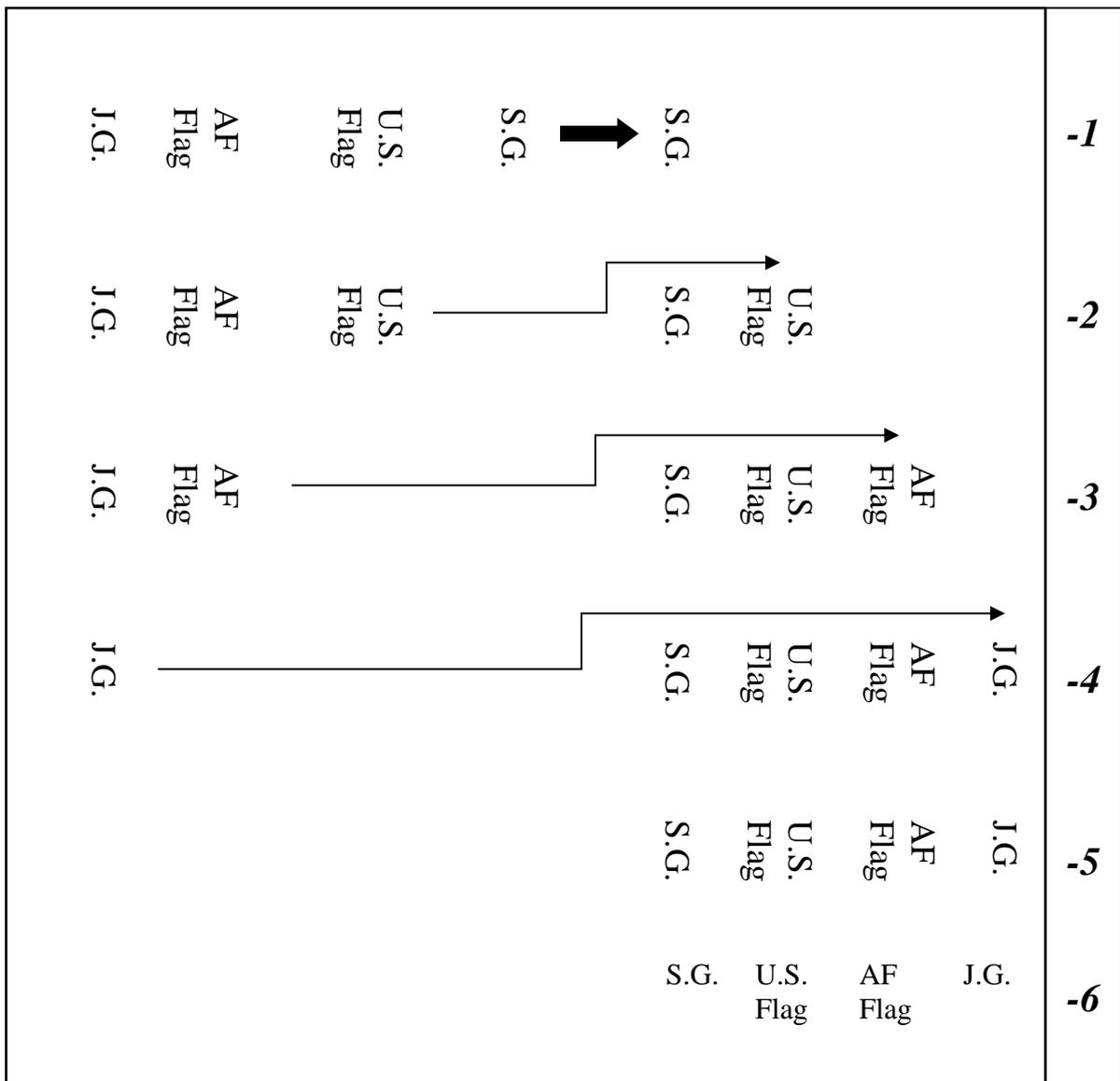


Figure 4.

- Ladder Maneuver

- The Ladder Maneuver is a movement to bring the Color Guard from a column formation to a line formation. The team enters from the audience's left and goes to center stage. The Color Guard will march forward on the command FORWARD MARCH. When the senior guard gets to his/her mark, he/she will go to mark time (see # 1 below). The rest of the Color Guard will follow the senior guard, continue around them on the left and position themselves in front of the person originally in front of them in sequence (see #2 thru #4). Each person will go to mark time when they reach their spot (see #5). The commander will then give RIGHT FACE (see #6). The Color Guard will Present Colors and then do a Right Face to leave the stage.



- Flag Folding (Eleven Count)
 - The formation consists of six cadets: two rifles, two flag-folders, the narrator, and the commander. The order of march is senior guard, flag-holder, flag-folder, junior guard, narrator, and commander. When the Color Guard is announced, the commander will bring the team to attention and give the rifles PORT ARMS. The team will then be given FORWARD MARCH. The senior guard will go to MARK TIME at a predetermined spot. The commander will give COLOR GUARD HALT. At this point, the Flag Folding music will begin. The commander will face the team to the audience and the narrator and commander will step away from the team to the podium/microphone. When the commander gives DETAIL HACE, the team will execute the eleven-count (the senior guard will do a right face, take three steps, stop, about face, present arms, and bring the rifle down between their feet with their feet twelve inches apart. Their right hand will be above their left and they will bow their head until “Taps” has finished playing). This maneuver is done in eleven counts; hence the name. The junior guard will do the same thing but face left initially. The flag-holder will face left and the flag-folder will face right. They will immediately begin unfolding the flag and stepping backward together as they do so. It is essential that these steps are taken together and of the same distance to maintain the same distance between them and the rifles. When the flag is unfolded it is stretched out and held vertically, displayed to the crowd while the folders tilt their heads down until “Taps” has finished playing. When “Taps” is over, the folders make eye contact and bring the flag down horizontally, simultaneously. The rifles make eye contact and bring the rifle to port arms and come to attention in two counts simultaneously. The narrator will continue with the script (see Appendix _____) and the folding will begin. The folders will follow the format for folding described in Chapter Two, Section One. After the second fold, the commander will give PRESENT ARMS (the rifles and commander will go to present arms). After the third fold, the commander will give PORT ARMS. When the narrator announces the fold involving the Pledge of Allegiance, the entire detail will simultaneously say the Pledge of Allegiance enthusiastically. ***** When the narrator has finished, he or she will cross in front of the commander and fall in on the senior guard’s right. The commander will fall in on the narrator’s right and give the team LEFT FACE and FORWARD MARCH. The commander will halt the team and fall them out when they have reached an appropriate mark.

Section Three:

Flag Manual (note: all movements must be accomplished with sharpness and precision!)

- Order
 - This is the position of attention with a flag on the ground next to the right foot, gripped with the right hand, tucked into the right shoulder, and perpendicular to the ground.



- Facing movement
 - This shows the steps of how to 'face' with a flag. There are six steps to this movement.



Starting Position



Step One
Left hand over.



Step Two
Lift flag with right hand.



Step Three
Pivot.



Step Four
Bring heels together.



Step Five
Set flag on ground



Step Six
Drop left hand.

- Parade rest
 - This is the position of parade rest with a flag.



- Order Colors to Staff Colors
 - These are the steps to go to staff colors, a position with a flag used when going through areas with low ceilings. This is a three step movement.



Starting Position

Step One
Left hand over.

Step Two
Lift flag with
right hand.

Step Three
Tilt flag forward
45 degrees.

- Order to carry
 - This shows the steps of how to get to the position of carry, the way a flag is carried in a color guard. This is a five step movement.



Starting Position



Step One
Left hand over.



Step Two
Lift flag with right hand while grabbing bottom of pole with the left hand.



Step Three
Bring flag over to the cup.



Step Four
Work the flag into the cup.



Step Five
Drop left hand to your side and bring right hand down to your mouth.

- Carry Colors to Present Colors
 - This shows the steps of how to present the flag once at the position of Carry Colors. This is a four step movement.



✓ The Flag of the United States is **never** dipped or lowered during 'Present Colors'.

Steps One and Two: hold at Carry Colors.



Step Three: raise right hand slightly.



Step Four: push flag forward 45 degrees.

- Present Colors to Carry Colors
 - This shows the steps of how to get back to the position of Carry Colors from Present Colors. This is a five step movement.



Steps One thru Three: hold without moving.



Step Four: raise flag to the perpendicular.



Step Five: lower right hand to your mouth.

- Carry Colors to Order Colors
 - This shows the steps of how to get from the position of Carry Colors, to setting it back on the ground (Order Colors). This is a six step movement.



Starting Position



Step One: bring left hand over to the cup.



Step Two: lift flag out of the cup.



Step Three: move flag to the right.



Step Four: lower the flag as far as the right arm naturally hangs.



Step Five: lower flag to ground by right foot tucking flag into right shoulder.



Step Six: drop left hand to side.

- Present Colors to Order Colors
 - This shows the steps of how to get to Order Colors straight from Present Colors. This is a six step movement.



Starting Position



Step One: raise flag to the perpendicular with the right hand while bringing the left hand to the cup.



Step Two: lift flag out of the cup.



Step Three: move flag to the right.



Step Four: lower the flag as far as the right arm naturally hangs.



Step Five: lower the flag to the ground by your right foot and tucked into the right shoulder.



Step Six: drop left hand to your side.



- Change Arms
 - Change Arms is done to relieve the flag-bearer from holding their arm on the flag for long periods of time. This shows the steps to execute this command. This is a four step movement.



Starting Position



Step One: raise left hand and grab pole under right hand.



Step Two: lower right hand to side.



Step Three: raise right hand back to original position.



Step Four: lower left hand to side.

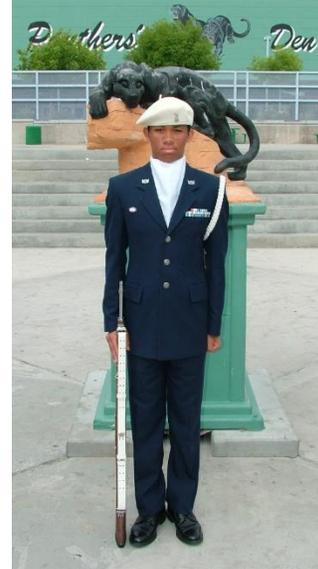
- Eyes Right (Air Force, Nevada, and POW flags only)
 - Eyes Right is done to salute a dignitary at parades or competition. It is called on the right foot and the flag is presented as the next left foot hits the ground. Simultaneously, the head turns 45 degrees to the right. Ready front is given on the left foot and the flag is returned to carry as the next right foot hits the ground. Simultaneously, the head snaps back forward.



Section Four:

Rifle Manual (also see the NV-20011 Weapons Manual for basic M-1 movements) (note: all movements must be accomplished with sharpness and precision!)

- Order Colors
 - This is the position of Attention (Order Colors). The weapon (rifle) is on the ground, next to the right foot, with a 'taco' grip on the weapon. The weapon is perpendicular to the ground



- Facing movements
 - This shows the steps of how to face with a rifle. These are six step movements.



Starting Position



Step One: bring left hand to top of weapon.



Step Two: lift weapon with right hand two inches off the ground.



Step Three: pivot.



Step Four: bring feet together at a 45 degree angle.



Step Five: lower weapon to ground beside right foot.



Step Six: lower left hand to side.

- Parade Rest
 - This is the position of Parade Rest with a rifle.



- Order Colors to Staff Colors/Port Arms
 - These are the steps to go to Staff Colors/Port Arms, a position used when going through areas with short ceilings. This is a two step movement.



Starting Position



Step One: bring weapon across your body with the right hand while bringing your left hand up and placing it as shown.



Step Two: move right hand to butt of rifle as shown.

- Order Colors to Carry Colors
 - This shows the steps of how to get to the position of Carry Colors from Order Colors in a color guard. This is a five step movement.



Starting Position



Step One: see Step One above.



Step Two: move right hand sharply to rifle butt.



Step Three: rotate weapon 90 degs. & hold away from body, perpendicular.



Step Four: lay weapon on right shoulder.



Step Five: drop left hand to side.

- Carry Colors to Present Colors
 - This shows the steps of going from Carry Colors to Present Colors. This is a four step movement.



Starting Position

Step One: bring weapon away from shoulder and hold perpendicular to ground.

Step Two: rotate weapon right 90 degs. and down 45 degs. with right hand and catch with the left.

Step Three: move right hand from butt and grip as shown.

Step Four: bring weapon down and around as shown.

- Present Colors to Carry Colors
 - This shows the steps of how to get back to the position of carry from presenting the rifle. This is a five step movement.



Starting Position

Step One: rotate rifle 90 degs and Drop to 45 degs.

Step Two: move right hand to the rifle butt.

Step Three: bring rifle out perpendicular to ground.

Step Four: lay rifle against your shoulder.

Step Five: drop left hand to side.

- Carry Colors to Order Colors
 - This shows the steps of how to get from the position of carrying the rifle (Carry Colors), to setting it back on the ground (Order Colors). This is a six step movement.



Starting Position



Step One: bring weapon away from shoulder and hold perpendicular to ground.



Step Two: rotate weapon right 90 degs. and down 45 degs. with right hand and catch with the left.



Step Three: move right hand from butt and grip as shown.



Step Four: bring weapon down and around as shown.



Step Five: lower weapon to ground.

Step Six: drop left hand to side.



- Present to order
 - This shows the steps of how to get to order straight from presenting the rifle. This is a six step movement.



Starting Position

Step One: rotate rifle 90 degs. and drop 45 degs. into left hand.

Step Two: move right forearm/hand flat along weapon as shown.

Step Three: bring rifle to right side & hold off of ground.

Step Four: hold position.



Step Five: lower weapon to ground.

Step Six: drop left hand to side.



- Change arms
 - Change arms is done to relieve the cadet from holding their rifle in the same position for long periods of time. This shows the steps to execute this command. This is a three step movement.



Starting Position

Step One: bring weapon away from shoulder and hold perpendicular to ground.

Step Two: rotate weapon right 90 degs. and down 45 degs. with right hand and catch with the left.

Step Three: move right hand from butt and grip as shown.



- Section Five:
 - Team Commanders
 - ‘A’ Team Commander. The Color Guard commander commands ‘A’ Team at competitions. After all First-Years have been taught the basics of Color Guard, the commander will choose his or her team to compete. They will practice every class period until competition.
 - ‘B’ Team Commander. Color Guard is permitted to enter two teams at competitions. ‘B’ Team is the other competitive team for our unit. Tryouts for ‘B’ Team Commander usually occur in October. The ‘B’ Team Commander is the Color Guard Vice Commander and will lead the team in the commander’s absence. When the ‘B’ Team Commander is chosen, the ‘A’ Team Commander chooses his/her team and then the ‘B’ Team Commander chooses their team. Shortly thereafter, practices begin.
 - ‘C’ Team Commander. The members of Color Guard that are not chosen to compete will become alternates for the competitions. This team is called ‘C’ Team. The ‘C’ Team Commander is chosen after both competing teams are chosen. The goal of the ‘C’ Team Commander is to prepare every single cadet on the team to replace a member on a competing team at any given time. The ‘C’ Team Commander is the alternate for the A and B Team Commanders.

- Section Six:
 - Color Guard Rope. The Color Guard rope is a white rope worn on the left shoulder and is awarded to cadets on Color Guard that have participated in their first performance. Taking part in the banner at a parade does not count as a performance when determining eligibility for their rope.

- Section Seven:
 - Color Guard Ribbon. The Color Guard ribbon is awarded at the Awards Banquet to each cadet on Color Guard who has participated in at least 10 (or 75%) of the performances for the year (Awards Banquet to Awards Banquet), whichever is smaller. This ribbon is awarded at the team advisor’s discretion if all other requirements have been met.

- Section Eight:
 - Competitions
 - All Air Force. Usually, the first drill competition of the year is All-Air Force. This competition usually includes only CCSD schools that have Air Force JROTC units. It is hosted by a different CCSD AFJROTC unit every year.
 - CCSD. The second drill competition of the year is CCSD. This competition includes all of the JROTC units in CCSD.

- Section Nine:
 - Sweepstakes Trophies and Medals. Sweepstakes trophies are First-, Second-, or Third-Place Overall trophies given out at CCSD and certain All-Air Force competitions. If a team earns a sweepstakes trophy, they receive a medal that is to be worn on the semiformal uniform.

- Section Ten:
 - Drill Competition Ribbon. The Drill Competition Ribbon is awarded at the Awards Banquet to all team members who received a First-, Second-, or Third-Place Overall trophy at any competition.

