

Chapter Seven: Appendix

The Flag Retirement Ceremony

-Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for attending our Flag Retirement Ceremony.
(Pause)

I'd like to give a special thanks to the Palo Verde Principal, Mr. Dan Phillips and our Vice-principals, for coming out and joining us tonight.

I'd like to thank our Corps Commander C/Lt Col Jamie Boatwright and our Director of Operations C/Maj Anthony Mira for joining us also.

(Pause)

At this time would the Color Guard please bring forward the flags to be retired. *(Pause)*

<C/CMS Lejbman commands Color Guard flag detail. Attention. Right Shoulder Arms. Forward March. The Color Guard marches through ADT and UDT >

<Color Guard Splits to each side of the fire pit. C/CMS Lejbman commands, About Face. Post. The front of each detail face in, take the flag from the cutter and open the flag in vertical position. The cutters take a two-count step forward to give the flag to the holders. >

<As the Color Guard is marching through ADT and UDT read.. >

Tonight we honor the symbol of our American freedom, the American Flag, as we retire her from duty.

As long as Americans cherish liberty more than life itself, the Stars and Stripes shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America. Look at her with renewed allegiance, honor her, respect her, and defend her.

The United States Code stipulates, "When a U.S. flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Tonight we gather these Flags of our Country, which have been determined to be no longer serviceable.

They have reached their present state in a proper service of respect, tribute, and in the memory of all who have served America. What we are about to do is evidence of

our utmost respect and undying honor for the Flag.

At this time would everyone please stand for the pledge of allegiance. *(Pause)*

Present **(H)**Arms.

<Color Guard, ADT, and UDT will all go to present arms.>

Order(p) (H)Arms.

<Color Guard, ADT, and UDT will all go to order arms.>

Please join me in a moment of silence, in remembrance of the sacrifices made by others on our behalf, under this banner.

<Count to fifteen slowly>

<Color Guard, ADT and UDT will automatically go to parade hess, and bow their heads. >

Thank you.

<Color guard ADT and UDT returns to the position of attention. >

To properly retire the flag, custom dictates, that we cut the flag into quarters, and it to be burned in a certain order, ending with the most important quarter of the flag, the canton field of blue, as it represents the states that make up our union. At this time, we will now retire the flag.

<Flags are put down (horizontal) the back holders step forward.>

<Cutting begins>

<Cutters begin to cut the flags. Holders will form up with the cut sections of the flag that are as their sections are folded>

<On the beginning of the second cut into the flag the first folder for each flag will march up behind the holder of the star section. Then when the second cut is finished the folder will help the holder fold the section of the flag. >

<After the second section of the flag is folded the second folder will march out to the flag, to help during the last cut of the flag. Then they will assist in the folding after the last cut. >

<Read during the cutting. >

This flag is the symbol of our country.

The colors of the flag symbolize the patriotic ideals and spiritual qualities of the citizens of our country. The canton field of blue is the first piece cut away from the flag. It contains the stars that represent the 50 states of our republic. When the first American flag was created, there were 13 stars representing the original 13 colonies.

The blue in our flag stands for the valor of the soldiers, sailors and airmen who have fought for our country, and all for which it stands. It is the blue of heaven, loyalty, and faith. The white stands for the purity in all of our hearts. It represents the honor that each of us should show in our everyday lives. The white stripes stand for liberty and equality for all. The red stands for all of the men and women, who have died in the service of our country, both as members of the armed forces, and as everyday citizens. The red stripes proclaim the fearless courage, integrity, self-sacrifice, and devotion of Americans of all backgrounds. Our flag has been carried into battles, from the American Revolution to the Civil War, to World War I and World War II, to the Korean Conflict, from Vietnam to Desert Storm and the fight for freedom in the Middle-East.

In all of these, we, the American People, have stayed true to the values that the flag represents. **We should always honor the sacrifices that have been made for our flag and the country it represents.**

Folders help the Color Guard fold each section of the flag. Then each of the crewmembers line up in correct order next the pre-cut flag holders.

<Waits till cutting is finished, then when the cutting is finished continue>

We have old friends here who have fulfilled their duty to our country. They have become worn and tattered and we are here tonight to retire them with honor.

We shouldn't be sad about the retirement of our friends.

We are not burning them in anger, our friends can continue to serve in our thoughts.

(Pause)

I invite Mr. Sean Raeder from the Palo Verde Band, to play taps as the bearers of the four sections of the flags place them, in order, on the fire.

<Taps begins to play.>

<Right cadet will command each rank to Forward March. When up to the fire the rank will place the flag section into the fire. Right Cadet will command rank to Present Arms at section. After pause, will command Order Arms. (the flag cutters will be saluting with each rank.)>

<As the last section, the star section, is being placed on the fire, narrator will call the remainder of Color Guard to present Arms. >

Order(p) Arms.

After the fire dies out and the ashes cool, the ashes will be buried, here, in the

Barbara Edwards Memorial. (Pause)

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes our ceremony, thank you for coming.

Detail Dismissed.

<Fire in fire pit is put out. Ashes are gathered and saved>

<C/Capt. Duron and C/2Lt Burges dismisses their teams. C/2Lt Galloway dismisses flag retirement crew. Everyone returns home safely!