

Presentation of Colors

When presenting the colors, at the minimum, the National Ensign and State flag will be used. Other flags may be included as deemed appropriate. The Color Guard will line themselves up on the right side of the church or auditorium. When only two flags are used, the Color Guard will consist of a Guard, National Ensign Bearer, State flag bearer followed by a Guard. When more flags are added, two Guards may be added to the center of the Color Guard.

If the audience has not been instructed for the presentation, the Marshal or Color Corps commander will instruct: **Ladies and Gentleman please rise for the presentation and posting of the colors.**

The Marshall or Color Corps Commander will call “**Color Corps – Attention.**” The command of “**Draw – Swords**” will be given at which time the Guards **Draw Swords** and the flag bearers will place their flag in the cup on the command of **Swords**. If the venue is not suitable for this the flags will come in at a trail.

The Marshall or Color Corps Commander then gives the command “**Forward – March**” at which the Color Guard will proceed down the right side, make a **Column Left** at the front and proceed to the center of the Church or auditorium where they will **Mark Time**. The command of “**Ready – Halt**” is given, followed by the command “**Left – Face.**”

The Marshall or Color Corps Commander will give the command “**Present – Swords**” at which time the non-National flags will be dipped and the Guard will come to **Present Swords** (if swords are not allowed, then the command will be “**Present - Flags**” and the guards will render a hand salute.)

The Marshal or Color Corps Commander will then say: “**Please Place your hands over your hearts and join in singing the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**”

After the signing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, the command “**Carry - Swords**” will be given at which time the dipped flags come back up and the Guard assumes **Carry Swords**. If swords are not used the command will be “**Shoulder - Flags**” and the guards will drop there hands and remain at attention.

The Marshall or Color Corps Commander will then give the command “**Color Corps**”. When this command is given, the Guards will take one step forward and the Flags will turn outward, making a count of three before proceeding to the flag stands. When they come to the flag stands, they will come to a stop. Upon the command of “**Post**” the flag bearers will place their flag staff over the flag stand. Upon the command of “**Colors**” the flag staffs will be placed into the flag stands, with the bearer of the National Ensign “slamming” his flag staff into the stand making an audible noise. The flag bearers will then check the flag tops making sure they are facing forward, and ruffle the flags three times.

The flag team will then take one step backwards. With the exception of the National Ensign bearer, the flag bearers will make a slight turn towards the National Ensign. The National Ensign bearer will then perform a **Hand Salute**, holding it to the count of three. Upon completion of the hand salute, the command of “**Recover**” will be given by the Marshal or Color Corps Commander, where the flag team will turn and return to their places between the Guards making sure that the National Ensign will never trail the other flags.

The Color Corps will then exit via either the center isle or by making a right face and marching down the left side of the church or auditorium. When exiting down the center isle the command of “**Forward – March**” will be made. The National Flag bearer along with the next senior flag bearer will be the first to depart, followed by the other flag bearers (if any), the Guards and the Marshall or Color Corps Commander bringing up the rear. If exiting down the left side, the command of “**Right – Face**” will be issued, followed by “**Forward – March.**” When coming to the end of the front row, a **Column Left** will be executed and continue marching towards the back of the church or auditorium.