



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001

ASO 5060.1A
SGTMAJ

NOV 16 2020

AIR STATION ORDER 5060.1A

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort
To: Distribution List

Subj: MORNING AND EVENING COLORS

Ref: (a) United States Naval Regulations
(b) MCO P5060.21
(c) MCO P10520.3B

Encl: (1) Sequence for Morning Colors
(2) Sequence for Evening Colors
(3) Sequence for Half-Mast Colors (Morning/Evening)
(4) Folding the Ensign

1. Situation. The ceremonial hoisting and lowering of the national ensign, commonly referred to as morning and evening colors, is a sacred responsibility executed daily at 0800 and at sunset with the highest levels of professionalism and precision. This Order provides guidance, assigns responsibilities, and identifies specific tasks for execution per the references.

2. Mission. The Station Duty Officer (SDO) shall assume the responsibility of executing morning and evening colors each day.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations. To ensure the professional execution of morning and evening colors aboard Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort.

b. Tasks

(1) MCAS Beaufort Sergeant Major (SgtMaj). Take responsibility for the overall conduct and execution of morning and evening colors and facilitate coordination between colors details and the Adjutant's Office.

(2) MCAS Beaufort Adjutant. Publish the monthly SDO and SDC rosters.

(3) MCAS Beaufort Color Sergeant. Conduct a monthly inventory of all equipment associated with the ceremonial raising and lowering of the national ensign.

(4) SDO (oncoming). Ensure the proper sized national ensign is hoisted correctly and on time per reference (c) and the enclosures. Ensure the colors details are familiar with the procedures for conducting morning and evening colors.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

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c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) The oncoming SDO shall report to the MCAS Beaufort SgtMaj no later than 0715 on normal workdays for colors instruction. SDOs whose duty falls on a weekend/holiday shall report to the MCAS Beaufort SgtMaj at 0715 the last day prior to the start of the weekend/holiday (normally a Friday).

(2) Morning colors shall be conducted by the oncoming SDO, and off-going Station Duty Clerk (SDC), Duty Noncommissioned Officer (DNCO), and Assistant DNCO (ADNCO). They shall report to the SDO no later than 0730 each morning to review the colors sequence and retrieve the Ensign to be hoisted.

(3) The SDO's appointed place during colors is outside building 601 in order to observe the raising and lowering of the colors.

(4) Evening colors shall be conducted by that day's SDC, DNCO, and ADNCO. The SDO shall muster the evening colors detail 30 minutes prior to sunset in order to review the sequence for evening colors.

(5) The SDO is responsible for playing the music associated with morning and evening colors. In the event of a sound system malfunction, contact the S-6 Officer.

(6) Following morning colors, the SDO shall ensure the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag is hoisted to the highest position on the flagpole adjacent to building 601. The POW/MIA flag shall be retired following evening colors.

4. Administration and Logistics. Morning and evening colors details shall wear the uniform of the day. On the last Friday of each month, the seasonal service uniform shall be worn.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to all hands aboard MCAS Beaufort.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



K. R. ARBOGAST

DISTRIBUTION: A

SEQUENCE FOR MORNING COLORS

0710: Check the following websites for special occasions to render the colors at half-mast and for sunset time for evening colors:

<http://halfstaff.org/> (any half-mast occasions reflected)

<https://www.sunrisesunset.com/> (evening colors time)

0715: SDO reports to MCAS Beaufort SgtMaj for colors instruction.

0735: SDO musters the flag detail on MCAS Beaufort Headquarters quarterdeck and ensures all participants understand that they must muster 30 minutes prior to sunset/evening colors.

0750: Colors detail forms outside the Headquarters building with the off-going DNCO (senior member) carrying the folded ensign in the center. The colors detail shall form at the line where the parking asphalt meets the concrete pathway to the flagstaff.

0755: After the five minute warning plays, the senior member (carrying the national ensign), commands "**FORWARD MARCH**" [NO ARM SWING]. The detail shall march twenty one paces towards the concrete ring of the flag staff, where the senior member will then command "**DETAIL, HALT.**"

The senior member will then give the command "**POST.**" On that command, the senior member will step forward to the flagstaff and the other two members will step off (marching) and halt on the appropriate sides of the flagstaff. All Marines shall be one pace from the flagstaff.

The senior member will then give the command "**READY FACE,**" and the other two members will face inboard toward the flagstaff.

Once all members are in the correct position, the senior member will command "**ATTACK THE HALYARD.**" The member on the right (halyard) side will detach the halyard and untangle it if necessary. The senior member shall remain in position holding the flag.

The Marines on the left and right will then attach the Ensign to the correct eyelet (marked with 550 cord and zip ties), so that it is raised first. Once both eyelets are attached, the member on the right hand side will raise the colors sufficiently (about four feet), prior to the beginning of colors, to ensure the blue field is hoisted first. This action precludes the embarrassment of hoisting the ensign upside down. The member on the left hand side will assist in ensuring the colors do not touch the ground and are untangled.

Once the flag is rigged, the color detail will stand by until "**TO THE COLORS**" is sounded. The member on the left side will maintain a guiding hold on the trail end of the halyard while standing at attention. The member on the right side will maintain the opposite line while standing at attention, but will be prepared to hoist the colors once the music starts. The senior member shall remain at attention (cradling the colors) and maintain possession of the national ensign until it is clear of the deck.

0800: Once "**TO THE COLORS**" begins to play, the member on the left side will move their left forearm parallel to the deck (as in left shoulder arms) to assist in guiding the halyard. The member on the right will hoist the colors **QUICKLY** until it reaches the truck (top of the flagstaff). Once the

national ensign reaches the truck, the member on the left will pass the line to the member on the right, who will hold the lines in their left hand, go to attention, and execute a hand salute.

Simultaneously, as **"TO THE COLORS"** begins to play, the senior and left hand members together will render a hand salute once the national ensign is clear of the deck (out of the cradle of the senior member).

Once the music has stopped, the senior member will give the command **"READY TO"** for all members to cut their salutes. The right hand member will then secure the halyard to the flagstaff.

After the halyard is secure, the senior member will command **"POST"**. On the command, the senior member will about face, and the two other members will step off on line next to the senior member. The senior member will then command **"FORWARD MARCH."** The detail will march [NO ARM SWING] to the point where the concrete pathway to the flagstaff meets the parking asphalt. At that point, the senior member will command **"DETAIL, HALT"** and then **"FALL OUT."**

0805: Following the commencement of morning colors, the SDO shall hand the senior member the POW/MIA flag to be flown on the adjacent flagpole next to the Headquarters building. The SDO will ensure the POW/MIA flag is retired following evening Colors.

SEQUENCE FOR EVENING COLORS

30 MINUTES PRIOR: SDO musters flag detail on MCAS Headquarters quarterdeck and ensures all participants understand their role prior to evening colors being lowered.

10 MINUTES PRIOR: Color detail forms outside Headquarters building with the current DNCO (senior Member) in the center. The Color detail will form at the point where the parking asphalt meets the concrete pathway to the flagstaff.

5 MINUTE WARNING: After the five minute warning plays, the senior member, commands "**FORWARD MARCH**" [NO ARM SWING]. The detail will march twenty one paces towards the concrete ring of the flag staff, where the senior member will then command "**DETAIL, HALT.**"

The senior member will then give the command "**POST.**" On the command, the senior member will step forward to the flagstaff and the other two members will step off as in marching and halt on the appropriate sides of the flagstaff (all members will be one pace from the flagstaff).

The senior member will then give the command "**READY FACE,**" and the other two members will face inboard toward the flagstaff.

Once all members are in the correct position, the senior member will command "**ATTACK THE HALYARD.**" The Marines on the left and right will take one step forward, and the member on the right (halyard) side will detach the halyard and untangle it if necessary. The senior and left hand member shall remain in the position of attention.

Once the member on the right has the halyard untangled and prepared, the color detail will stand at attention until "**RETREAT**" is sounded.

TIME: Once "**RETREAT**" begins to play, the senior member will command "**HAND SALUTE,**" and the senior and left Marines will salute. The right hand Marine will SLOWLY lower the colors. On the last note of the music, or before the ensign touches the deck, the senior member will command "**READY TO**" for both the senior and left hand members to cut their salute to catch the ensign. The member on the left will assist the senior member in catching and unhooking the ensign from the halyard.

After establishing positive control of the ensign, all members will assume the position of attention (senior member cradling the ensign, right member holding the halyard). The senior member will then give the command "**ATTACK THE HALYARD.**" The right hand Marine will then secure the halyard to the flagstaff.

After the halyard is secure, the senior member will command "**POST.**" On the command, the SENIOR member will about face, and the two other members will step off on line next to the senior member. The senior member will then command "**FORWARD MARCH.**" The detail will march [NO ARM SWING] to the point where the concrete pathway to the flagstaff meets the parking asphalt. The senior member will command "**DETAIL, HALT**" and the then "**FALL OUT.**"

Following the commencement of evening colors, the senior member will direct the two other members to retire the POW/MIA flag for the evening.

SEQUENCE FOR HALF-MAST COLORS (MORNING)

The procedure for setting the Colors at Half-Mast follows the same exact sequence as morning colors until the National Ensign reaches the truck (top of the flag staff).

0800: Once **"TO THE COLORS"** begins to play, the left hand member will move their left forearm parallel to the deck (as in left shoulder arms) to assist in guiding the halyard. The member on the right will hoist the colors QUICKLY until it reaches the truck (top of the flagstaff). Once the national ensign reaches the truck, the LEFT member will pass the line to the RIGHT member, and the RIGHT member will continue holding the lines in the left hand, go to attention, and execute a hand salute.

Once **"TO THE COLORS"** begins to play, the senior and left hand members together will render a hand salute once the national ensign is clear of the deck (out of the cradle of the senior member).

POINT OF HALF-MAST

Once the music has stopped, the senior member will give the command **"READY TO"** for all members to cut their salutes. The right hand member will then begin to **SLOWLY** lower the National Ensign until the bottom of the colors reaches the black tape marked on the flagstaff. Once the National Ensign reaches its point, the right hand member will then secure the halyard to the flagstaff.

After the halyard is secure, the senior member will command **"POST."** On that command, the senior member will about face, and the two other members will step off on line next to the senior member. The senior member will then command **"FORWARD MARCH."** The detail will march [NO ARM SWING] to the point where the concrete pathway to the flagstaff meets the parking asphalt. At that point, the senior member will command **"DETAIL, HALT"** and then **"FALL OUT."**

SEQUENCE FOR HALF-MAST COLORS (EVENING)

The procedure for setting the Colors at Half-Mast follows the same exact sequence as Morning Colors up until the National Ensign reaches the truck (top of the flag staff).

5 MINUTE WARNING: After the five minute warning plays, the senior member, commands **"FORWARD MARCH"** [NO ARM SWING]. The detail will march twenty one paces towards the concrete ring of the flag staff, where the senior member will then command **"DETAIL, HALT."**

The senior member will then give the command **"POST."** On that command, the senior member will step forward to the flagstaff and the other two members will step off as in marching and halt on the appropriate sides of the flagstaff (all members will be one pace from the flagstaff).

The SENIOR member will then give the command **"READY FACE,"** and the other two members will face inboard toward the flagstaff.

Once all members are in the correct position, the senior member will command **"ATTACK THE HALYARD."** The Marines on the left and right will take one step forward, and the member on the right (halyard) side will detach the halyard and untangle it if necessary. The senior and left hand members will remain in the position of attention.

Once the right hand member has the halyard untangled and prepared, they will hand the trail end of the halyard to the Marine on the left to guide the halyard when hoisted. All members will stand at attention (halyard held by their side) until "**RETREAT**" is sounded.

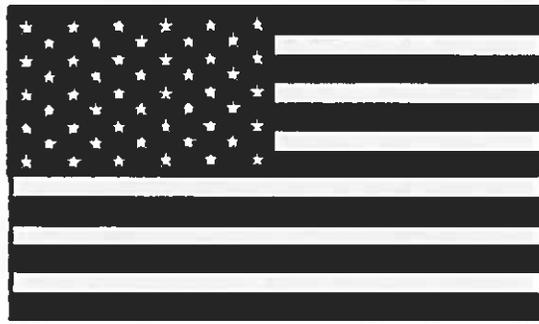
TIME: Once "**RETREAT**" begins to play, the senior member will command "**HAND SALUTE**" for both the senior and left member. Additionally, the left hand member will move his left forearm parallel to the deck (as in left shoulder arms) to assist in guiding the halyard.

The right hand member shall **QUICKLY** raise the colors to the top of the flagstaff and then **SLOWLY** lower the ensign. On the last note of music, or before the ensign touches the deck, the senior member will command "**READY TO**" for both the senior and left hand members to cut their salutes to catch the ensign. The left hand member will assist the senior member in catching and unhooking the ensign from the halyard.

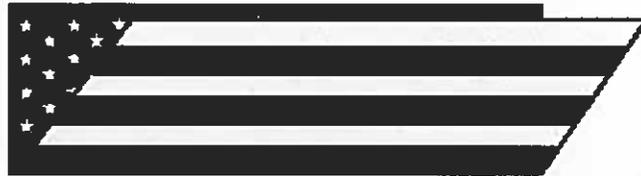
After establishing positive control of the ensign, all members will assume the position of Attention (senior member cradling the ensign, right hand member holding the halyard). The senior member will then give the command "**ATTACK THE HALYARD,**" at which point the right hand member will secure the halyard to the flagstaff.

After the halyard is secure, the senior member will command "**POST.**" On that command, the senior member will about face, and the two other members will step off on line next to the senior member. The senior member will then command "**FORWARD MARCH.**" The detail will march [NO ARM SWING] to the point where the concrete pathway to the flagstaff meets the parking asphalt. At that point, the senior member will command "**DETAIL, HALT**" and then "**FALL OUT.**"

Folding the Ensign



↪ OPEN EDGE



↪ OPEN EDGE

↪ FOLDED EDGE



↪ OPEN EDGE

↪ FOLDED EDGE



↪ FOLDED EDGE

