

CURRICULUM ON MILITARY SUBJECTS

Strand 2: The Flag

Level 11

This Strand is composed of the following components:

- A. **Flag Basics**
- B. Presenting the Flag
- C. Patriotic Music & Poems



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A. FLAG BASICS

Objectives

DESIRED OUTCOME (Self-Mastery) / PRACTICUM A

90% of Unit Cadets are able to successfully and properly raise and lower the school flag and answer basic questions about its history and proper care.

1. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Familiarity with the National Anthem (first verse).
 - a. Sing/Recite the National Anthem (first verse)
 - b. Identify historical facts concerning the National Anthem
3. Identify rules and taboos concerning the care and display of the US flag.
4. Properly fold a flag.
5. Identify facts about the history of the United States flag.
6. Properly raise the US and California flags on a flagpole.
7. Properly lower the US and California flags on a flagpole.

Videos maybe we can get a school to make a video (or 2) of raising and lowering the flag

A1. The Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the republic, for which it stands, on nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We say this pledge every day in school. What are we pledging? What is a pledge?

Let's break it down and look at what it means:

I pledge allegiance

I promise to be true

to the flag

to the symbol of our country

of the United States of America

each state that has joined to make our country

And to the Republic

a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them. The government is for the people

for which it stands

the flag means the country

one nation

a single country

under God

the people believe in a supreme being

indivisible

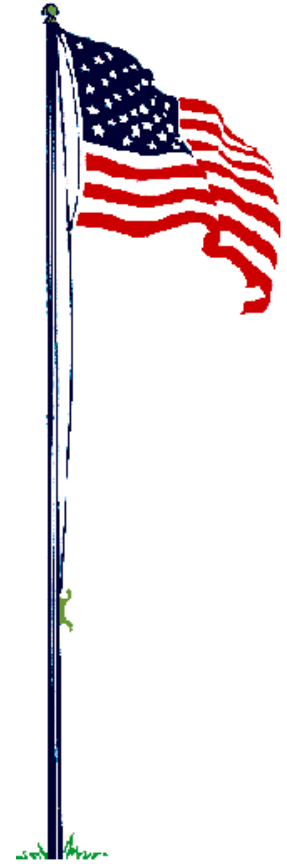
the country cannot be split into parts

with liberty and justice

with freedom and fairness

for all

for each person in the country – you and me



Beginnings of the Pledge:

- First published September 8, 1892
- First recited by more than 12 million public school students on Columbus Day 1892
- Francis Bellamy of Rome, New York is the author
- The original Pledge was... I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, With Liberty and Justice for all

Over time, the following phrases were added:

- "the flag of the United States"
- "of America"
- "under God"

In 1942, it became the official "Pledge to the Flag" in the U.S. Flag Code



Members of the US Military don't normally say the Pledge of Allegiance. Military courtesy rules call for soldiers to stand at Attention when the pledge is being recited in a civilian setting, and remain silent. Because of the school setting of the California Cadet Corps, and our dedication to teaching citizenship and patriotism, we break with this tradition, and encourage our cadet units to say the Pledge of Allegiance both in and out of uniform.

A2. The National Anthem

**Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?**

If there is anything taken more seriously than the US flag, it's possibly the national anthem. The Star-Spangled Banner accompanies just about every major American function, and at major sporting events a significant honor is bestowed on those asked to sing what is probably the best known national anthem in the world.

But, listen to the words and it tells of a moment in US history when the war with the British was being fought and of one man's relief in seeing the US flag still flying after a vicious bombardment.



The War of 1812 had been a particularly nasty conflict with the British. They had burned down the Capitol and White House in Washington, and were set on taking the port of Baltimore, which was protected in part by Fort McHenry. After an initial land attack had been thwarted, 16 ships of the British fleet positioned themselves for a massive attack on the fort.

Who was Francis Scott Key and why was he there? Before the British fleet came within canon range of Fort McHenry, two Americans, Colonel John Skinner and a lawyer and part-time poet by the name of Francis Scott Key, had gone out to one of the British ships. They had come to negotiate the release of Dr. William Beanes, a friend of Key who had been seized following the attack on Washington. The British agreed, but all three had learned too much about the forthcoming attack and were detained by the British on board the frigate *Surprise* until it was over.

The attack started on September 12th, 1814, and continued for the next two days. Skinner, Beane and Key watched much of the bombardment from the deck and, through the nights of the 12th and 13th they caught glimpses of the star-shaped fort with its huge flag – 42 feet long, with 8 red stripes, 7 white



stripes and 15 white stars. It had been specially commissioned to be big enough that the British could not possibly fail to see it from a distance.

The Poem

In the dark of the night of the 13th of September, the shelling suddenly stopped - through the darkness they couldn't tell whether the British forces had been defeated, or the fort had fallen.

As the sun began to rise, Key peered through the lifting darkness anxious to see if the flag they had seen the night before was still flying. And so it was that he scribbled on the back of an envelope the first lines of a poem he called Defense of Fort M'Henry:

***O, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming
What is that which the breeze o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?***

But finally the sun rose, and with intense relief and pride he saw that the fort had withstood the onslaught ...

***'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.***



On the way back to shore, and later in his hotel room, he completed all four verses of the poem, and the following morning he took it to his brother-in-law, a local judge, who thought it so good that he arranged to have it printed as a handbill.

It is very likely that Key only ever intended this as a poem. However, there was a very popular tune of the time which had the same form and metre, and there can be no doubt that Key was heavily influenced by it - ironically, this was the tune of a British drinking song!

When the handbills were printed, they bore the name of this tune to which the poem should be sung - *Anacreon in Heaven*. Nobody is sure whether this was Key's idea, or whether his brother-in-law had made the connection, but to this day the American National Anthem is sung to the tune of a British drinking song.

Key made a number of hand-written copies of his original poem, introducing the occasional change. But it wasn't just Key that made alterations; various editors along the way have also had a hand in altering spelling, punctuation and even the words. The original text of the poem has therefore varied depending on where you read it.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that it should become the National Anthem played by the military and naval services, but it wasn't until March 3rd, 1931 that it was officially designated as the National Anthem by act of Congress:



“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the composition known as The Star-Spangled Banner is designated as the National Anthem of the United States of America”

Practical Exercise: Have the class sing the National Anthem together. It's best to play music they can sing along with.

A3. Flag Smarts

Are there laws about proper care and display of the United States flag? **ABSOLUTELY. United States Code Title 4, Chapter 1** is all about proper care and display of the American flag. *Public Law 94-344 94th Congress* sets rules for the display and use of the flag.

June 14, 1777 Congress adopts resolution

- Flag with 13 stripes, alternating red and white, and with a blue canton or “union”, with 13 stars. Though it is not written in the law, tradition tells us that:

White signifies Purity and Innocence

Red - Hardiness and Valor

Blue - Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice

- 13 Stars and 13 Stripes** symbolize the 13 original colonies
- 5 Pointed Stars:** Unity, independence, and parts of a nation. Stars are added for each state of the Union and only on July 4th following admission to the Union.
- Flags were often different until 1912, when Congress specified the pattern of stars

That's why June 14th is Flag Day, as established by Congress!

It is the universal custom to display the national flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open on all days that weather permits, but especially on national and state holidays and other days that may be proclaimed by the President of the United States. On Memorial Day, fly it at half-staff till noon.

- The U.S. flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during hours of darkness
- Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.
- The U.S. Flag always leads in procession
 - On the marching right (flag's own right)
 - In front of the center of a line of flags
- Saluting
 - When a national flag is raised or lowered as part of a ceremony

- Passes by in a parade or in review
 - All persons, except those in uniform, should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Males - remove hats with right hand and hold over left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.
 - Those in uniform should give a military salute
- The flag should be saluted 6 paces prior and held until you or the flag has passed 6 paces
- Citizens of other countries stand at attention, but need not salute
- Display
 - Always to the speaker's right. Left of audience.
 - On wall or speaker's platform
 - Above and behind the speaker
 - Blue field should be in the upper left-hand corner as the audience faces the flag
 - Center and at the highest point if displayed with a group of flags or the position of honor (flag's own right) the extreme left as the flags are viewed
 - With other flags against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the U.S. flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag
 - Outdoors with other flags, the position of honor for the U.S. flag is the U.S. flag's own right, which is normally the extreme left position as the flags are most frequently viewed
 - On a pole from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff
 - Suspended from a rope extending from the building on a pole, the flag should be hoisted out union first from the building
 - With other nations' flags:
 - Flown at same height in peacetime
 - Equal size
 - From the same halyard:
 - U.S. Flag is always at the peak
 - Hoisted first and lowered last
 - No flag may fly above or to the right of the U.S. flag
 - Half-staff (mast):
 - Hoisted to peak for a moment and then lowered
 - Raise to peak before lowered for the day
 - Referred to as half-staff on land, half-mast at sea (on ships)
 - Covering a casket:
 - Placed so the union is at the head and over the left shoulder
 - Do not lower the flag into the grave or allow it to touch the ground
 - As a Patch on a Uniform:
 - A patch may be affixed to uniforms of military personnel, firefighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations. It will be worn with the Union (blue field) forward.

Important Don'ts:

- It is generally not desirable to fly the flag outdoors when the weather is particularly bad because exposure to wind and rain may damage the flag or the pole on which it is displayed
- Never in any way should disrespect be shown the U.S. flag. The U.S. flag should never be dipped to any person or thing

- The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it - ground, floor, water, or merchandise.
- Always allow the flag to fall free
- Never use the flag as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery
- Never use the flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling
- Never place anything on the flag
- The flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, nor printed on anything that is designed for temporary use
- Never use any part of the flag as a costume or athletic uniform
- When the flag is in such condition that is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning
- Never display the flag from a float except from a staff or so suspended that its folds fall free as though staffed

Practical Exercise: Let's look at the following flag situations. Are they correct or incorrect?



WRONG: "The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard."



WRONG! The American flag should be on the viewer's left.



WRONG: "The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free."



WRONG: "The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of distress in instance of extreme danger to life or property."



CORRECT: When displayed with the flag of another country, both flags are at the same height.



WRONG: The American flag, when displayed with State flags, as it is here, should be **higher than** and at the center of all other flags.



CORRECT: The blue field or UNION is at the top left for the viewer, or the flag's right.



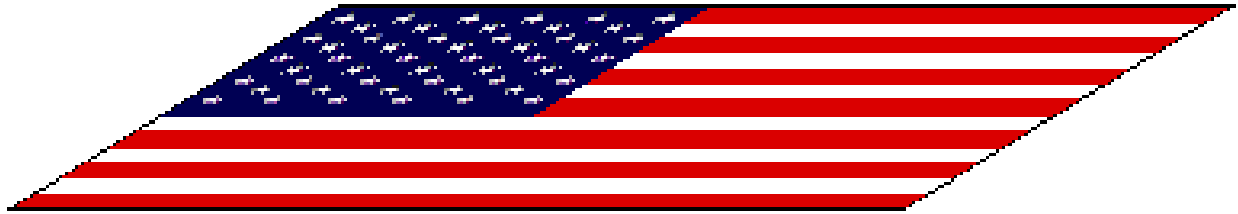
CORRECT: The union is at the flag's right and viewer's left.
May be worn on left sleeve.



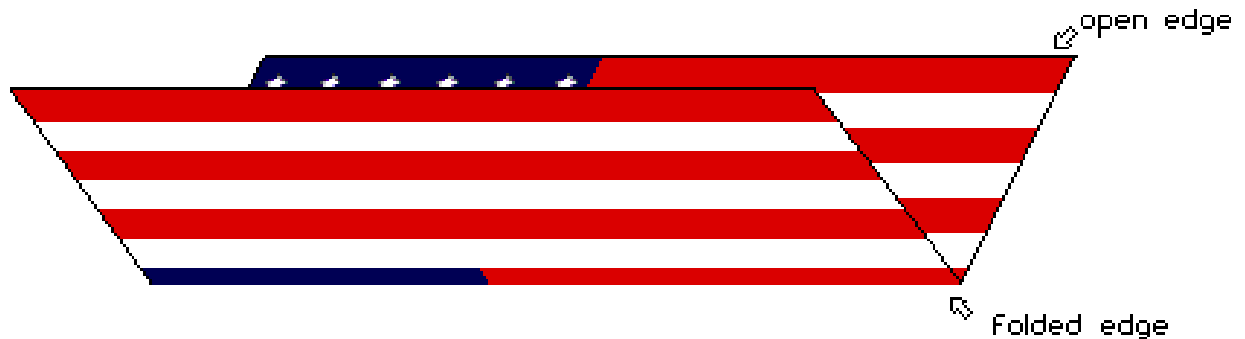
CORRECT: The union is at the flag's right and viewer's left.
May be worn on right sleeve.

A4. Folding the Flag

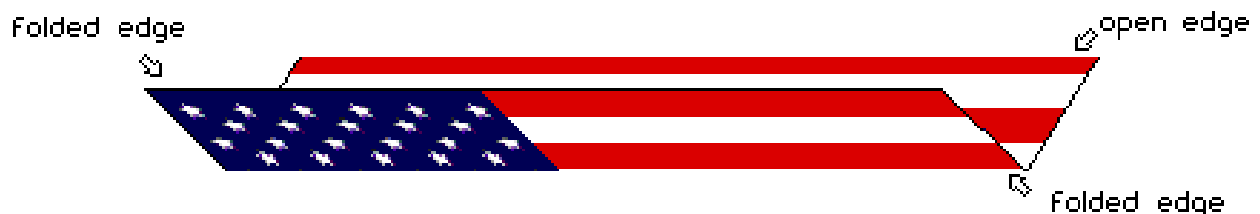
1. To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



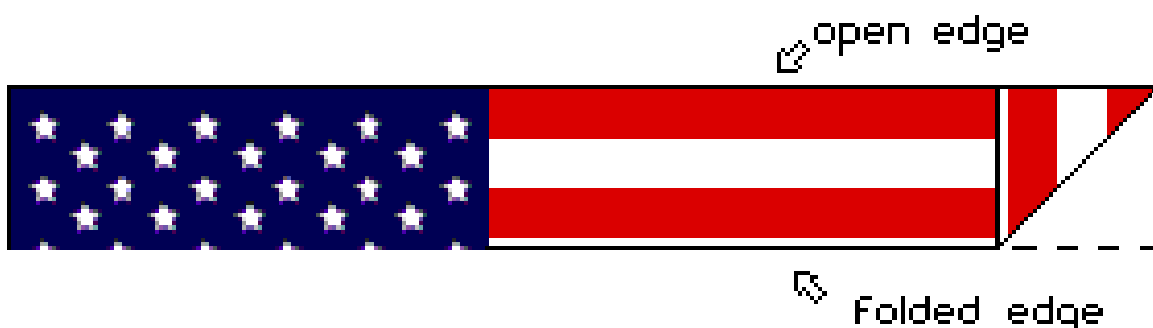
2. Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise **over** the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.



3. Fold the flag **again** lengthwise with the blue field on the **outside**.



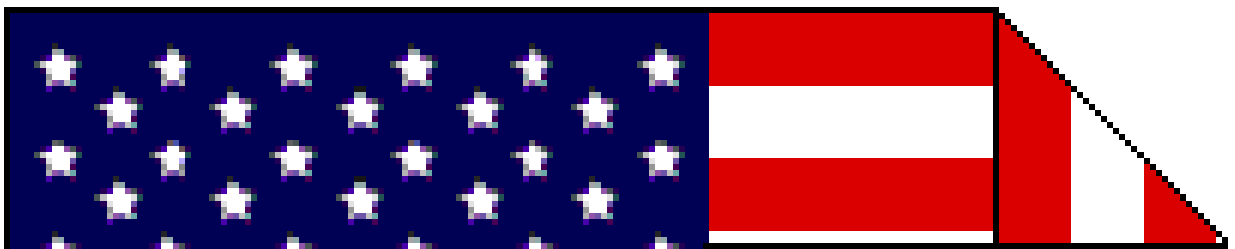
4. Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.



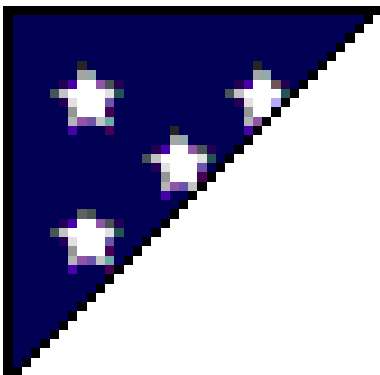
5. Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



6. The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



7. When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.



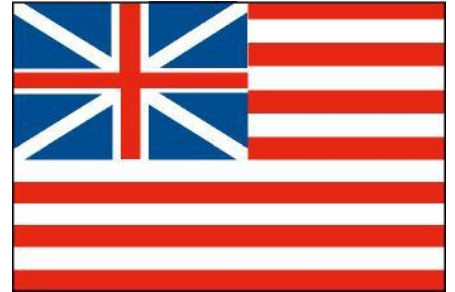
Practical Exercise: Break into groups and practice folding a flag! Whose looks sharpest?

A5. History of the US Flag

US Flag Origins

Flags are almost as old as civilization itself. Imperial Egypt as well as the armies of Babylon, Chaldea, and Assyria followed the colors of their kings. The Old Testament frequently mentions banners and standards.

The Grand Union flag represented the new united colonies in their fight against England. It was raised over the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts on 2 January 1776. It had thirteen stripes of red and white and a blue square with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew from the British Flag.



Continental Army Flag, 1 Jan 1776



1st US Flag, 14 Jun 1777

Birth of the Stars and Stripes

The Stars and Stripes was born on 14 June 1777, two years to the day after the birth of the United States Army. On that day, Congress resolved that the flag should be 13 stripes of red and white and that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a "new constellation". The flag was first raised over Fort Stanwix, New York on 3 August 1777.

Evolution of the Flag

Between 1777 and 1960 Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

When Vermont and Kentucky joined the union, they added stripes to the flag but eventually realized that would make the flag look bad as many more states were added, so Congress passed a law in 1818 to add a star for each new state, but to keep the original 13 stripes.

Shortly before the Civil War, the Stars and Stripes became the National Color.

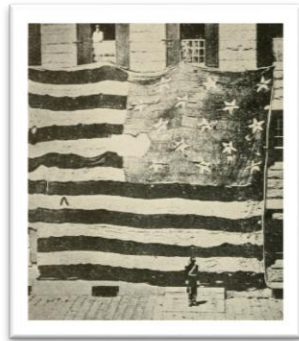


US Flag Historical Vignettes

Legend has it that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag. Though this is not something that can actually be proven, it is definitely true that she helped sew some of the early flags at the time of the American Revolution.



Painting of Betsy Ross Presenting the Flag to General George Washington, 1776



First Photograph of the Ft McHenry Flag, 1857

After a British bombardment, amateur poet Francis Scott Key was so inspired by the sight of the very large American flag still flying over Baltimore's Fort McHenry, that he wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" on Sept. 14, 1814. It officially became our national anthem in 1931.

On July 1, 1898, future President Theodore Roosevelt (at that time a Colonel) led his famous regiment the "Rough Riders" to victory against Spanish forces. Many considered the Battle of San Juan Hill to be the bloodiest and most famous battle of the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt and his victorious "Rough Riders" raised an American Flag and posed for the now-famous picture atop the hill.



The Battle of San Juan Hill



Peary Flag, 1909

In 1909, Robert Peary placed an American flag, sewn by his wife, at the North Pole. He also left pieces of another flag along the way. It is the only time a person has been honored for cutting the flag.

On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day, the same day in 1777 that Congress originally adopted the stars and stripes as the United States' national flag. The flag is expected to be flown on all government buildings and United States' citizens are encouraged to fly the flag on this day as well.



On February 23, 1945 Joe Rosenthal took this famous picture. It shows six US Marines raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima near the end of WWII. The photograph was extremely popular and was printed in thousands of publications. It was regarded in the United States as one of the most significant and recognizable images of the war. Three Marines in this photograph were killed in the next few days of fighting while the other three survived the war. This image was the basis for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Flag Day, 1917



Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima, 1945



First American to the Top, 1963

In 1963, Barry Bishop placed the American flag on top of Mount Everest.

In July 1969, the American flag was "flown" in space when Neil Armstrong placed it on the moon.

Flags were placed on the lunar surface on each of six manned landings during the Apollo program.



Apollo 11 Flag, 1969

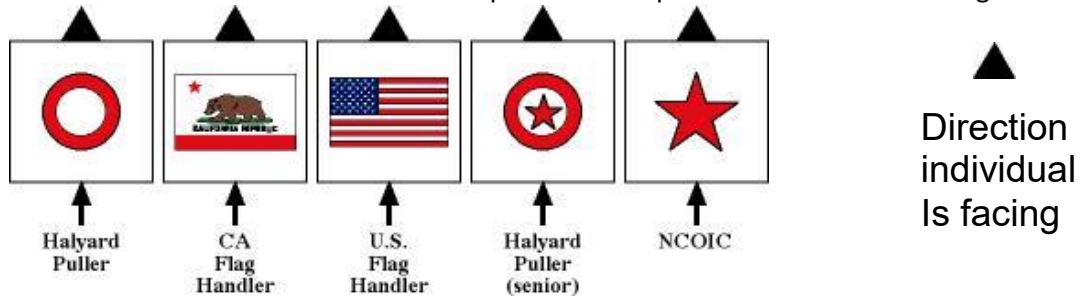


Raising the Flag at Ground Zero, 2001

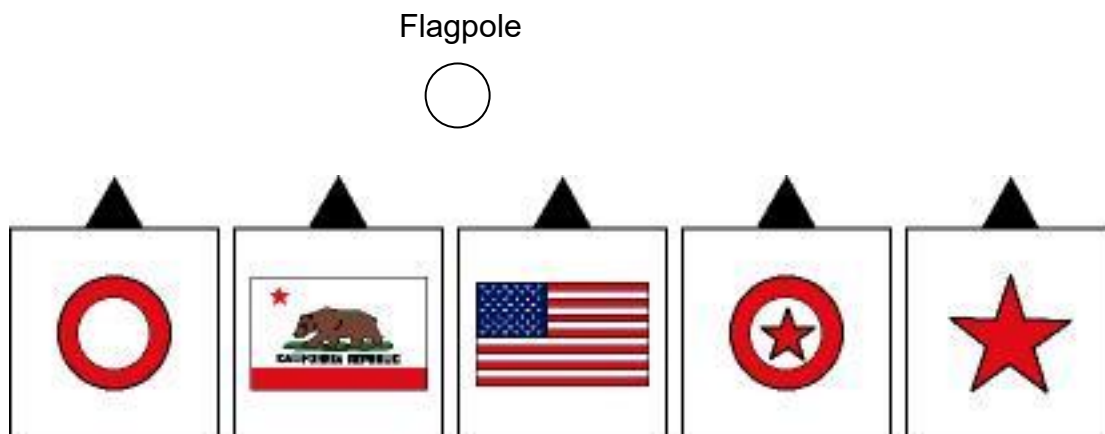
This is a photograph by Thomas E. Franklin of The Record (Bergen County, NJ), taken on September 11, 2001. The picture shows three New York City firefighters raising the American flag at 'Ground Zero' of the World Trade Center, following the September 11 attacks.

A6. Raising the Flag

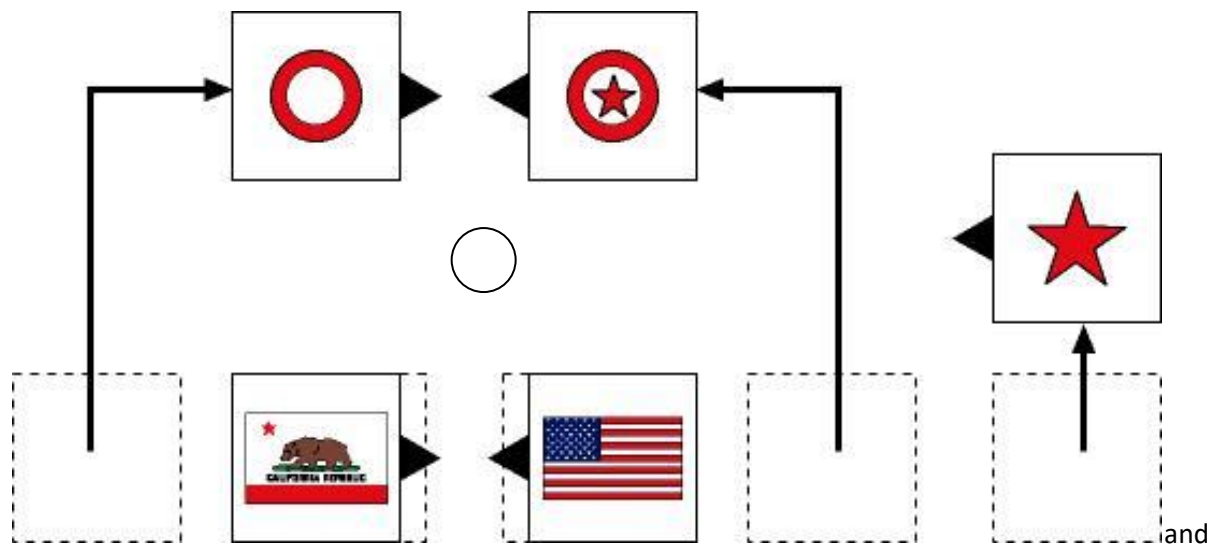
1. Formation. The Flag Detail should be formed in line formation at Close Interval Dress Right Dress between members. The NCOIC is in the position of "squad leader" at the unit's rightmost position.



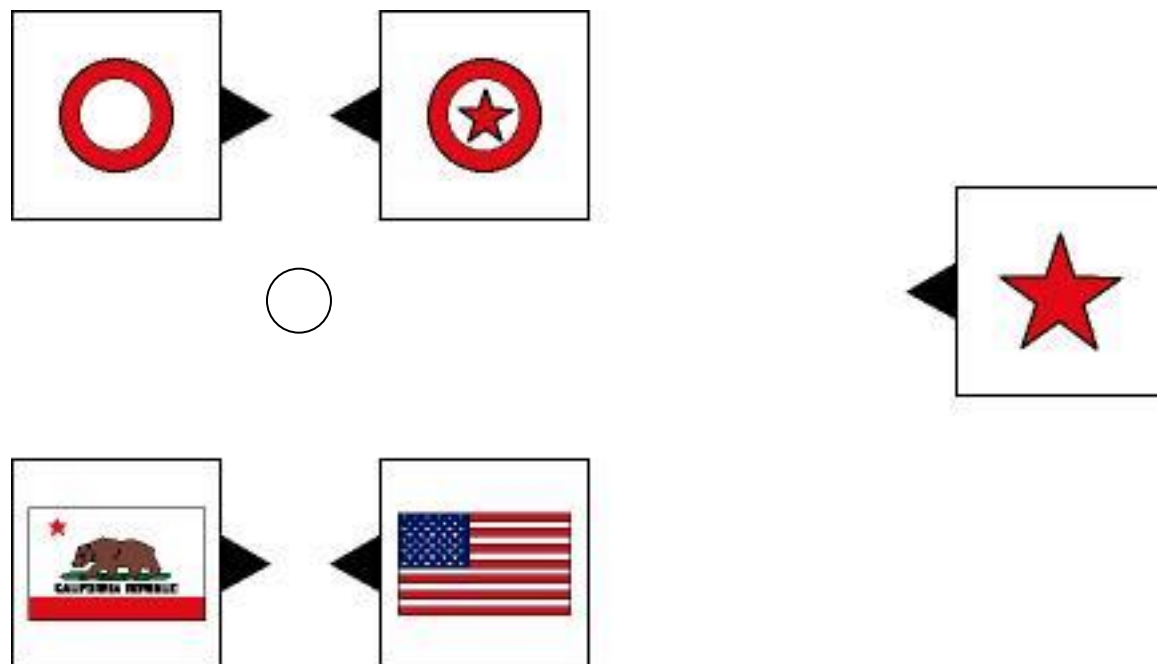
2. Approach. The NCOIC marches the detail so the flag handlers are centered on the flagpole and commands **Detail, HALT** when the detail is 1 step in front of the flagpole



3. The NCOIC commands **POST**. The halyard pullers march forward and 1 step past the flagpole, perform flanks towards each other and halt together when at the pole. The flag handlers will also take one-half side step away from each other, and face towards each other. The NCOIC takes one step forward, halts and faces toward the flagpole.

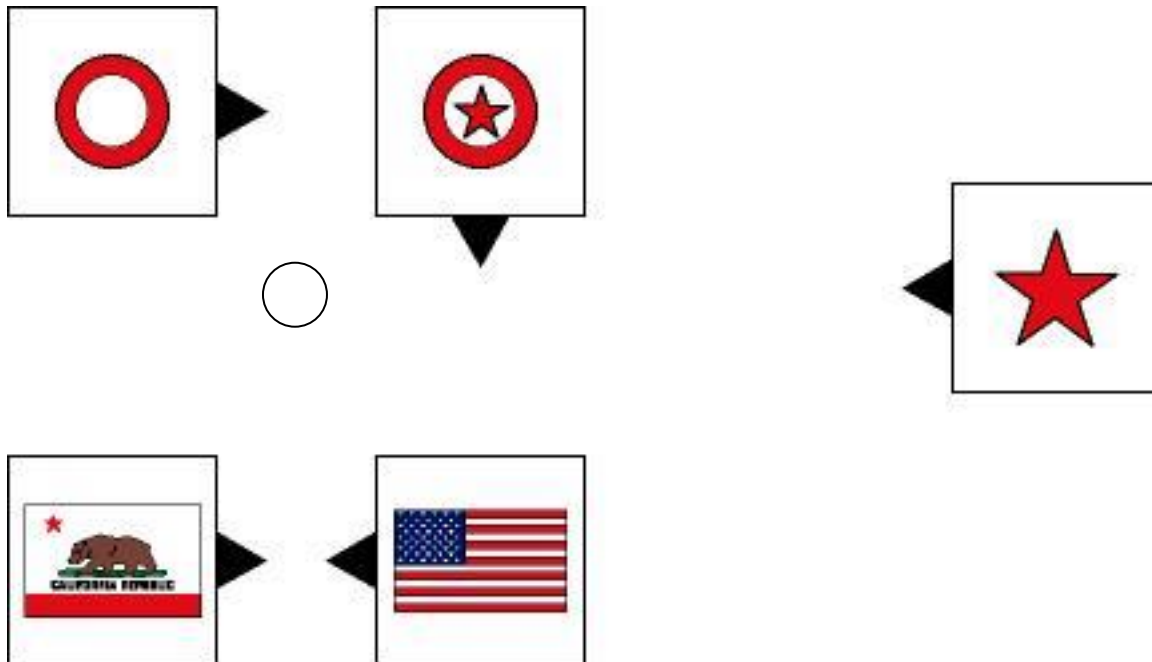


4. The halyard pullers carefully ensure that the halyards are free of the pole and the clips to connect the flags are brought to the lowest level of the pole.



5. The NCOIC commands **UNFOLD THE FLAG**

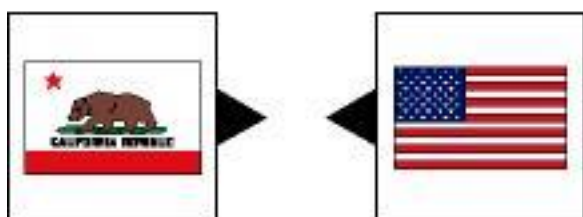
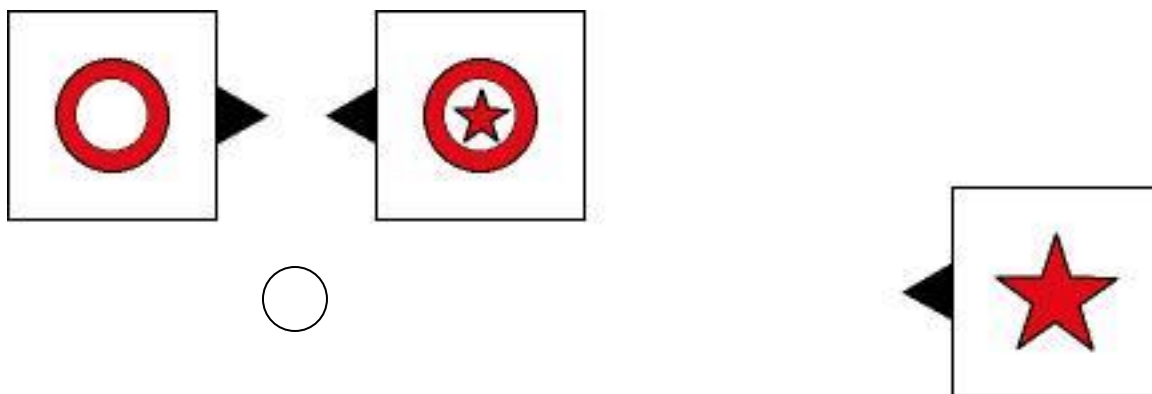
6. The Senior Halyard Puller faces towards the U.S. Flag Handler, as the handler begins to unfold the flag lengthwise. The Senior Halyard Puller moves forward to accept the grommet end of the flag.



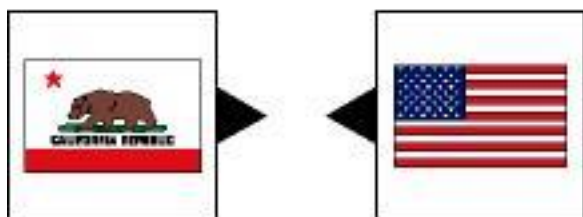
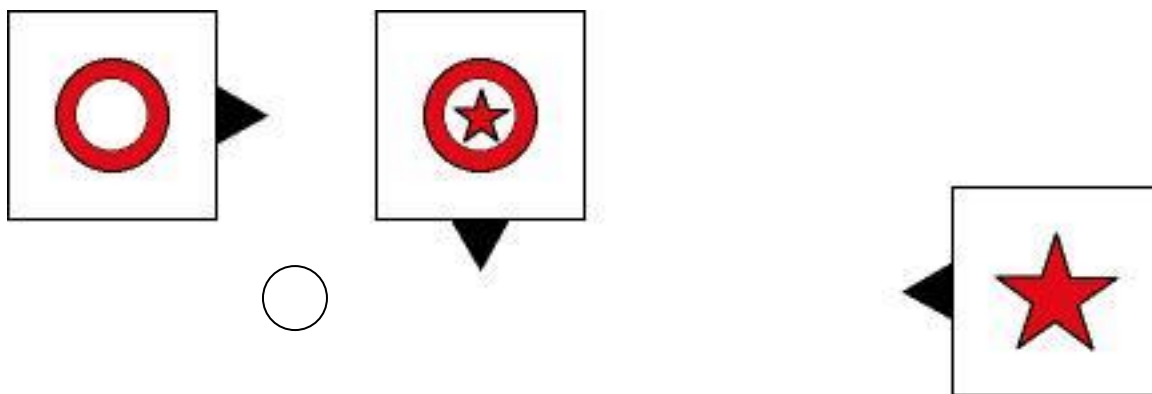
7. If necessary, the U.S. Flag Handler will move away from the flagpole by side stepping, until the flag is fully extended length wise, but not unfolded widthwise. Once the flag has been unfolded, the U.S. Flag Handler will then hold the flag waist high with forearms horizontal to the ground.

8. The NCOIC then commands **ATTACH THE FLAG**

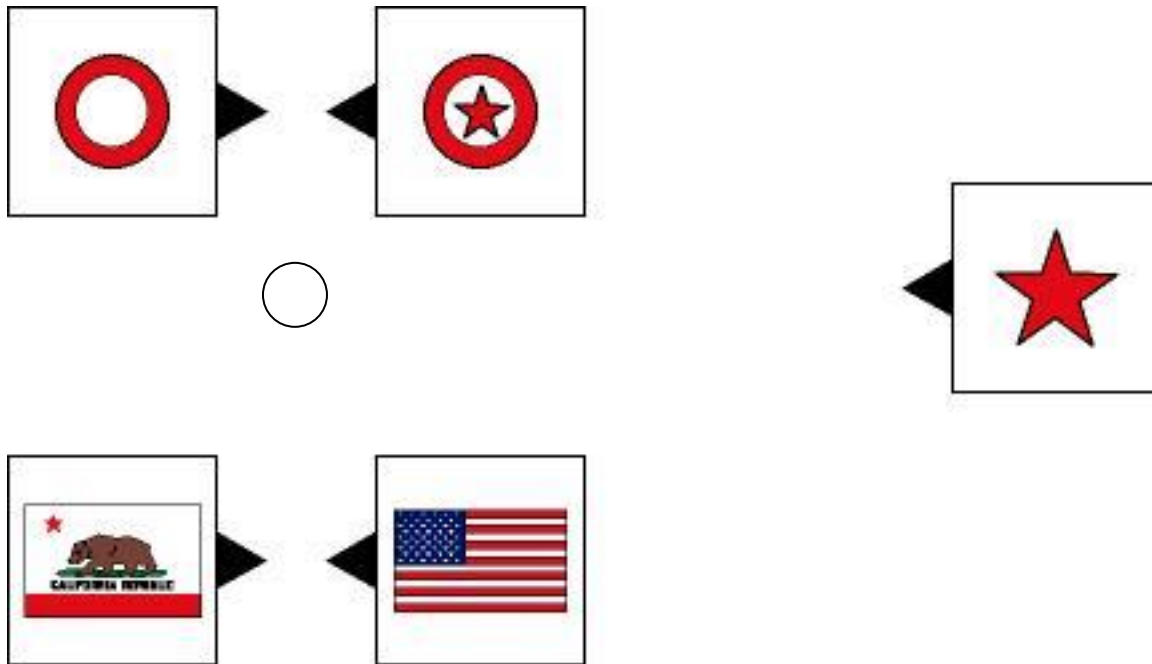
9. The U.S. Flag Handler will support the flag until it has been raised high enough not to come in contact with the ground. The Senior Halyard Puller will take control of the halyard from the other halyard puller.



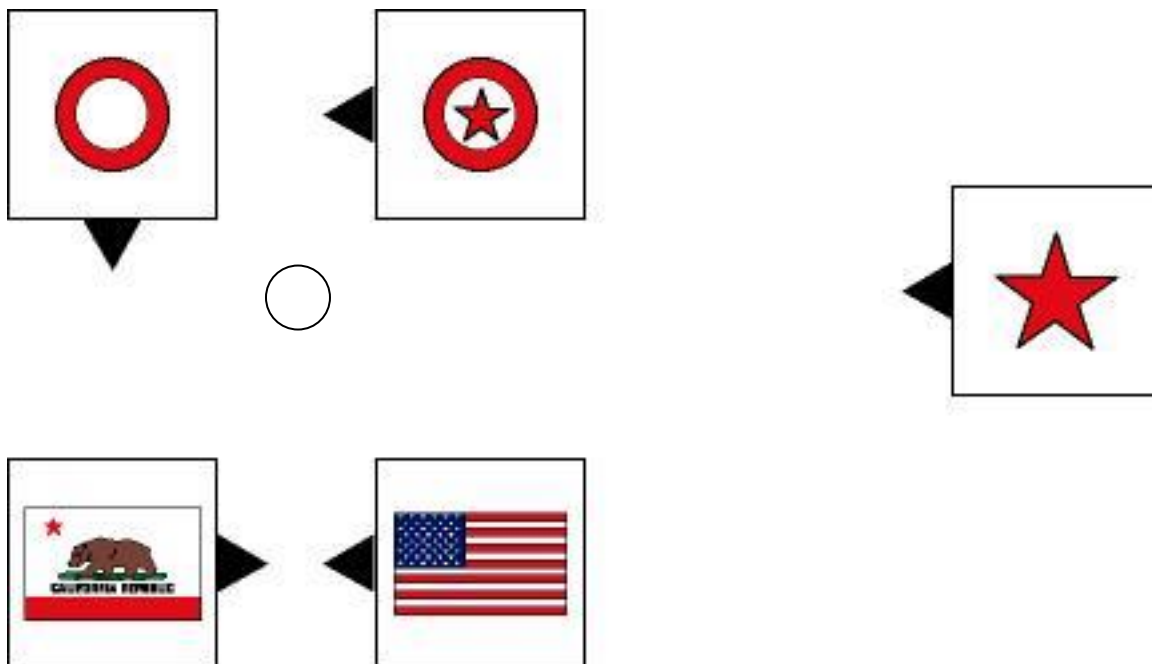
10. The Senior Halyard Puller attaches the top of the flag to the halyard. The other halyard puller then raises the flag until the bottom of the flag can be attached.



11. The NCOIC commands **UNFOLD THE FLAG**



12. The Halyard Puller faces towards the California Flag Handler, as the handler begins to unfold the flag lengthwise. The Halyard Puller moves forward to accept the grommet end of the flag.



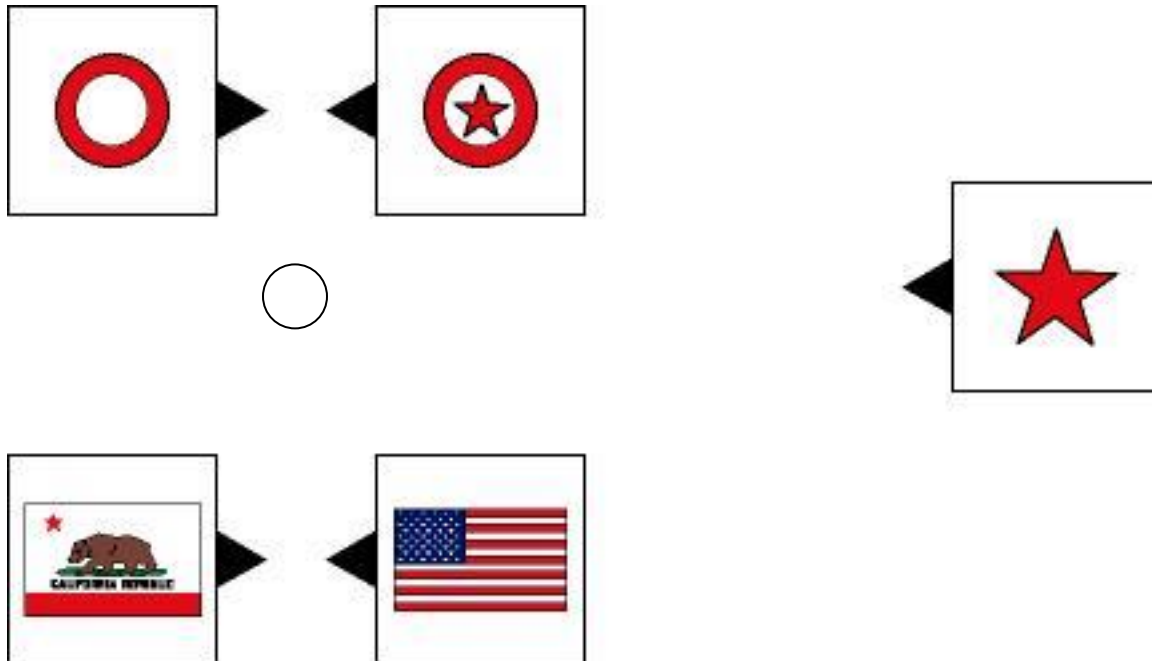
13. If necessary, the California Flag Handler will move away from the flagpole by side stepping, until the flag is fully extended length wise, but not unfolded widthwise.

14. Once the flag has been unfolded, the California Flag Handler will then hold the flag waist high with forearms horizontal to the ground.

15. The NCOIC then commands **ATTACH THE FLAG**

16. The halyard puller attaches the top of the flag to the halyard. The Senior Halyard Puller then raises the flag until the bottom of the flag can be attached.

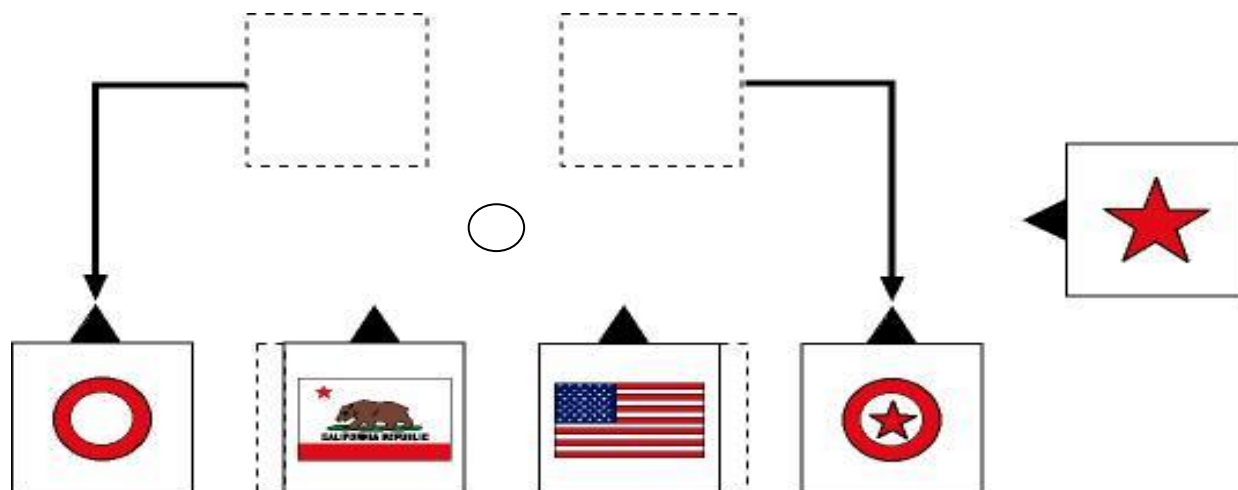
17. The NCOIC will command **Present, ARMS.**



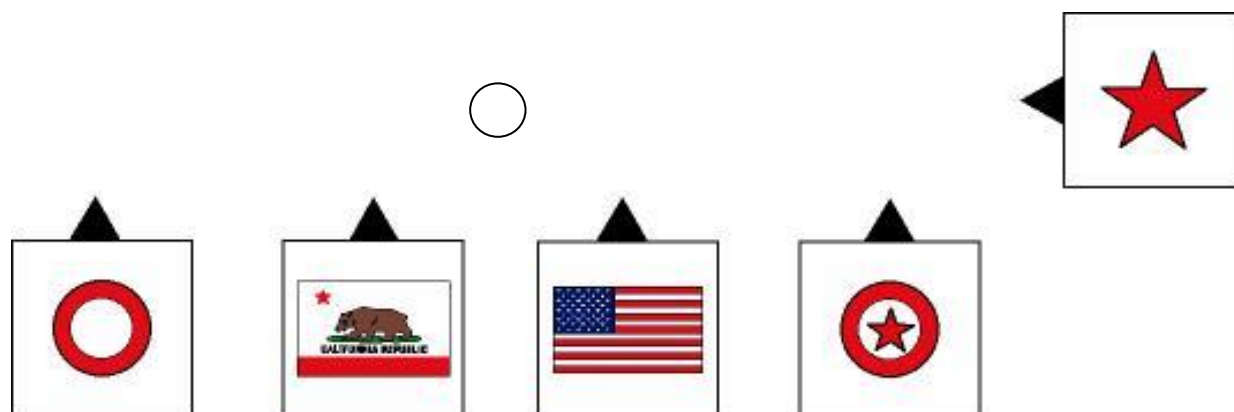
18. The halyard pullers will rapidly raise the flag(s), either at the command **Present, ARMS** or at the first note of the music. The NCOIC and both the flag handlers will salute and follow the flag(s), lifting their heads as the flag(s) are raised.

19. When the flag(s) reaches the top **and** the music is complete, the NCOIC commands **Order, ARMS.**

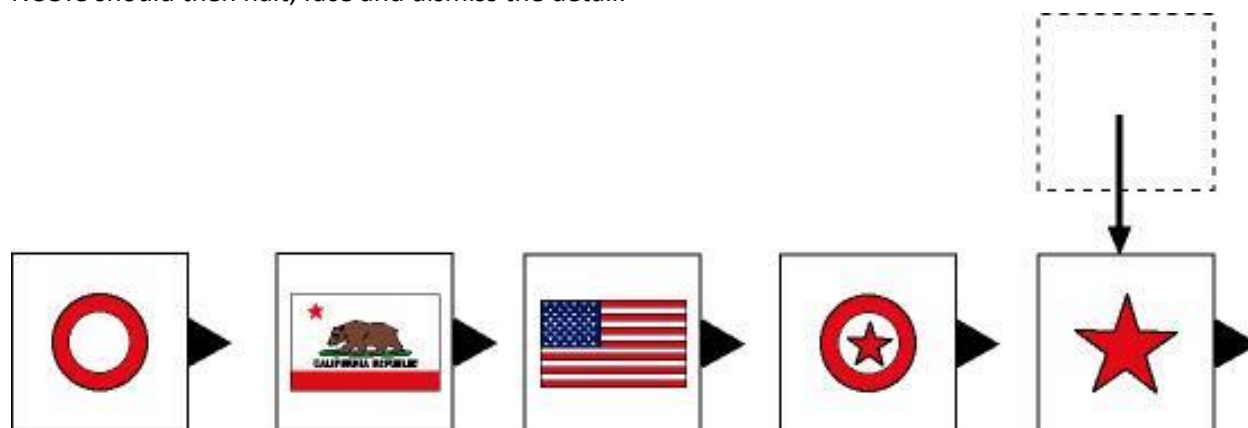
20. The flag handlers will perform appropriate facing and stepping movements to return to their original position in the line formation. At the same time, the halyard pullers will secure the halyard, returning to their original position in the line formation.



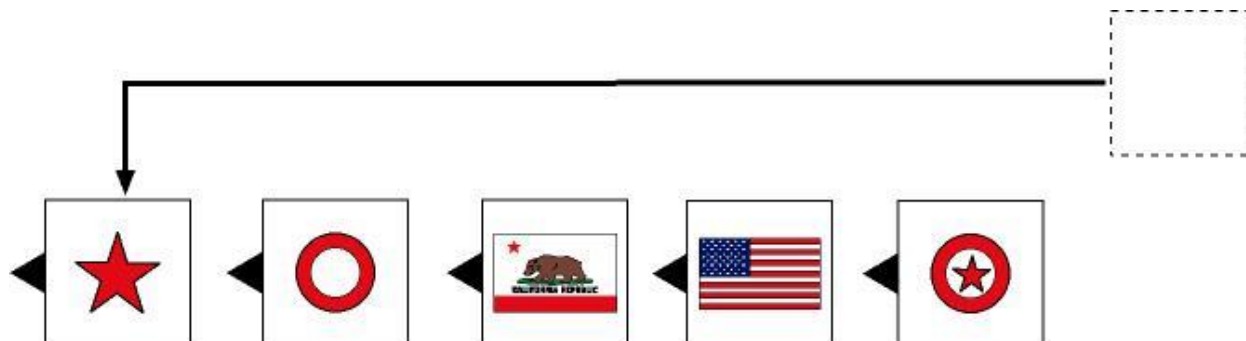
21. Departure. Because each site is different, the direction and manner of departure should be adjusted to accommodate local needs and layouts. At this point in the ceremony, the NCOIC is still facing the flagpole



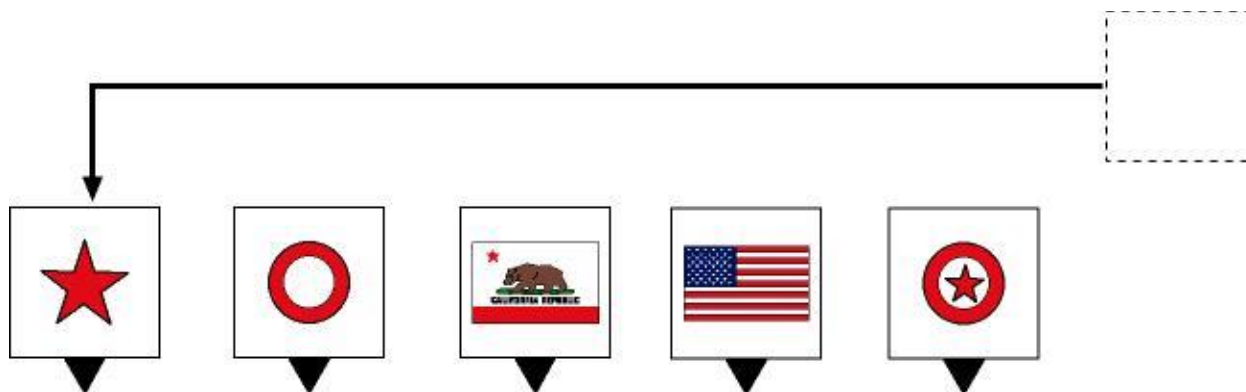
If the detail is to depart to the right, the NCOIC should resume the position on the far right of the detail. The NCOIC should command **Right, FACE**, and march the detail from the site. When appropriate, the NCOIC should then halt, face and dismiss the detail.



If the detail is to depart to the left, the NCOIC should command **Left, FACE**. The NCOIC should march to assume a position at the front of the column formation and march the detail from the site. When appropriate, the NCOIC should then halt, face and dismiss the detail.



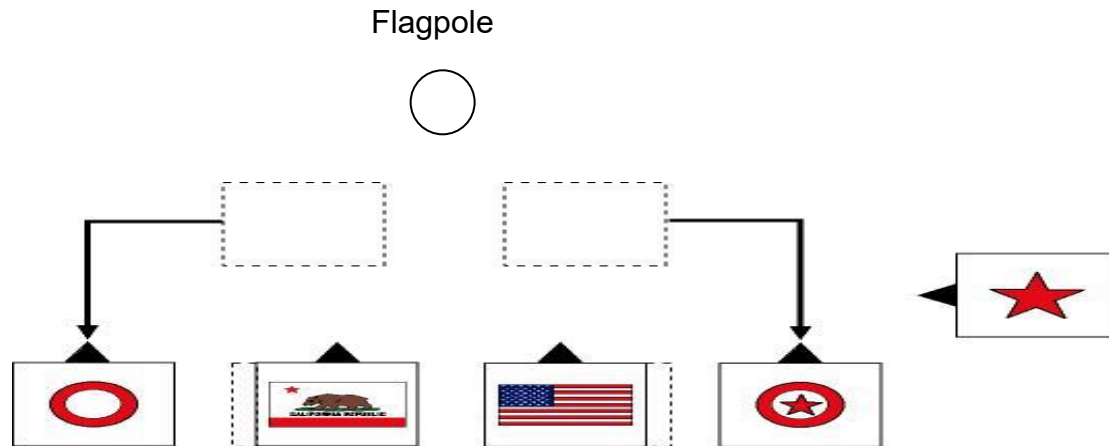
If the detail is to depart to the rear, the NCOIC should command **About, FACE**. The NCOIC should march to assume a position on the far right of the detail and march the detail from the site. When appropriate, the NCOIC should then halt, face and dismiss the detail.



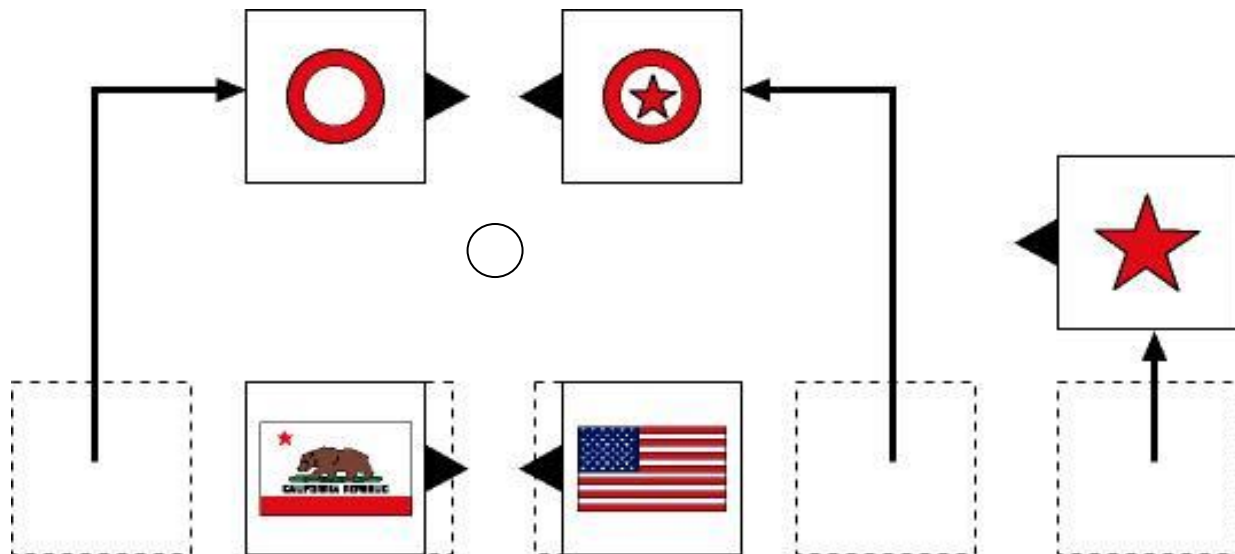
Practical Exercise: Break into groups of 5 cadets, each assigned to one of the positions in the flag detail. First, while the instructor or leader of the class reads the instructions, walk through the different steps in raising the flag, simulating the pole and halyard (use flags if you have enough, or simulate that if you don't). Go step by step until cadets are confident of what's required. Next, each group should walk through the steps on their own. Finally, each group should practice with a flag at the school flagpole, actually raising the flag. After successfully raising the flag, switch positions and do it again! Learn how to lower the flag, and add that into the exercise.

A7. Lowering the Flag

1. Approach. The Flag Detail is marched and positioned at the flagpole in the same manner as when raising the flag.

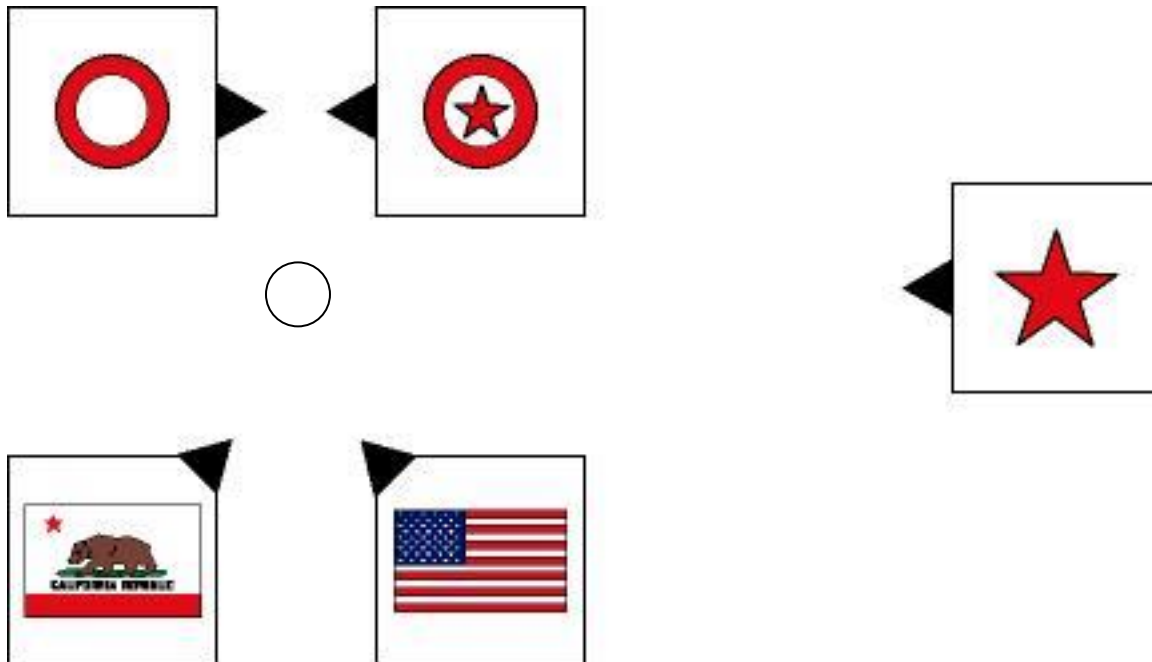


2. The NCOIC commands **POST**. The halyard pullers march forward and 1 step past the flagpole, perform flanks towards each other and halt together when at the pole. The flag handlers will also take one-half side step away from each other, and face towards each other. The NCOIC takes one step forward, halts and faces towards the flagpole.



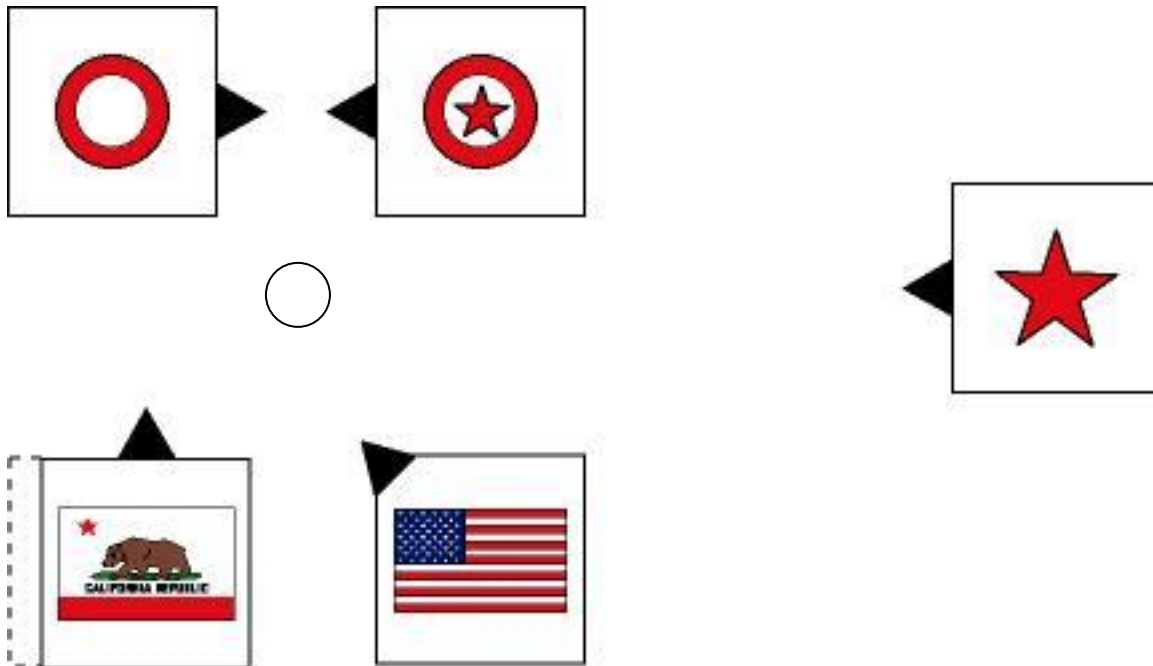
3. The halyard pullers carefully ensure that the halyards are free of the pole and untangled, and then temporary re-secure them to the pole.

4. If no music is to be played, the NCOIC will ensure that the halyard pullers are ready to lower the flag(s) and then command **Present ARMS**. If music is to be played, then at the first note the NCOIC will command **Present, ARMS**. On this command the U.S. Flag Handler will perform a half right face and the California Flag Handler will perform a half-left face.

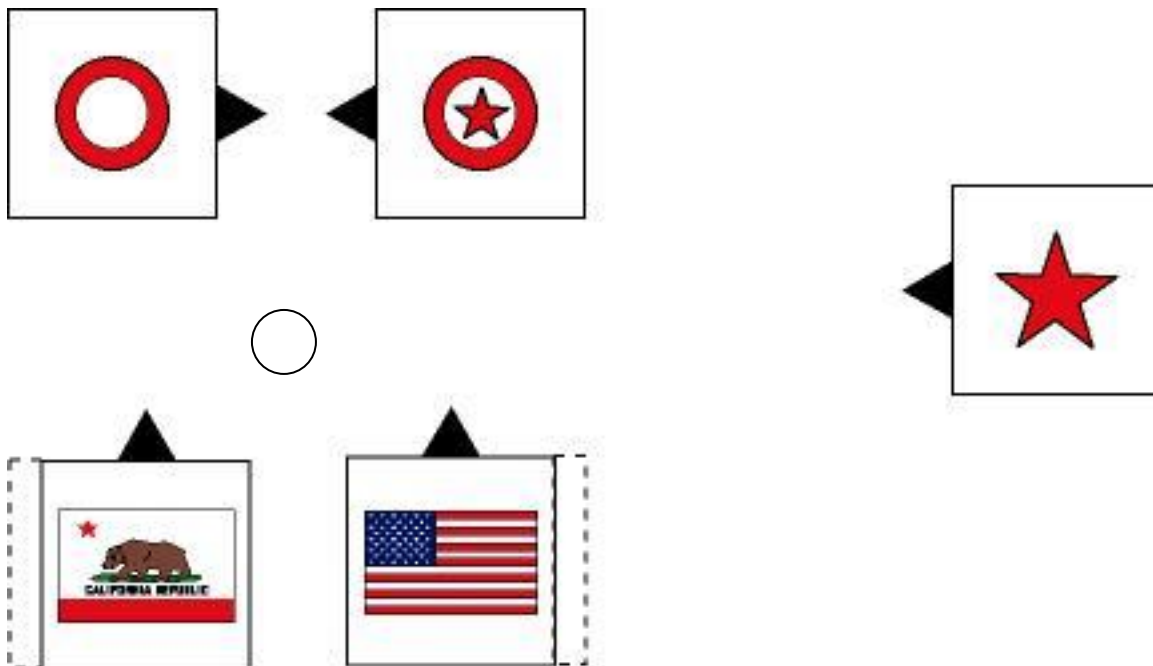


5. The halyard pullers will lower the flag(s) slowly and with dignity, generally at least 30 seconds in length. The NCOIC and the flag handlers will salute and follow the flag(s), lowering their heads as the flag(s) are lowered. As the California Flag is lowered to within reach, the California Flag Handler will terminate the salute and move forward to secure the flag by cradling it in his arms, with the star side on the handler's left.

6. The halyard puller will assist by detaching the flag from the halyard, after which the California Flag Handler will return to the original position in line formation.



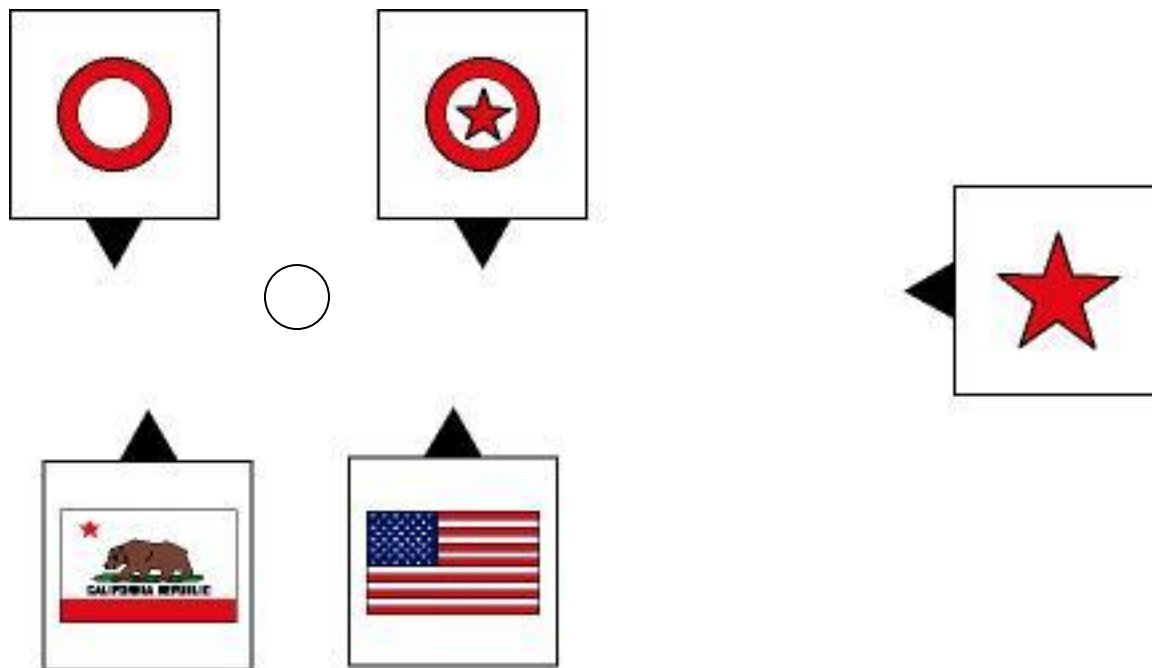
7. The U.S. Flag Handler will terminate the salute and move forward to secure the U.S. Flag by cradling it in his arms, with the union on the handler's right. The halyard puller will assist by detaching the flag from the halyard, after which the U.S. Flag Handler will return to his original position in the line formation.



8. The NCOIC will terminate the salute at the last note of the music or once the U.S. Flag Handler returns to his position, whichever is later.

9. Once the flags have been detached and safely recovered by the flag handlers, the halyard pullers will temporarily secure the halyard in the down position until the flags are folded.

10. The NCOIC commands **ONE**. The halyard pullers will face their respective flag handlers, move forward to retrieve the attachment header end of the flag and move back to their position.



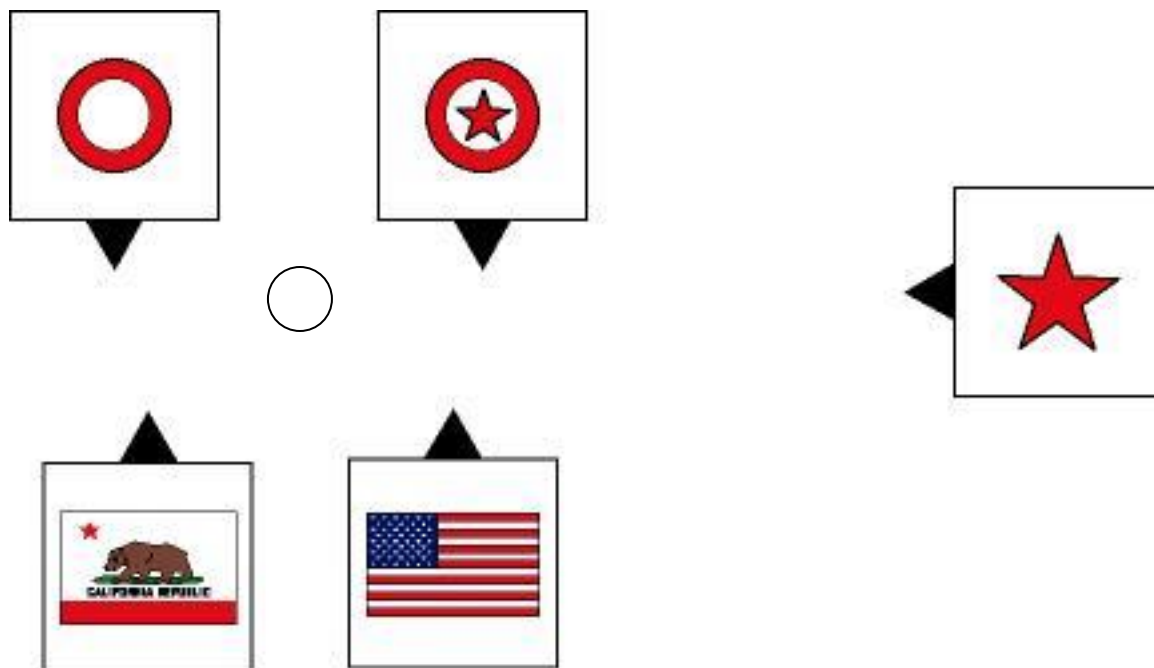
11. The flags should be opened up and stretched between each halyard puller and the flag handler. The flags should be positioned so that they are facing upward, with the upper left corner of each flag in the left hand of each halyard puller.

12. The NCOIC commands **TWO**. The flags are folded lengthwise once.

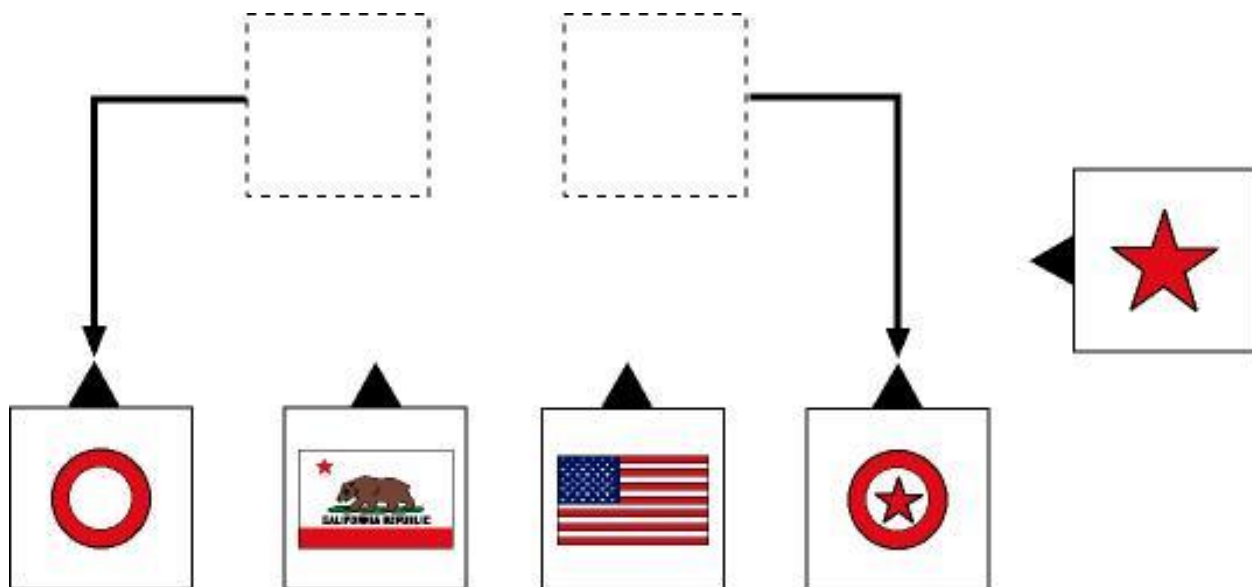
13. The NCOIC commands **THREE**. The flags are folded lengthwise once more.

14. The NCOIC commands **FOUR**. The flags are folded according to standard procedures, into the triangular shape for the U.S. Flag and the appropriate form for the California Flag.

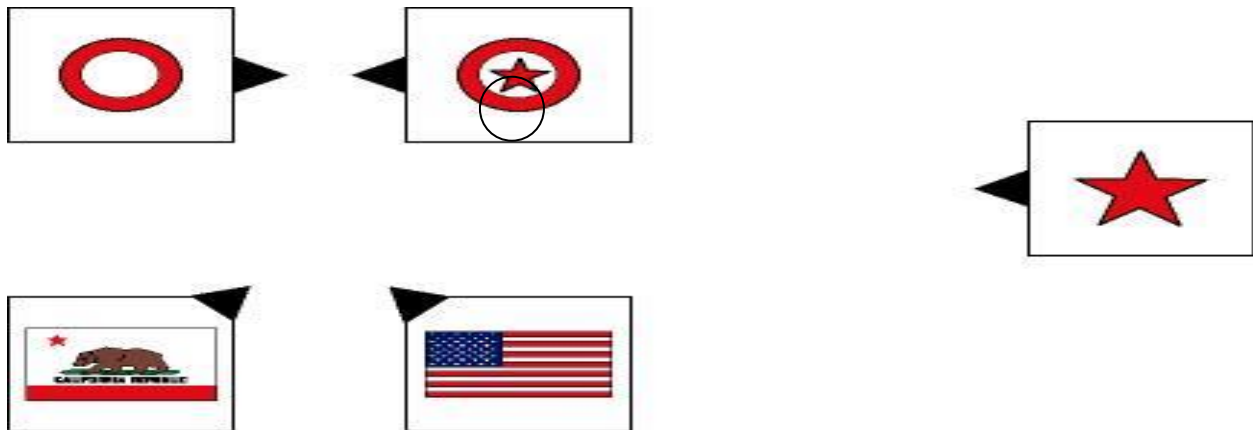
15. The halyard pullers will remain in position as the flag handlers move forward as necessary to complete the folding process. Flag handlers will take possession of their respective folded flag. The flag handlers will move to their original position.



16. The halyard pullers will then free the halyard, raise it to the “up” position, and fasten it securely.

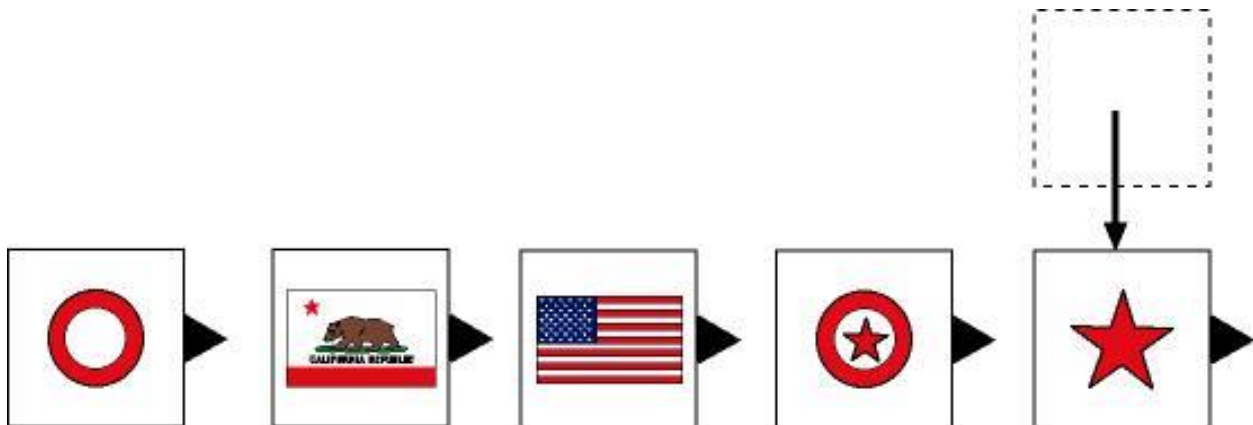


17. Departure. Because each site is different, the direction and manner of departure should be adjusted to accommodate local needs and layouts. At this point in the ceremony, the NCOIC is still facing the flagpole.

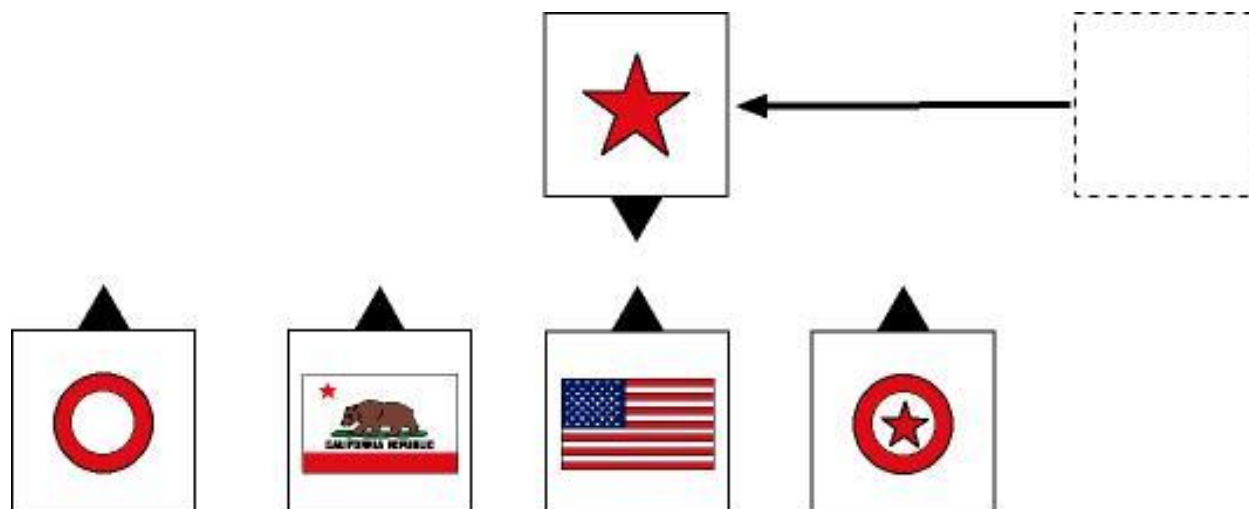


18. It is important to note that because the detail is now in possession of flags, the appropriate honor and respect should be accorded to the U.S. Flag as the detail departs. In column formation the U.S. Flag should always be carried ahead of any other flag, while in line formation the U.S. Flag should always be carried to the right of any other flags. The following directions take this into consideration.

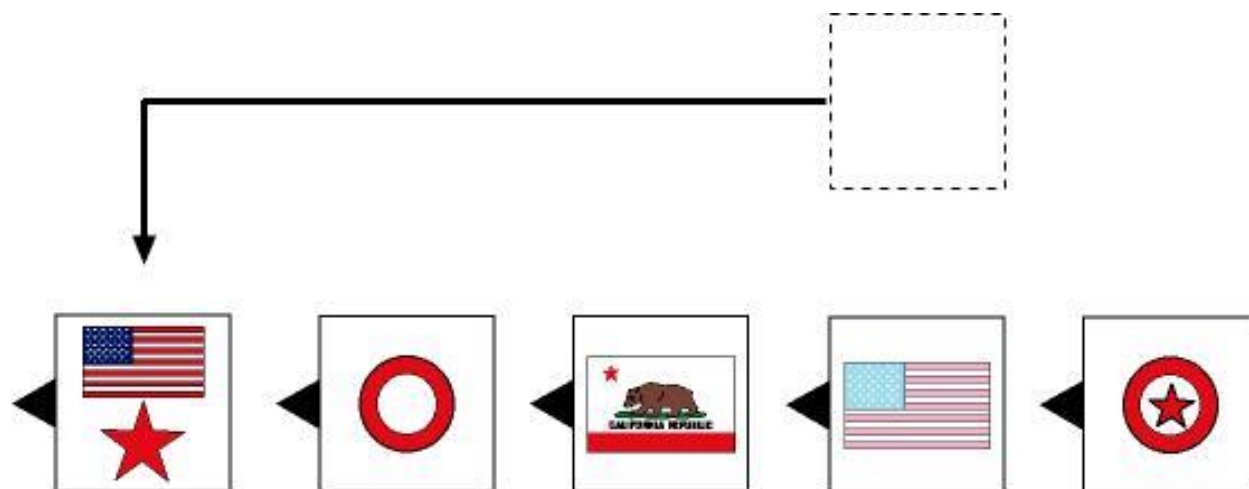
19. If the detail is to depart to the right, the NCOIC should resume the position on the far right of the detail. The NCOIC should command **Right, FACE**, and march the detail from the site. When appropriate, the NCOIC should then halt, face and dismiss the detail.



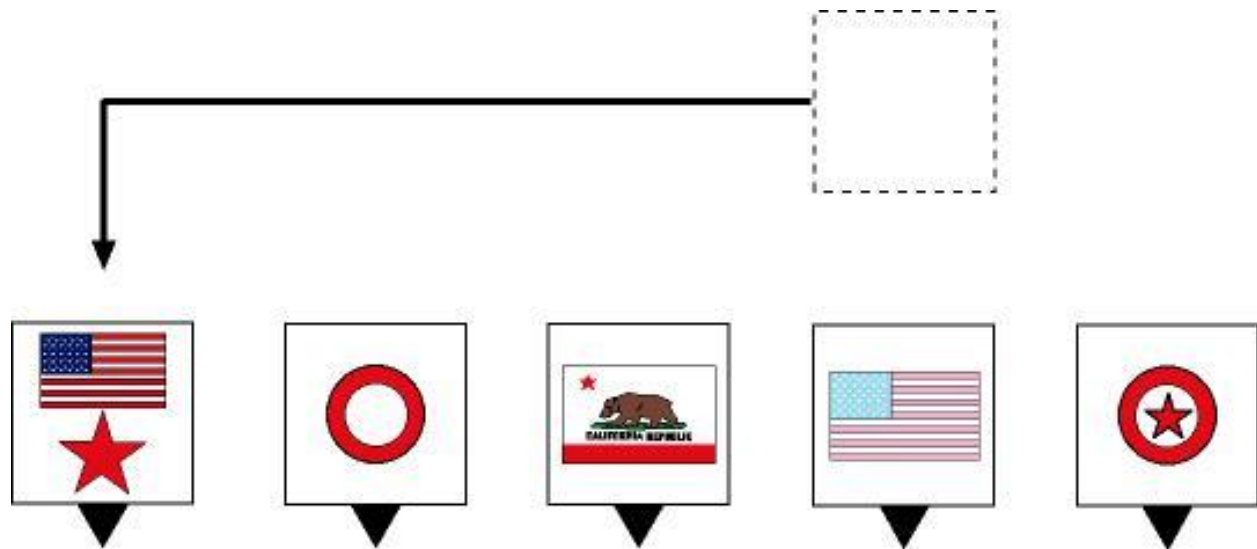
If the detail is to depart to the left, the NCOIC should first march to a position directly in front of the U.S. Flag Handler. The NCOIC will extend both hands forward and the U.S. Flag Handler will pass the U.S. Flag to the NCOIC



The NCOIC will command **Left, FACE**. The NCOIC should march to assume a position at the front of the column formation and march the detail from the site. When appropriate, the NCOIC should then halt, face and dismiss the detail.



20. The NCOIC will command **About, FACE**. The NCOIC should march to assume a position on the far right and march the detail from the site. When appropriate, the NCOIC should then halt, face and dismiss the detail.



Practical Exercise: Break into groups of 5 cadets, each assigned to one of the positions in the flag detail. First, while the instructor or leader of the class reads the instructions, walk through the different steps in lowering the flag, simulating the pole and halyard (use flags if you have enough, or simulate that if you don't). Next, each group should walk through the steps on their own. Finally, each group should practice with a flag at the school flagpole, actually lowering the flag. After successfully raising and lowering the flag, switch positions and do it again! If your unit doesn't raise and lower the flag at your school every day, talk to your Principal about taking over those duties!

A. Flag Basics Vocabulary: