

CHAPTER 6
COLOR GUARD/REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE
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CHAPTER 6

COLOR GUARD/REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

1. INTRODUCTION.

a. The Color Guard detail is used for special ceremonies where the National Color and State Colors are to be presented. The word "Color" refers to the national flag. The word "Colors" refers to any other flag presented by the detail.

(1) Pre-service Planning. The Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU) coordinator or designated alternate will coordinate with the event planner to ensure that the Colors are represented.

(2) Mounted Patrol Unit Personnel. The Color Guard consists of two to four MPU officers, one of which will be the MPU supervisor or designated alternate. The MPU supervisor or designated alternate will carry the National Color and give the necessary commands for the movements of the squad.

(3) Uniform. The standard mounted unit uniform will be worn. White gloves, ascots, and aiguillettes may also be used for this function. Appropriateness of the white ceremonial accouterments shall be determined by the MPU coordinator and event planner.

b. Forming the Detail. When conducting the Color Guard as a mounted unit, two or four mounted officers may be used. The National Color (United States flag) is always carried in the center and the marching right of the California state flag. Two mounted officers may be placed to the right and left of the Colors as an escort.

2. POSITION OF THE COLORS.

a. Carry. At the "Carry," the ferrule (bottom point) of the staff is rested in the socket of the sling. The socket of the sling should be adjusted to ensure that the finial (top point) of the staffs of all riders is an equal height. The staff should be held with the back of the hand facing outward and the fingers wrapped around the staff. The MPU officer's right forearm is kept level with the marching surface.

b. Salutes. The National Color renders no salute (dip). The state flag salutes (dips) in all ceremonies while "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played. At the completion of the anthem, the state flag is once again raised and carried erect for the completion of the ceremony. The Color salute position is assumed from the carry by slipping the right hand upward approximately four inches and then

thrusting the arm forward shoulder height and horizontal to the ground. All other officers will render the standard hand salute.

c. Marching. The Color Guard is formed and marched in one rank. The Color bearers are in the center and escorts, if used, are to the left and right. When executing facing movements, the wheel movement is used. The command for a facing movement is "Right or Left Wheel, March."

d. Wheel Movement. To execute a wheel movement, the member nearest the direction of the turn serves as the pivot point and executes the movement by marching in place and simultaneously turning in the new direction (refer to Chapter 2, Annex B, of this manual). The other members shorten their steps and turn in an arc, keeping abreast of each other to maintain alignment. When the movement has been completed, each member automatically marches in place until the command "Halt" or "Forward March" is given.

e. Passing in Review. When passing in review, the Color Guard executes eyes right at the prescribed saluting distance on the command of the MPU supervisor or designated alternate. The commands are "Eyes, Right" and "Ready, Front." The commands begin six paces before and six paces after the review point.

3. APPROVAL FOR COLOR GUARD REQUESTS.

a. Requests for Color Guard duty within Protection Services Division (PSD) and/or within Capitol Protection Section's (CPS) area of responsibility should be approved by the CPS commander or designee and PSD commander.

b. Requests for Color Guard duty outside of PSD and/or CPS's area of responsibility should be approved by the PSD commander and Assistant Commissioner, Field (ACF).

c. Details will normally be worked as a regular work shift. Requests for overtime shall be made through the appropriate channels.

4. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

a. Areas interested in requesting the MPU for special events or assistance within their area should first contact the CPS commander for their availability on the dates being requested.

- b. For approval, the requesting area will need to prepare a memorandum requesting the MPU's presence and route through the appropriate channels to ACF for approval.
- c. Upon approval by ACF, the memorandum will be sent to PSD for approval. The memorandum will be forwarded to CPS with an approved or denied stamp.
- d. The CPS MPU supervisor will then contact the requesting area to make the necessary arrangements to fulfill an approved request.

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