

# OHIO MILITARY RESERVE



**207.00**

Standing Operating Procedure

# **COLOR GUARDS AND HONOR GUARDS**

Headquarters, Ohio Military Reserve  
Office of the Chief of Staff  
1000 Lawrence Road  
Camp Perry Training Site  
Port Clinton, Ohio  
43402-2921

**15 December 2002**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**OHIO MILITARY RESERVE**  
Headquarters  
Camp Perry Training Site  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452-9578



OHMR-CS

15 Dec 02

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Color Guards and Honor Guards SOP 207.00

1. REFERENCES:

- a. FM 22-5, Drill and Ceremony
- b. Definitions.

(1) Color Guard. A Color Guard carries, escorts, displays, posts, and recovers the national color and any other appropriate flag(s) during a ceremony. It may be armed or unarmed. A Color Guard will not fire salutes.

(2) Honor Guard. An Honor Guard performs the ceremonial function of honoring an individual or group, living or deceased, by standing guard, assisting, escorting, firing salutes, or otherwise participating in a ceremony or activity without use of the national or state color. It may be armed or unarmed. Exception: when a national or state color is a part of a funeral or burial ceremony as a casket drape or a folded veterans' flag, its handling may be a part of the responsibility of an Honor Guard.

(3) Blanket Orders. The term "blanket orders" refers to standing orders under which a person or persons, under the direction of proper authority, can be considered on state military duty for training without having to secure separate orders for each incidence of duty. Blanket orders are often written with an expiration date set at the end of the calendar year so they may be reviewed and re-issued with changes, if any.

2. GENERAL

This SOP covers the training, certification, coverage by orders, and utilization of Color Guards and Honor Guards.

3. PURPOSE

This SOP defines the different standards and procedures for the training, certification and authorization for duty by orders for Color Guards and Honor Guards.

4. SCOPE

This SOP is applicable to all units and organizations of the OHMR.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the Chief of Staff or whomever the Chief of Staff deems responsible for maintaining this SOP. It is the responsibility of unit commanders to implement this SOP.

6. EXECUTION

a. Organization. Any unit which can organize sufficient volunteer individuals may support an Honor Guard or Color Guard (hereafter called a "Guard"). At the minimum, each brigade should have

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a Guard comprised of members from various organizations within the brigade. At the discretion of the unit commander, any officer or NCO in the grade of E6 or higher who desires may be assigned responsibility for the Guard.

b. Equipment. Guards will be equipped at no expense to the State.

(1) Uniform. Class A, B, or battledress uniform may be worn as appropriate. White cotton gloves may be worn with the Class A and B uniforms. The uniform must be consistent among all member of a Guard and consistent with OHMR Regulation 670-1. Bloused boots may be worn by the Guard with the Class A or B uniform only if the Guard is armed. The wear of bloused boots is an option, not a requirement. Unless authorized by the Chief of Staff, OHMR, helmets or helmet liners will not be worn by any Guard.

(2) Flag carriers. It is preferred that flag carrier devices be black in color. If Guards already have white colored carriers, they may be used. However, any unit procuring carriers should select black carriers.

(3) Weapons. The carrying of weapons must, in all cases, be consistent with state and local civilian laws. Participation in a Guard extends no privileges to any member not otherwise granted by the law. Side arms (handguns) will not be carried. Either real or simulated U.S. service rifles of the following patterns may be carried:

(a) M1903 Springfield

(b) M1 Garand

(c) M14

(d) M16, A1, A2

In all cases all weapons carried by a Guard must be identical. Under no circumstances will weapons be carried loaded with ammunition, blank or otherwise. Magazine-type weapons will be carried without magazines. Honor Guards firing salutes will load with blank ammunition only immediately prior to firing. Immediately prior to beginning any ceremony which involves firing a blank salute, the person in charge of the Guard will personally inspect every cartridge, every magazine, and every magazine pouch to ensure that no live rounds, or magazines with live rounds, were inadvertently mixed with the blanks.

c. Training. FM 22-5, Drill and Ceremony, will be the basis for all training. The manual will not be supplemented. Training may be done at home station and may be conducted during normal drill times, however, Guard activities may not supplant or hinder individuals' regular responsibilities.

d. Certification. Upon successfully completion the training needed to execute the functions of an Color Guard or Honor Guard, unit commanders will forward the names of individuals who completed the training to their immediate brigade commander. Brigade commanders will consolidate these names and send a list to the Secretary to the General Staff (OHMR-SGS), certifying that these personnel are trained for Honor Guard and Color Guard activities. Within HHD, OHMR, section chiefs will send their lists to the Chief of Staff who will certify to the Secretary to the General Staff that these personnel are trained.

e. Coverage by Orders. Upon receiving certification that individuals have completed the training and demonstrated their ability to perform the maneuvers, the Secretary to the General Staff will issue blanket orders or add the individuals to existing blanket orders. These orders provide individuals with the authorization to perform their job as a member of the OHMR and offer workman's compensation and other liability protection within the scope of the assignment. Blanket orders are ONLY in effect when individuals are acting under the direction of proper authority and are performing the task identified in the order.

f. Utilization of Guards. Guards may be utilized for any ceremony at which it is appropriate to have a military guard. There are occasions, such as a veteran's funeral, when the military has an obligation to be there. There are other occasions, such a local parade or festival, when it is good public relations to participate. Care must be taken that the ceremony, event, or some part of the event is not

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supportive of a cause or activity which may cast the OHMR in a negative or controversial light or bring discredit to the Corps simply by association. The decision to make available a guard is that of the immediate commander, however, that decision is always subject to review by higher commands.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

John T. Finnegan  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

:



Richard B. Iott  
Lieutenant Colonel, GS  
Secretary to the General Staff

CF:  
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