



Flag Etiquette- What Is The Correct Way To Lower And Fold The American Flag?

These steps for properly taking down the American flag at sundown have been established for a two-person team performing flag detail.

The two people march to the flagstaff, unfasten the halyard, and while one stands at salute, the other hauls the colors down slowly.

If it is not a formal retreat ceremony, the flag detail shouts "Colors" just before hauling the flag down. All those within 50 yards come to attention and salute until the flag is gathered in.

When the flag is down, and within reaching distance, the saluting man drops his salute and gathers the flag in his arms to prevent its touching the ground. The halyard's ends are clipped or tied together and secured to the flagstaff cleat.

Once detached from the halyard, the flag must be folded immediately! (A person lowering the flag alone need not try to fold it.

Gathering it into his arms so that it does not touch the ground is sufficient).

The correct way to fold a flag:

- 1) Holding the fly end of the flag bring the striped half up over the blue field.
- 2) Then fold it in half again.
- 3) Bring the lower striped corner to the opposite upper edge, forming a triangle.
- 4) Then fold the upper point in to form another triangle. Continue until the entire length of the flag is folded.
- 5) When almost to the end, with nothing but the blue field showing, tuck the last bit into the other folds to secure it.
- 6) The final folded flag resembles a cocked hat with only the white stars on a blue field showing.

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