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Heraldic Activities

Display and Presentation of U.S. Flags

*This regulation supersedes AE Regulation 840-10, 16 April 2009.

For the Commander:

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Summary. This regulation prescribes Army in Europe policy on displaying flags in the USEUCOM area of operation.

Summary of Change. This revision makes administrative changes throughout.

Applicability. This regulation applies to U.S. Army units, U.S. military personnel of other Services, and foreign military personnel at installations in the European theater.

Supplementation. U.S. Army units located outside Germany may supplement this regulation to accommodate host-nation agreements. Organizations will not supplement this regulation without USAREUR G1 (AEAGA-MPP) approval.

Forms. AE and higher level forms are available through the Army in Europe Library & Publishing System (AEPUBS) at <https://aepubs.army.mil/>.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the USAREUR G1 (AEAGA-MPP, DSN 370-6816/6086). Users may suggest improvements to this supplement by sending DA Form 2028 to e-mail: mail.ug1.milperpol@eur.army.mil.

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Glossary

1. PURPOSE

This regulation—

- a. Must be used with AR 840-10.
- b. Prescribes Army in Europe policy on displaying and presenting U.S. and host-nation (HN) flags in the European theater.

2. REFERENCES

- a. AR 600-25, Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy.
- b. AR 840-10, Flags, Guidons, Streamers, Tabards, and Automobile and Aircraft Plates.
- c. AE Regulation 10-5, Headquarters, United States Army Europe.
- d. DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.
- e. DA Form 2028, Recommended Changes to Publications and Forms.

3. EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS

The glossary defines abbreviations.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The USAREUR G1 is the proponent for the display of flags by Army units in the European theater.
- b. The Director, IMCOM-Europe, will ensure that United States Army garrisons (USAGs) comply with this regulation.
- c. Installation commanders will ensure that the U.S. and HN flags on their installations are properly displayed.

5. U.S. FLAG DISPLAYS

a. The CG, USAREUR, and the Director, IMCOM-Europe, delegate authority to commanders of USAREUR major subordinate and specialized commands (AE Reg 10-5, app A) and USAGs to authorize permanent or semipermanent, 24-hour display of the U.S. flag (AR 840-10, para 2-2f) under the following conditions:

(1) The flag must be properly illuminated with its own source of light during the hours of darkness. Floodlights or similar lighting is suitable.

(2) When flown with the HN flag, each flag will have its own source of light.

(3) All-weather flags should be used when possible to reduce wear and maintain an appropriate appearance.

b. The flag of the United States is the symbol of America, and pride should be taken in the time-honored tradition of reveille and retreat (“To The Colors”). The flag should be displayed at night to instill pride and patriotism. Permanent flag display should not, however, be approved solely for convenience.

c. Flying a U.S. garrison flag during holidays is prohibited on installations that also fly a HN flag unless the HN flag is approximately the same size as the garrison flag (AR 840-10).

6. U.S. AND HOST-NATION FLAGS AT HALFSTAFF

a. When either the HN flag or U.S. flag is flown at halfstaff, both countries will simultaneously fly their flags at halfstaff. Normally, a directive from the HN Ministry of Defense will be sent to all HN major subordinate commands. The POC for USAG Baden-Württemberg is the German Army Forces Command Liaison Officer to HQ USAREUR (DSN 370-8394, civilian 06221-578394, fax: 06221-332-503, or e-mail: HFueKdoVkdozuUSAREUR@Bundeswehr.org). This representative will transmit the message to the USAREUR G1 (during duty hours) or to the USAREUR Command Center (after duty hours).

b. A directive from the U.S. Secretary of Defense is normally transmitted by DOD message (app A) to display the U.S. flag at halfstaff on “all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels of the Department of Defense, in the District of Columbia, throughout the United States and its territories and possessions, to include naval vessels and stations abroad.”

(1) On receipt of the DOD message, the USAREUR Command Center will transmit the message to USEUCOM, all USAREUR major subordinate and specialized commands, and USAGs. The following statement will be added to the message before transmitting:

“Where the U.S. and German flags are flown together, both flags will be flown at halfstaff. U.S. and other host-nation flags will be flown according to host-nation agreements.”

(2) If the message does not direct flying flags at halfstaff at stations abroad, it is not applicable to the Army in Europe and no action is required.

(3) If notification is received from any source other than an official DOD, USEUCOM, or USAREUR message, units should verify the requirement to fly flags at halfstaff with the Military Personnel and Plans Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, HQ USAREUR (DSN 370-6816/6086) (during duty hours), the USAREUR Command Center (DSN 377-4906/8966) (after duty hours), or the European Command Plans and Operations Center, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, J3, USEUCOM (DSN 430-4169).

c. Specific times to fly the U.S. flag at halfstaff include—

(1) On notification of the death of the President, a former President, or President-elect of the United States (AR 600-25, app B) from any reliable source, including the news media.

(2) The date of death or memorial service of an officer or enlisted Soldier, active or retired.

(3) At the direction of the President.

(4) On Memorial Day (AR 600-25, para 1-10). On this day—

(a) The U.S. flag will be displayed at halfstaff from reveille until noon at all Army installations.

(b) Immediately before noon, a band (if available) will play an appropriate song.

(c) At noon, a 21-gun salute will be fired if the installation has the equipment needed to fire salutes.

(d) At the conclusion of the salute, the flag will be raised to the top of the flagpole accompanied by an appropriate patriotic song. The flag will remain at the top of the flagpole until retreat is sounded.

NOTE: Installations with a 24-hour flag display may fly the flag at halfstaff over the entire Memorial Day holiday period, particularly if a band or cannon salute is not available.

7. FLAG POSITION

a. When flying the U.S. flag with HN flags, all flags must be comparable in size. This may prevent the use of a U.S. garrison or post flag when HN flags of comparable size are not available.

b. The flagpoles of U.S. and HN flags must be of equal height and close enough to each other to permit raising and lowering of both flags during ceremonies. The tops of the flags should be of equal distance from the ground.

c. Except when the “Star-Spangled Banner” is played, both the U.S. and HN flags will be raised and lowered during reveille and retreat. Both the “Star-Spangled Banner” and HN anthem will be played on formal occasions when flags are raised or lowered.

d. International custom forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in peacetime.

e. Official agreements prescribe the position of the U.S. and HN flag in Germany, Italy, and Spain as follows:

(1) Germany. The position of honor is given to the German flag on outdoor garrison and installation flagpoles. The flag of the United States is always displayed or carried in the position of honor for indoor flag display lines or flags carried by an honor guard. The position of honor is the marching right, the flag's own right, or an observer's left when facing the flag.

(2) Italy. The position of honor is given to the Italian national flag on outdoor garrison and installation flagpoles. The flag will be flown in the middle of the displayed flags when the displayed flags are the Italian, U.S., and NATO flags. The flag of Italy is always displayed or carried in the position of honor for indoor flag display lines or flags carried by an honor guard. The position of honor is the marching right, the flag's own right, or an observer's left when facing the flag.

(a) Normally, both the Italian and U.S. national flags will be raised and lowered during reveille and retreat. The Italian national flag will be hoisted first and lowered last.

(b) During joint ceremonies, the Italian National Anthem will be performed first and will be followed without pause by the playing of the U.S. National Anthem.

(3) Spain. Only the Spanish flag and command insignia will be flown over the bases of Morón and Rota.

8. PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION FLAG

a. The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag will be flown approximately 6 inches below the U.S. flag on the following dates:

(1) Armed Forces Day (3d Saturday in May).

(2) Memorial Day (last Monday in May).

(3) Flag Day (14 June).

(4) Independence Day (4 July).

(5) National POW/MIA Day (3d Friday in September).

(6) Veterans Day (11 November).

(7) When installations host POW/MIA activities.

b. When the official day of observance falls on a non-duty day, the flag may be displayed for the entire non-duty period on installations authorized a 24-hour flag display.

c. The POW/MIA flag (3 by 5 feet or 4 by 6 feet) may be ordered with a Government purchase card through the General Services Administration website at <http://www.gsa.gov>.

9. U.S. FLAG PRESENTATIONS

According to Public Law 105-261, section 644, a Soldier who retires from active duty (including being placed on the temporary disability retired list) will receive or be presented with a 3- by 5-foot, cotton, outdoor U.S. flag on behalf of the Secretary of the Army. The following guidance will be followed:

a. The Theater Personnel Services Support Branch, Host Nation Liaison Field Operating Activity, IMCOM-Europe, will ensure that transition centers will—

(1) Requisition the prescribed individual Retiree Commendation Packet that includes the retiree flag from the HQ IMCOM contracted supplier after receipt of an approved retirement.

(2) Account for the Retiree Commendation Packet and provide the packet to the unit commander or designated representative at a retirement ceremony for presentation.

(3) Provide a modified Retiree Commendation Packet for retiring members of the military, regardless of Service affiliation, in joint organizations for which the Army is the executive agent.

(4) Annotate the presentation of the flag (for example, “U.S. flag issued”) in block 18 of DD Form 214.

(5) Provide materials to support unit and garrison retirement ceremonies.

NOTE: Appropriated funds are not authorized to purchase a display box for the flag.

b. Unit commanders will—

(1) Monitor the retirement process of their Soldiers. If no Retiree Commendation Packet has been received, unit commanders will request the complete packet, including the flag, from their servicing transition center.

(2) Present a U.S. flag, the retiree lapel pin, and retirement certificates to the retiring Soldier during the official unit retirement ceremony or a consolidated garrison retirement ceremony. If presentation is not possible during an official retirement ceremony, the Soldier’s unit commander or servicing transition center may give the retiree commendation packet to the Soldier at the final out-processing appointment on the day before departure.

APPENDIX A
SAMPLE DOD MESSAGE FOR FLAGS AT HALFSTAFF

The following is a sample DOD message to installation commanders to fly flags at halfstaff.

200816ZNOV08

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

USAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//CCJ1

UNCLAS

SUBJ: FLYING THE FLAG AT HALFSTAFF

1. IN HONOR OF THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, JOHN A. DOE, AND ACCORDING TO PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 3044 AND DOD DIRECTIVE 1005.6, UPON RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE AND UNTIL SUNSET OF THE DATE OF INTERMENT, THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE FLOWN AT HALFSTAFF ON ALL BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND NAVAL VESSELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, AND ITS TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS, TO INCLUDE NAVAL VESSELS AND STATIONS ABROAD.
 2. WHERE THE U.S. AND GERMAN FLAGS ARE FLOWN TOGETHER, BOTH FLAGS WILL BE FLOWN AT HALFSTAFF ACCORDING TO HOST-NATION AGREEMENT.
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GLOSSARY

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| AE | Army in Europe |
| AR | Army regulation |
| CG, USAREUR | Commanding General, United States Army Europe |
| DA | Department of the Army |
| DOD | Department of Defense |
| HN | host nation |
| IMCOM-Europe | United States Army Installation Management Command, Europe Region |
| POC | point of contact |
| POW/MIA | prisoner of war/missing in action |
| U.S. | United States |
| USAG | United States Army garrison |
| USAREUR | United States Army Europe |
| USEUCOM | United States European Command |