

STARFLEET Marine Corps

Color Guard Detail

Study Cards



These study cards are intended to compliment the SFMC Color Guard Manual, not replace it. These cards are intended to be taken with the detail to their practice session and performance, allowing them a portable means to review. Not every movement is covered in these cards. It is assumed that the members of the Color Guard detail have read and are familiar with the SFMC Color Guard Manual.

It is suggested that these cards be printed out on at least 90lbs card stock, cut out, and if possible laminated.

Set One – Rifleman Study Cards

Set Two – Color Bearer Study Cards

Set Three – Color Guard Commander Cards

SFMC Color Guard Rifleman Study Cards

SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

01

Order Colors/Attention



The position of *Order Colors* is the position of attention with the rifle on the right side, flush with your right toe, held in a 'taco' grip (see pictures below). Unless otherwise stated, this is the position from which all orders start. There are three orders to go to this position;



"FALL IN",

"Atten, SHUN (HUT)",

or "Order, COLORS."

SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

02

Port Arms



This position is where rifle is directly in front of you, cutting across the body at a 45 degree angle, with the stacking swivel at the height of your left eye. The left hand grips the rifle at the center of the stock (usually top part of metal, or above metal of the bolt assembly), and the right hand grips at the small of the stock.

Port, ARMS can be used when marching in a file to form up, or depart the area; as well as any other times as required by the Color Guard Commander.

You may be instructed to use this position instead of others at given commands.

SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

03

Carry Colors (1)

This position is *left shoulder arms* for the left Rifleman, and *right shoulder arms* for the right Rifleman. It is the position of attention, with the right/left arm bent at a 90 degree angle, hand cupping the butt of the rifle, with the sling side down. The stock of the rifle rests in the small of the shoulder/collar bone. The rifle is straight back, looking from the front, not leaning to the right or left. The right/left hand gripping the butt has the thumb reaching over the 'heel' of the butt to touch the index finger, forming a circle.

The Command is *Carry, COLORS* and is a three count movement for both Riflemen when given this order from *Order Colors*.

If given from *Port Arms*, this is a two count movement, and the Left Rifleman must pause on the first count.

SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

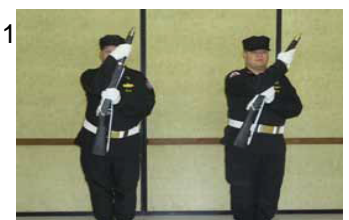
04

Carry Colors (2)

Order Colors



Count 1



Count 2



Count 3



SFMC Color Guard

Rifleman Study Cards

SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

05

Carry Colors (3)

Once the Command **Ready, CUT** is given, the movement is complete, and both Riflemen are at the position of *Carry Colors*.

**Ready,
CUT**



Again, this movement can be started from the positions of *Order Colors*, *Port Arms*, or *Present Colors*.

(For *Present Colors*, simply go to *Port Arms* in the first count, then proceed normally from there, with the Left Rifleman pausing one count at *Port*)

SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

06

Present Colors

The Command **Present, Colors** can be given from the positions of *Order Colors*, *Port Arms*, or *Carry Colors*.

From *Order Colors* it is a Two Count movement.
From *Port Arms* it is a One Count movement.
From *Carry Colors* it is a Three Count movement.

From *Order Colors*, the rifle is simply lifted into position, and then the right dropped to the small of the stock and held in a 'taco grip.'

From *Carry Colors* both rifleman proceed to *Port Arms* and then twist the rifle into the *Present Colors* position.

Present Colors from *Order Colors* is shown here. It is a 2 step movement back to *Order*, simply in reverse.



SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

07

Order Colors

Order, COLORS can be given from any other position; returning the detail to the position of *Attention*.

From *Carry* it is a Four Count movement, with the Left Rifleman pausing on the first count.

From *Port Arms* it is a Two Count movement for both.

From *Present* it is a Two Count movement for both.

Note: At the Color Guard Commander's digression, the command **Order, COLORS** may be given, yet the Rifleman will move to *Port Arms* instead. This is done for a variety of reasons and circumstances of the venue, and if used in this way, will be explained during practice.

SFMC Color Guard - Rifleman Study Cards

08

Notes

Remember to be slow and precise with your movements – you must keep in time with each other, else the detail looks bad. The Rifleman moving together looks great, and is the most noticeable part of any Color Guard.

Remember which movements require how many counts. Make each count of each movement distinct.

From *Order* to *Carry* – Three (3) counts for both Rifleman.

From *Port* to *Carry* – Two (2) counts for both, Left pauses on first count.

From *Carry* to *Order* – Four (4) counts with Right pausing on second count.

Listen to your Color Guard Detail commander for any other instructions or modifications. They are in charge of coordinating the detail with the event personnel, and may have to make adjustments due to the facility or venue.

SFMC Color Guard

Color Bearer Study Cards

SFMC Color Guard – Color Bearer Study Cards

01

Order Colors/Attention

The position of *Order Colors* is the position of attention with the flag pole on the right side, flush with your right toe, held in a 'taco' grip . Unless otherwise stated, this is the position from which all orders start. There are three orders to go to this position;



"FALL IN",

"Atten, SHUN
(HUT)",

or "Order,
COLORS."

SFMC Color Guard - Color Bearer Study Cards

02

Carry Colors (Trail Arms for indoor use)

At the Command *Carry, COLORS*, the Color Bearers will lift the flag pole six inches off the deck with the left hand, and continue to grip the pole with the left hand (the arm will go across the body, forearm parallel to the deck) and the right will retain its grip on the pole.



Show is Count 2 of a detail moving to Carry Colors indoors. Most often Trail Arms is used for Carry Colors by the Flag Bearers.

It is a Two Count Movement, And the left hand remains on the flag pole even after "**Ready, CUT.**"

SFMC Color Guard - Color Bearer Study Cards

03

Post Colors (1)

At the Command *Post, COLORS*, the Flag Bearers will step forward with their left foot, and place the flag pole into the stand smartly, but gently. Ensure that the Junior most flag is seated first, and then proceed in order until national colors is seated last.



SFMC Color Guard - Color Bearer Study Cards

04

Post Colors (2)

Flag Bearers will then arrange their flag to hang properly; displaying the most area of fabric possible. They will hold this position once done, until the command *Ready, CUT* – at which time they then step back with their left foot, returning to the position of attention.



Note: The next command will be Present Colors/Arms – at that time flag bearers will simply render the Hand Salute.

Retreat: To retrieve the colors, this process is simply done in reverse, with no need to stop and arrange the flag.

SFMC Color Guard

Color Guard Commander Notes

SFMC Color Guard – Color Guard Commander Cards

01

Advance Planning

The bulk of the job of the Color Guard Commander is done WELL before anyone ever arrives at the Event. Coordination, usually via e-mail, must be done just to ensure you have a team showing up, with the right uniform(s), and the needed equipment. You will also have to work with the Event Planners to see any requirements they might have.

Things to coordinate in advance:

Detail Members and uniforms

When and where to practice

Equipment (Flags, rifles, gloves, etc)

Needs of the Event Planners

SFMC Color Guard - Color Guard Commander Cards

02

The Event

Once at the location of the event, at most you generally have the night before to practice. At IC/Summits this could be after the Marine or other dinner...so it is a late night practice, with the need to perform in the morning. Plan on this, have your team ready for this.

If at all possible practice in the room you will perform in, with the same set up as you will encounter. Have the Event Planners there to walk you through what the set up will be, so that you can plan the detail accordingly.

How will you march in?

How will you get the detail to the flag stands?

How will you depart?

SFMC Color Guard - Color Guard Commander Cards

03

The Detail

You are the expert. You have been selected to lead this because people have faith in your knowledge and expertise in this matter. Others will think they know better than you – but stick to your guns. If you know the Color Guard manual backward and forward, you know what is correct. Stick to your guns – but be polite. Be professional. You cannot fly off the handle and yell and expect anyone to think you will deliver a professional performance in the morning.

The Host Nation's Colors are in the senior position – To it's own far right! (the audiences left). If it is posted in the center, it must be elevated above the other flags, and then the seniority is staggered from right to left.

This has NO bearing on how they are carried in. The Host Nation flag will ALWAYS be carried in on its own right. Period.

Know how to do the rifle portions as well as the flag. While you carry the Host Nation Colors you are expected to be the expert for all positions.

SFMC Color Guard - Color Guard Commander Cards

04

Notes:

Take notes on the back of these cards. Often the Speaker of the event will wish to thank the detail for performing, as well as the singer if there is one for the national anthem. If needed, write the team members names down on the back and deliver this card to the speaker.

Get it back from them later, and you have the names to put in and submit for the Marine Honor Guard Award.

The most important skills for a Color Guard Commander is to be ready for anything, and remain calm. You will have to be diplomatic, flexible, and confident. The success of the detail, how you planned it, coordinated it, trained it, and conducted it will all come down to YOU.

Enjoy!