

Reveille, retreat deserve proper protocol

Did you know reveille and retreat ceremonies are an integral part of life in the military and one of many traditions that set us apart as a professional organization?

Respect forms the core of these brief ceremonies with reveille formally beginning the duty day at 6 a.m. and retreat ending it at 5 p.m. Of course, work begins earlier and continues later than these times, so there will be times when stopping to observe either ceremony isn't appropriate. However, for most people, these brief moments provide a time to reflect on life in the Army and serving our great country.

Why we do it

By definition in "Drill and Ceremonies Field Manual 3-21.5," the ceremonies are a time to honor the American flag either as it's raised or lowered. Personally, I take that opportunity a step further

and honor not only the flag but all service members it led throughout our nation's history. Movies such as "The Patriot" give us a glimpse of that ideal as Mel Gibson carried the colors forward and rallied Soldiers to victory. How important is our flag? Well, consider Soldiers wear a flag patch on their uniforms displayed in a manner that suggests the flag on a standard moving forward with them.

What you should do

Proper actions for reveille and retreat are covered in the Fort Sill Blue Book as well as Army Regulation 600-25 "Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy." The Blue Book lists everyday standards for all Soldiers and units to build and maintain discipline and esprit de corps. It applies to all military personnel and civilians assigned, attached or visiting Fort Sill. These standards were established to



Did you know?

By Col. Raymond Lacey
Fort Sill Garrison commander

set forth enforceable rules and policies that all must know, understand, enforce and follow. AR 600-25 provides more detailed information on what respects to pay.

For those outside in uniform either ceremony is but a simple few steps to render proper respects. At the sound of reveille or retreat, Soldiers not in formation, whether on or off duty, will face the music and come to attention. Following a short pause, "To the Color" plays, and they will salute until the final note ends.

When not in uniform, Soldiers will stand at attention, and either remove their headgear with the right hand, holding the hat over

wearing a hat, stand quiet and place your right hand over your heart with the hat over the left shoulder during "To the Color." Whether wearing hats or not, women should place their right hands over their hearts.

History shows reveille was not originally intended as honors to the flag. The bugle call was originally used to wake military personnel in the morning and came from the French word which means to wake up. As time passed, reveille came to denote when the flag was raised in the morning and honors were paid to it.

Similarly retreat also has a French origin coming from the French word "retraite" that referred to the evening ceremony. The bugle call sounded at retreat was first used in the French army and dates back to the Crusades. Retreat was sounded at sunset to notify sentries to start

challenging until sunrise and to tell the rank and file to go to their quarters.

Integrity

That being said, there probably isn't a day on Fort Sill that someone fails to stand at attention and salute the flag; stop his or her vehicle, exit and salute or stand at attention; or exit a building and render respects.

Their reasons for doing this are many and irrelevant. The important thing to remember is to understand the guidance, set a good example and, when necessary, instruct or invite others to follow.

To reach me

To send questions or comments to me, please e-mail fscoms@conus.army.mil or you can mail your comments to Commander, USAG-Fort Sill, 462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120, Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Thanks and have a great Fort Sill day.

Sill shorts

VIOS out-processing

Any Soldier, DoD employee or contractor who has used the Visual Information Ordering System, VIOS, here must out-process from the system before permanently leaving Fort Sill by going to Building 3162 Harvey Road, Room 214. For more information, call 442-4958.

Garrison hotline

The Fort Sill Garrison Commander has established a direct e-mail hotline for Soldiers, families and employees to address issues that they feel are not being resolved through other channels. Those with access to the global directory can select "Tell the

Garrison Commander." Others can click on the "Tell the Garrison Commander" link on the Fort Sill Garrison website.

DA photos

Appointments must be made for all Department of the Army official photos using the Visual Information Ordering Online Systems at <https://www.vios-west.army.mil> for CAC users or www.vios-akowest.army.mil for non-CAC holders, who have an AKO account. No walk-ins are accepted. For more information, call 442-8127.

NAF jobs

The Non-Appropriated Fund job information center is on the north

side of the civilian personnel advisory center at 1721 Fort Sill Blvd., Suite 100. The information center hours are 1:30-3:30 p.m. For more information, call 442-5853.

Well Being Center

Fort Sill's new Well Being-Army Substance Abuse Center offers employee assistance, suicide prevention and many other programs. It's new location is in Building 3415 Miner Road. For more information, call 442-4205.

Recycling hours

The Fort Sill Recycling Center has switched to summer hours. Until further notice, units may

drop of recyclables for the "Cash for Trash" program Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 442-5712.

Behavioral health

The Behavioral Health Science clinic is at 2442 Crane Road. Walk-in and sick call hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8-11:30 a.m.

Personnel

The military personnel division is open all training holidays and closed all federal holidays. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for the ID card section which is by

appointment only Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday is walk-in day. For more information, call 442-5010.

Road closure

Lubberman Road in the 300 area is closed permanently from Corral Road to Knox Road to construct the new Artillery Park. For more information, call 442-5746.

Extinguishers

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