

*Prior guidance was retracted as these are recommended courtesies to the flag. At least one area already had it posted and we removed it.*

# Honoring The American Flag

One of many long-standing traditions still being observed in today's Army is Retreat. Retreat is a ceremony which honors the U.S. flag when it is lowered in the evening, usually at 5 p.m.

The term Retreat is taken from the French word "Retraite" and refers 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.

Today, the observance of Retreat signifies retirement of the colors from the days activities. At Tripler Army Medical Center Retreat is announced by bugle call and the playing of "To the Colors," music honoring the flag as it is lowered in the evening.

The courtesies for observing retreat are summarized as follows:

**Military in uniform** - Face in the direction of the flag (or direction from which the music emanates if flag is not in view), and stand at attention. After the cannon fires and at the first note of "To the Colors," render hand salute. Hold this position until the last note of music has played.

**Civilians and military wearing civilian clothes** - Face in the direction of the flag (or direction from which the music emanates if flag is not in view), remove headdress (if wearing) and stand at attention. After the cannon fires and at the first note of "To the Colors," hold the headdress over the left shoulder with the right hand over the heart. Hold this position until the last note of music has played.

Detailed information can be found in FM 22-5 and AR 600-25.