

Heraldic Activities

Flags, Guidons, Streamers, Tabards, and Automobile and Aircraft Plates

Headquarters
Department of the Army
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UNCLASSIFIED

Chapter 1 Introduction

1-1. Purpose

This regulation prescribes the design, acquisition, display, disposition, and use of flags, guidons, streamers, automobile and aircraft plates, and tabards by Department of the Army (DA) organizations and personnel. It is the authority for these items and their basis of issue. It also describes the flags used by the President, Vice President, officials of the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

1-2. References

Required and related publications and referenced forms are listed in appendix A.

1-3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

1-4. Responsibilities

a. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel has staff responsibility for heraldic activities in the Army.

b. The Director, The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), is responsible for—

(1) Developing and approving policies and procedures for the Army flag program.

(2) Monitoring the overall operation of the Army flag program.

c. The Commander, U.S. Army Center of Military History, is responsible for the care and storage of flags of inactive TOE units.

d. All commanders (from unit to major commands) will—

(1) Ensure only flags authorized by this regulation or designs approved by the Institute of Heraldry are displayed within the Army.

(2) Obtain flags only from an authorized supply source.

1-5. Design

a. Flags are alike on both sides. Design elements appear on both sides on flags and guidons and show on the opposite side as if printed through the materia except as stated in b and c below.

b. Letters and numerals will read from left to right on both sides of the flags and guidons.

c. When a shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI) design is used on a flag, the SSI design must appear proper on both sides of the flag.

1-6. Materials

Flags designed primarily for indoor and parade display will normally be made of banner rayon or heavyweight nylon with rayon fringe. Those designed primarily for outdoor display will be made of nylon-wool or heavyweight nylon without fringe.

1-7. Restrictions

The following limitations and prohibitions are applicable to flags, guidons, streamers, and components:

a. *Unauthorized items.* Flags, guidons, streamers, and components that are not described in this regulation or approved by TIOH are prohibited (See tables 1-1 and 1-2 for authorizations.)

b. *Alterations of designs.* The designs prescribed by this regulation will not be altered except by authority of TIOH.

c. *Acceptance of donated items.* Only the Secretary of the Army (SA) is authorized to accept or refuse a donation of heraldic items for use by organizations under SA jurisdiction. Offers will be processed according to AR 1-100.

d. *Issue of partially completed flags.* When authorized by TIOH, partially completed organizational colors may be issued by the U.S. Army Soldiers System Command, ATTN: AMSSC-I-SSA-SH, P.O. Box 60539, Philadelphia, PA 19145-0539, pending approval of the coat of arms for that organization.

e. *Unauthorized use of official flags, guidons, and streamers.* There is no law that permits the sale, loan, or donation of flags, guidons, or streamers to individuals or organizations not in the military service except as indicated in (1) and (2) below. Display or use of flags, guidons, and streamers or replicas thereof, including those presently or formerly carried by U.S. Army units, by other than the office, individual, or organizations for which authorized, is prohibited except as indicated in (3) below.

(1) Educational institutions may purchase the U.S. Army flag with streamers or the Army field flag for the use of their military students when an Army officer is detailed as professor of military science. The institution must be of college level with an authorized Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (SROTC) unit assigned. These flags may be purchased from the Commander, U.S. Army Soldiers System Command, ATTN: AMSSC-I-SSA-SH, P.O. Box 60539, Philadelphia, PA 19145-0539. Sales must be paid for by certified check or money order and purchased by the institution. Appropriated funds are not authorized for purchase of the U.S. Army flag or the Army field flag for educational institutions in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program.

(2) For retired general officers see Chap 3, sec II.

(3) At meetings and on ceremonial occasions, recognized U.S. Army organizational associations may display a replica of the organization's distinguishing flag and the organization's subordinate command flags. These flags must be manufactured from drawings and specifications furnished by The Institute of Heraldry and procured commercially. Requests for drawings must be submitted by the organizational association president or executive secretary to the Director, The Institute of Heraldry, U.S. Army, 9325 Gunston Road, Room S112, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-5579.

(4) Commanders of whole branch regiments may authorize organizations to commercially procure a replica of the branch regimental flag. These flags must be manufactured from drawings and specifications prepared by The Institute of Heraldry and furnished to the branch proponent.

f. *Carrying of nonmilitary organizational flags.* U.S. military personnel in uniform or in civilian clothing acting in an official capacity will not carry flags of veterans' groups or other nonmilitary organizations; commanders may, however authorize military personnel to carry State and territorial or national flags during military ceremonies.

g. The private use or display. The private unofficial use or display of positional colors, distinguishing flags, organizational colors, or guidons is prohibited. Individual flags for retired general officers may be displayed as specified in chap 3, sec II.

h. *Unserviceable flags.* Unserviceable flags will not be used for banners or any other purpose. When a flag is no longer suitable for display, it will not be cast aside or used in any way that may be viewed as disrespectful. If not preserved as specified in chapters 2, 5, 6, and 10, it will be destroyed privately, preferably by burning, shredding or by some other method that does not show irreverence or disrespect to the flag.