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THE RETREAT CEREMONY

A ceremony held at all United States Military Posts, Camps, and Stations throughout the world signifying the close of each day's routine activities. Retreat provides a moment for all military personnel to pause and pay homage to the Nation's Flag.

A Retreat Ceremony begins by bringing troops in formation to ORDER ARMS and PARADE REST. The Commander of Troops then commands the Band or Field Music to SOUND RETREAT. At the last note of retreat the Sunset Gun is fired, the National Anthem played and the Nation's Flag lowered. When the Sunset Gun is fired the Commander of Troops, his staff, and all troops and military spectators present come to ATTENTION. Concurrently with the sounding of the first note of the National Anthem, all military personnel execute PRESENT ARMS and the National Flag is lowered in accordance with prescribed regulations. After the sounding of the last note of the National Anthem the Commander of Troops gives the command ORDER ARMS immediately followed by PARADE REST. The Troops are again brought to ATTENTION and the ceremony is ended by the Troops being paraded before the Reviewing Officer and visiting Dignitaries.

From Wintering