

Section C

THE NATIONAL FLAG

1. SIZE AND DISPLAY

a. The national flag will be displayed at all times, in accordance with the appropriate provisions of U.S. Regulations.

2. HALF-MASTING

a. When the national flag is displayed at half-mast (see **Exhibit D**), it is first hoisted to the peak and then lowered to the half-mast position. Before lowering, the flag is again raised to the peak.

b. A flag in any position below the peak (the top of the mast or truck) is technically in the half-mast position but, in general, the middle point of the hoist of a flag at half-mast should, in the case of an unguyed mast of one piece, be halfway between the peak and the foot of the mast or, in the case of a mast with a yard or guys, halfway between the peak and the yard or point of attachment of the guys (see **Figure 6**). Local conditions, such as the liability of fouling the flag, may, however, dictate other positions, a graceful one being with the top of the flag the depth of the hoist below the peak.

3. LOWERING AND FOLDING

a. When the national flag is lowered from the mast, no portion of it will be allowed to touch the ground either in lowering or in folding. The ensign is detached from the halyards and folded into the shape of a cocked hat, with the blue field and stars outward (See **Figure 7**).

A and B — Holding the flag waist high, fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.

C—The folded edge (the edge nearest the reader in B) is then folded over to meet the open edge.

D—A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.

E—The outer point is then turned inward, parallel with the open edge, to form a second triangle.

F—The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.

G—When the flag is completely folded, only the blue field should be visible and it should be folded in the triangular shape of a cocked hat.



Figure 6. Flags displayed at full or half mast

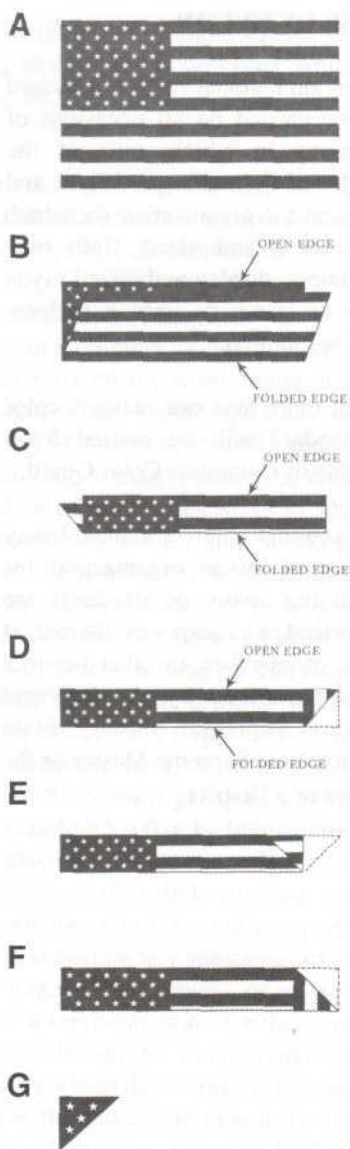


Figure 7. Folding the national flag