

Resolution No. 2026-03
Proposal to Correct the Tactics for Presenting the Flag of the United States
in the *Manual Of Tactics Asylum Ceremonies*

WHEREAS, *The Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and Approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America*, (GEKT C&S) states:

Tactics are under the control of the Grand Commandery but where tactics are prescribed by the ritual they must be observed. (1952, p 66 & 159, No. 7, Gaylord)

While the question of tactics is within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commanderies, the ritual shall be followed. (1922, p 27 & 280, No. 15, Orr, 1988 digest – 326 & 356)

AND WHEREAS, the “*Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia*,” (GCKTVA C&S) Section 21 DIGEST states:

The Grand Commander shall establish and promulgate a Digest, which may consist of one or more volumes, and shall include the following:

Part I Constitution and Statutes
Part II Manual of Tactics

and such other parts of a generally timeless nature as the Grand Commander may, from time to time, deem appropriate.

AND WHEREAS, the GCKTVA C&S Section 13 STANDING COMMITTEES, (J) WORK states:

This Committee will be responsible for keeping the Manual of Tactics up to date.

AND WHEREAS, the GCKTVA C&S Section 13 STANDING COMMITTEES, (T) DRILL TEAM COMMITTEE states:

The Chairman shall have charge of administration and practical operation of the Drill Team Committee and Grand Commandery drill related activities.

AND WHEREAS, the GCKTVA C&S Section 23 (B) (1) GRAND AND DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS states:

The Grand Instructor General shall serve as the personal representative of the Grand Commander in matters pertaining to tactics and ritual, shall make recommendations to the Grand Commander as to the appointments of the several District Instructors, and coordinates the work and activities of the several District Instructors.

AND WHEREAS, paragraph 209 “**Threes right about – March**” of the *Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States* (Drill Regulations) of America requires that the threes “wheel” about on “fixed pivots.”

AND WHEREAS, the definitions of “pivot,” “flank,” “wheel,” “rank,” and “about,” in the DEFINITIONS section of the Drill Regulations beginning on page 9 of the Drill Regulations states:

Pivot: The Knight on the flank on which the wheel or turn is made.

Fixed Pivot – The Knight on the pivot marks time and turns his body to conform to the front of the unit, gaining no ground during the execution of the movement.

Flank: The right or left of a command in line or in a column.

Wheel: A circular movement by which a rank is placed at right angles to its former position.

Rank: A line of Knights placed side by side.

About: A wheel or face of 180 degrees (a half circle).

AND WHEREAS, the Drill Regulations states that “to wheel on the center” uses the command, “**On center**,” followed by the maneuver that you want to execute with a center pivot.

AND WHEREAS, the section titled, “Presenting the Flag of the United States” in the May 25, 2022 version of the *Manual Of Tactics Asylum Ceremonies* (MTAC) calls for the Sword Bearer (SwB) to give the command “**Right About-March**” with the incorrect intention that the Standard Bearer (StB) acts as a center pivot and marches in place; the SwB wheels backward and W wheels forward until all three are facing the opposite direction.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROPOSED, that the new command “**On Center**” be placed before “**Right About-March**” in accordance with the Drill Regulations.

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED, section titled, “Presenting the Flag of the United States” in the May 25, 2022, version of MTAC, which reads as follows:¹

PRESENTING THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

The United States Flag shall be placed in the East, to the right of the Dais Officers and on the same level.

After the Commandery has been opened in due form, the Sentinel is informed, and the P has opened the Bible at the 28th Chapter of Matthew (KJV) with the Square and Compasses on the left and a small wooden cross on the right, the Bible faces away from the Prelate when at his station.), the Commander will direct the Standard Guard to display the United States Flag.

¹ The targeted language is highlighted.

C: Standard Guard: Display the United States Flag.

SwB: Standard Guard: Forward-MARCH. Mark Time – March.² Standard Guard- HALT. Present-SWORDS. (Without command, the StB, will come to Carry Swords, then return his sword, proceed to the Flag stand, and remove the Flag. The StB carries the Flag straight up on his right side, right hand at right hip, left arm horizontal across chest. He will turn left or right, never stepping backward and return to his position by passing to the left and rear of the W.)

C: (When the StB touches the Flag staff, the following command is given:) **Present-SWORDS.** (All Sir Knights without swords, the robed P excepted, whether or not in uniform, covered or uncovered, will render the Hand Salute. When in robes, the P will place his right hand over his heart. When the StB has returned to his position, the SwB will continue.)

SwB: Standard Guard: Carry-SWORDS. Right About- MARCH. (The StB acts as the pivot and marches in place; the SwB wheels backward and W wheels forward until all three are facing west and the command “Forward- MARCH” is given.)

SwB: Forward-MARCH. Right About-MARCH. Standard Guard-Mark Time, MARCH, Standard Guard-HALT. (The StG halts in the center of the Asylum, facing East.)

C: Carry-SWORDS. All Sir Knights who are citizens of the United States of America will join me in pledging allegiance to the Flag of our Country. Salute-SWORDS. (The pledge is recited. When the term, "pledging allegiance" is stated, the StB brings the Flag to his front, straight up. The StG remains at Carry Swords, and does not recite the Pledge. SKs without swords, in or out of uniform, shall render the Hand Salute.)

C: Carry-SWORDS. Standard Guard: Return the Flag to its station in the East. Sir Knights: Present-SWORDS. (At the phrase, "return the Flag", the StB will return the Flag to his right side.)

SwB: Standard Guard: Forward-MARCH. Mark Time – MARCH. Standard Guard- HALT. Present-SWORDS. (The StB returns the Flag to its stand, returns to his position, draws his sword, and comes to Present Swords.)

C: (C comes to Carry Swords) **Carry-SWORDS.** (The StG obeys this command.)

SwB: Standard Guard: Right About-MARCH. Forward- MARCH. (The last about movement is given approximately 3 paces East of the station of the StG.) **Right About-MARCH.** (When the StG is facing East, and has realigned itself with their stations, the command, Mark Time-March is given) **Mark Time - MARCH Standard Guard- HALT.**

C: Sir Knights: Return-SWORDS. Be-SEATED. (After all are seated, the C returns his sword, and is seated.)

END OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG

BE AMENDED to read as follows:

² In the MTAC, it is footnote 3, which states, “The command Mark Time – MARCH is authorized by the Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment and is inserted here to allow the StG to properly align themselves and dress on each other.”

PRESENTING THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

The United States Flag shall be placed in the East, to the right of the Dais Officers and on the same level.

After the Commandery has been opened in due form, the Sentinel is informed, and the P has opened the Bible at the 28th Chapter of Matthew (KJV) with the Square and Compasses on the left and a small wooden cross on the right, the Bible faces away from the Prelate when at his station.), the Commander will direct the Standard Guard to display the United States Flag.

C: Standard Guard: Display the United States Flag.

SwB: Standard Guard: Forward-MARCH. Mark Time – March.³ Standard Guard- HALT. Present-SWORDS. (Without command, the StB, will come to Carry Swords, then return his sword, proceed to the Flag stand, and remove the Flag. The StB carries the Flag straight up on his right side, right hand at right hip, left arm horizontal across chest. He will turn left or right, never stepping backward and return to his position by passing to the left and rear of the W.)

C: (When the StB touches the Flag staff, the following command is given:) **Present-SWORDS.** (All Sir Knights without swords, the robed P excepted, whether or not in uniform, covered or uncovered, will render the Hand Salute. When in robes, the P will place his right hand over his heart. When the StB has returned to his position, the SwB will continue.)

SwB: Standard Guard: Carry-SWORDS. On Center, Right About- MARCH. (The StB acts as the pivot and marches in place; the SwB wheels backward and W wheels forward until all three are facing west and the command "Forward- MARCH" is given.)

SwB: Forward-MARCH. On Center, Right About-MARCH, Standard Guard-Mark Time, MARCH, Standard Guard-HALT. (The StG halts in the center of the Asylum, facing East.)

C: Carry-SWORDS. All Sir Knights who are citizens of the United States of America will join me in pledging allegiance to the Flag of our Country. Salute-SWORDS. (The pledge is recited. When the term, "pledging allegiance" is stated, the StB brings the Flag to his front, straight up. The StG remains at Carry Swords, and does not recite the Pledge. SKs without swords, in or out of uniform, shall render the Hand Salute.)

C: Carry-SWORDS. Standard Guard: Return the Flag to its station in the East. Sir Knights: Present-SWORDS. (At the phrase, "return the Flag", the StB will return the Flag to his right side.)

SwB: Standard Guard: Forward-MARCH. Mark Time – MARCH. Standard Guard- HALT. Present-SWORDS. (The StB returns the Flag to its stand, returns to his position, draws his sword, and comes to Present Swords.)

C: (C comes to Carry Swords) **Carry-SWORDS.** (The StG obeys this command.)

SwB: Standard Guard: On Center, Right About-MARCH. Forward- MARCH. (The last about movement is given approximately 3 paces East of the station of the StG.) **On Center, Right About-**

³ The command Mark Time – MARCH is authorized by the Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment and is inserted here to allow the StG to properly align themselves and dress on each other

MARCH. (When the StG is facing East, and has realigned itself with their stations, the command, Mark Time-March is given) **Mark Time - MARCH Standard Guard- HALT.**

C: Sir Knights: Return-SWORDS. Be-SEATED. (After all are seated, the C returns his sword, and is seated.)

END OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG

Respectfully submitted,
Sir Knight Charles Gillespie Steele III
Work (Ritual, Tactics, Schools) Chairman

Sir Knight Dewey Cole David, KCT
Drill Team Chairman

Sir Knight Charles Barbee
Drill Team Committee Member