



CASING OF THE COLORS CEREMONY 77th REGIONAL READINESS COMMAND

Every command, brigade or regiment in the Army has a distinctive flag assigned to that command which normally depicts some unique aspect of that command. This flag is known as the “Colors.” This tradition originated so that soldiers would recognize the flag or Colors of each of their regiments so they could follow it into battle. In the case of the 77th Regional Readiness Command, the flag depicts the Statue of Liberty thereby being universally recognized as a New York-based command.

The Colors are in the forefront of each unit at military ceremonies and have a place of honor as part of the official military Color Guard. It is the sacred honor of the Command Sergeant Major of the command to protect the Colors from harm or disrespect.

When a unit is deactivated and consigned to history, a “Casing of the Colors” ceremony is performed. At this solemn and formal ceremony the history of the command is read. In front of the formation the Command Sergeant Major removes the Colors from the color bearer’s sling. Upon the reading of the official retirement order, the Command Sergeant Major then presents the Colors to the Commander and steps backward. The Colors are grasped by the Commander and the Command Sergeant Major. The Commander rotates and lowers the Colors, allowing the Command Sergeant Major to furl or “case the colors” in a protective sheath.

At this time the cased Colors are returned to the color bearer who then marches off the field signaling the formal end of that command. The Colors are then retired to the Center of Military History in Washington, DC.