

CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

- When you see a vehicle with General Officer Stars or a Colonel Rank on the license plate, you will salute the vehicle.
- When talking to an officer of superior rank, stand at attention until ordered otherwise.
- When an officer of superior rank enters a room, the first soldier to recognize the officer calls personnel in the room to “attention” but does not salute. A salute indoors is rendered only when reporting.
- When you are dismissed, or when the officer departs, come to attention and salute.
- When speaking to or being addressed by a noncommissioned officer of superior rank, stand at parade rest until ordered otherwise.
- When an NCO of superior rank enters the room, the first soldier to recognize the NCO calls the room to “At ease.”
- Walk on the left of an officer or NCO of superior rank.
- When entering or exiting a vehicle, the junior ranking soldier is the first to enter, and the senior in rank is the first to exit.
- When outdoors and approached by an NCO, you greet the NCO by saying, “Good morning, Sergeant,” for example.
- The first person who sees an officer enter a dining facility gives the order “At ease,” unless a more senior officer is already present. Many units extend this courtesy to senior NCOs, also.
- When you hear the command “At ease” in a dining facility, remain seated, silent and continue eating unless directed otherwise.

THE SALUTE

- The salute is not simply an honor exchanged. It is a privileged gesture of respect and trust among soldiers. Remember the salute is not only prescribed by regulation but is also recognition of each other’s commitment, abilities, and professionalism.
- The salute is widely misunderstood outside the military. Some consider it to be a gesture of servility since the junior extends a salute to the senior, but we know that it is quite the opposite. The salute is an expression that recognizes each other as a member of the profession of arms; that they have made a personal commitment of self-sacrifice to preserve our way of life. The fact that the junior extends the greeting first is merely a point of etiquette—a salute extended or returned makes the same statement.