

“Please note that a conscious decision was made not to play TAPS during this segment.”

PARAGRAPH 23001 and beginning on page 23-4

2. H-Hour-5 Minutes

a. Bugler moves to position centered on the dance floor and sounds “*Attention*,” followed by “*Officers Call*” (or “*First Sergeant’s Call*” at staff noncommissioned officer/enlisted balls) and then departs the floor and returns to a position with the drummers and trumpeters. (See figure 23-2.)

b. The escorts draw swords and go to parade rest.

NARRATOR: “GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO THE UNIT’S NAME BALL CELEBRATING THE # OF BIRTHDAY (e.g., 231ST) BIRTHDAY OF OUR CORPS. (INVOCATION OPTIONAL) PLEASE RISE AS (NAME OF CHAPLAIN) DELIVERS THE INVOCATION.” Chaplain delivers the invocation.

NARRATOR: “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS.

→ **NARRATOR: “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS YOU ENTERED THIS BANQUET HALL, YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT BEFORE US TONIGHT STANDS AN EMPTY CHAIR AND A SINGLE LONE TABLE DRAPED IN BLACK, SIGNIFYING ALL OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES WHO ARE NOT WITH US THIS EVENING, BECAUSE THEY HAVE GIVEN THE FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO OUR BELOVED CORPS. THE SINGLE LIGHTED CANDLE REMINDS US OF THE FLAME OF ETERNAL LIFE AND THAT THE MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES WILL BE WITH US ALWAYS. THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL IS DISPLAYED TO REFLECT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD AND THE EBB OF LIFE IN BATTLE. THE IDENTIFICATION TAGS ARE BLANK, YET THEY COULD BEAR THE NAME OF ANY OF US HERE TONIGHT.**

ONLY A FEW AMERICANS CHOOSE THE DANGEROUS AND NECESSARY WORK OF FIGHTING OUR NATION’S ENEMIES. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THAT CHOICE, SOME HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE, JOINING THE HONOR ROLL OF HEROES WHO BUILT THE NOBLE LEGACY OF OUR CORPS. FOR THOSE OF US WHO CARRY ON THAT LEGACY, IT IS OUR OBLIGATION TO HONOR THOSE FALLEN MARINES. AS MARINES GATHER IN CELEBRATION OF OUR HISTORY, WE GATHER IN THE SHADOWS OF GREATNESS – THOUGH OUR FALLEN CAN NO LONGER PARTICIPATE IN OUR TRADITIONS, THEY WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF US AND WHO WE ARE.”

→ **NARRATOR: “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE RISE FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR FALLEN COMRADES.”**

NARRATOR: “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN PLEASE BE SEATED

(Continuation of Birthday Ball Ceremony)

→ 3. H-Hour. The adjutant moves to a position at the far end of the dance floor from the entrance, halts faces the entrance, and draws sword. (See figure 23-3.)

→ 4. Adjutant commands “**SOUND ATTENTION**.” Drum and trumpet detail sounds “*Attention*.” Escorts execute attention without command.

→ 5. Adjutant commands “**SOUND ADJUTANT’S CALL**.” Drum and trumpet detail sounds “*Adjutant’s Call*.”

(Successive paragraphs to be re-numbered accordingly.)