The military salute is rendered by men and women in uniform (and may also include boys and girls in the uniform of Scouts, CAPS, ROTC, and others). Those not in uniform salute the flag by standing at attention, tall and straight with the left arm at the side, and placing the right hand over the heart. Men who are wearing a hat should remove the hat with their right hand and hold it over their shoulder. The right HAND, not the hat, should rest over the heart.

This salute is presented at several important times:

- When the Flag is being raised or lowered from the flag pole.
- When the Flag is passing by, as in a parade or Flag ceremony
- When reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- At the Playing of our National Anthem.

During these, and other appropriate occasions, the Flag Code establishes the proper protocol to practice in saluting and showing respect for the flag:

All persons present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute.

Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.

Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.
When the Flag is being raised or lowered, the salute should be given at the moment the process begins and be held until the flag has been raised to the top of the pole or lowered to its base.

When the flag is passing by, as in a parade or flag ceremony, the salute should be given at the moment the flag passes your position, and held until it has passed by.

When the Pledge of Allegiance is being given, the hand-salute should be given before the first words are spoken, and held until the last words have been spoken. Often someone will be delegated to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. In these circumstances the leader will often give instructions or a command to render the salute, and then to drop the salute.

When the National Anthem is played, the salute should be given at the opening note and held until the last note has been played.

The Military Salute

The "Military Salute" is rendered by men and women in full uniform (including a "cover" or hat). The salute is given from a position of full ATTENTION, standing straight with the left arm at the side, hand against the thigh and the fingertips curled slightly inward. The feet should be placed with the heels together, the toes pointing outward at a 45-degree angle (not together).

The salute is rendered by bringing the right arm up so that the lower part of the upper arm is horizontal from the body at a 90-degree angle, and the forearm is held at a 45-degree angle towards the brow. The thumb and fingers of the right hand are closed comfortably but firmly, the forefinger touching the brim of the cap just to the right of center, palm down. (When uncovered...meaning you are not wearing a hat...the forefinger should be at the top/center of the right eyebrow). Military men and women render the salute with all 4 fingers of the hand extended and parallel.

The Flag Code states that, when giving the Pledge of Allegiance "Persons in uniform should REMAIN SILENT, face the flag, and render the military salute". When the pledge is given, if you see a man or woman in uniform saluting but not reciting the pledge that is the reason for their silence.