

army retirement ceremony script

army retirement ceremony script marks a significant milestone in the career of any service member, symbolizing years of dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to the nation. Crafting a thoughtful and respectful army retirement ceremony script is essential to honor the retiree's achievements and contributions effectively. This article explores the key components of an army retirement ceremony script, providing guidance on structure, tone, and content to create a memorable and dignified event. It will discuss essential elements such as opening remarks, speeches, award presentations, and closing statements, ensuring the script reflects military traditions and protocol. Additionally, the article offers practical tips for tailoring the script to suit various ranks and service durations. Whether for a formal battalion ceremony or an intimate gathering, understanding how to write a comprehensive army retirement ceremony script helps convey gratitude and respect appropriately. Below is an overview of the topics covered in this guide.

- Understanding the Purpose of an Army Retirement Ceremony Script
- Key Components of an Effective Retirement Ceremony Script
- Writing the Opening Remarks
- Incorporating Speeches and Testimonials
- Presenting Awards and Honors
- Closing the Ceremony with Impact
- Tips for Customizing the Script

Understanding the Purpose of an Army Retirement Ceremony Script

An army retirement ceremony script serves as the blueprint for the event, guiding the sequence of activities and ensuring all protocol is observed. Its primary purpose is to honor the retiree's military career, recognize their accomplishments, and provide a formal farewell. The script helps maintain order during the ceremony, enabling smooth transitions between segments and clear communication to attendees. It also ensures that all key individuals, such as commanding officers and family members, have their roles defined. By carefully preparing the script, organizers can create an atmosphere of respect and celebration, highlighting the retiree's service and dedication to the Army.

Key Components of an Effective Retirement Ceremony

Script

A well-crafted army retirement ceremony script includes several essential components that collectively create a meaningful event. Each segment has a specific function and contributes to the overall tone and flow of the ceremony. The main components typically include:

- **Opening Remarks:** Introducing the ceremony and welcoming attendees.
- **Reading of Orders:** Official retirement orders are read aloud to formalize the transition.
- **Speeches:** Remarks from commanding officers, peers, and sometimes family members.
- **Award Presentation:** Presentation of medals, certificates, and tokens of appreciation.
- **Retiree's Speech:** An opportunity for the retiree to express gratitude and share reflections.
- **Closing Statements:** Final remarks and ceremonial closure.

Each of these parts should be carefully scripted to reflect the retiree's unique service record and the ceremony's tone, whether formal or more relaxed.

Writing the Opening Remarks

The opening remarks set the tone for the entire retirement ceremony and should be crafted with professionalism and respect. Typically delivered by the master of ceremonies or a senior officer, these remarks welcome attendees, introduce the purpose of the event, and acknowledge the retiree's presence. It is important to mention the retiree's branch, rank, and years of service to establish context. The opening should be concise, warm, and dignified, providing a clear transition into the formal proceedings.

Sample Opening Remarks

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We are gathered here today to honor the distinguished career and dedication of [Rank and Name], who after [number] years of faithful service to the United States Army, is retiring. This ceremony is a tribute to their commitment, achievements, and the sacrifices made in defense of our nation."

Incorporating Speeches and Testimonials

Speeches are a vital part of an army retirement ceremony script, offering personal insights and formal recognition. Typically, these speeches come from the retiree's commanding officer, teammates, and sometimes family or close friends. The content should highlight the retiree's contributions, leadership qualities, and impact on the unit and community. Testimonials add a personal touch, making the ceremony more heartfelt and memorable.

Guidelines for Speeches

- Keep speeches respectful and focused on the retiree's military career.
- Include specific anecdotes or achievements to personalize the message.
- Maintain brevity to keep the ceremony engaging and on schedule.
- Practice beforehand to ensure smooth delivery.

Presenting Awards and Honors

A significant portion of the retirement ceremony involves the presentation of awards, medals, and honors earned throughout the retiree's career. The script should clearly specify the sequence for these presentations, including the names and significance of the awards. This segment is often accompanied by a brief explanation of each award to inform attendees of its importance. Proper protocol should be observed, such as standing at attention and saluting where appropriate.

Common Awards Presented at Retirement

- Army Achievement Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Retirement Certificate or Plaque

Closing the Ceremony with Impact

The closing portion of the army retirement ceremony script is crucial for providing a respectful and heartfelt conclusion. This section typically includes final remarks from the master of ceremonies or a senior officer, a formal salute or acknowledgment, and instructions for any post-ceremony events such as receptions. The closing should express gratitude to the retiree and encourage attendees to celebrate their achievements.

Example Closing Statements

“As we conclude today’s ceremony, let us once again extend our deepest thanks to [Rank and Name] for their unwavering service to our country. May their retirement be filled with success, happiness, and well-deserved rest. Thank you all for joining us in honoring this remarkable soldier.”

Tips for Customizing the Script

Every army retirement ceremony is unique, and the script should reflect the retiree’s individual journey and the preferences of the unit. Customization enhances the ceremony’s emotional impact and relevance. Consider these tips when tailoring the script:

- Incorporate specific achievements, deployments, and milestones relevant to the retiree.
- Adjust the tone to suit the formality of the event and the retiree’s personality.
- Include family acknowledgments to recognize their support during the retiree’s service.
- Coordinate with the retiree to include any personal messages or reflections they wish to share.
- Ensure the script complies with military customs and traditions to maintain protocol.

By thoughtfully customizing the army retirement ceremony script, organizers can create a memorable and fitting tribute that honors a lifetime of service.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key components of an army retirement ceremony script?

An army retirement ceremony script typically includes a welcome address, a summary of the retiree's military career, presentations of awards and honors, speeches by commanding officers and peers, the retiree's farewell speech, and closing remarks.

How can I personalize an army retirement ceremony script?

To personalize the script, include specific achievements, anecdotes, and experiences unique to the retiree's career. Mention memorable moments, contributions to the unit, and express gratitude for their service to make the ceremony more meaningful.

What is the appropriate tone for an army retirement ceremony script?

The tone should be respectful, celebratory, and heartfelt. It should honor the retiree's dedication and

sacrifices while maintaining a formal military decorum. Adding light humor or personal stories can make it more engaging without losing respectfulness.

Who usually delivers the speeches during an army retirement ceremony?

Speeches are commonly delivered by the retiree's commanding officer, senior officers, peers, and sometimes family members. The retiree also typically gives a farewell speech reflecting on their service and future plans.

How long should an army retirement ceremony script be?

An effective army retirement ceremony script usually lasts between 30 to 60 minutes. This allows enough time to cover all formalities, speeches, presentations, and the retiree's farewell without making the ceremony too lengthy or rushed.

Additional Resources

1. *"Army Retirement Ceremony Script Guide: Honoring a Soldier's Journey"*

This book offers a comprehensive template and step-by-step instructions for crafting meaningful retirement ceremony scripts. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing service achievements and personal sacrifices. Readers will find sample speeches, quotes, and ceremonial protocols to create memorable events.

2. *"The Art of Military Farewells: Writing and Delivering Retirement Speeches"*

Focused on the speech aspect of retirement ceremonies, this guide helps commanders, peers, and family members compose heartfelt and inspiring messages. It includes tips on tone, structure, and personalization to ensure the words resonate with the retiring soldier and audience alike.

3. *"Ceremonial Traditions in the U.S. Army: A Guide for Retirement Events"*

This book explores the rich traditions and customs observed during Army retirement ceremonies. It covers official protocols, the significance of various honors, and the roles of different participants, helping organizers uphold respect and formality during the event.

4. *"Military Retirement: Planning and Executing a Memorable Ceremony"*

A practical handbook for event planners and military personnel, detailing everything from scheduling to scriptwriting and guest coordination. It provides checklists and timelines to ensure no detail is overlooked, resulting in a smooth and dignified retirement celebration.

5. *"Honoring Service: Inspirational Stories and Speeches for Army Retirements"*

This collection features real-life stories and sample speeches from various Army retirement ceremonies. It serves as a source of inspiration and guidance, illustrating how to celebrate a soldier's career with dignity and warmth.

6. *"Leadership and Legacy: Crafting Meaningful Retirement Ceremonies in the Military"*

Focusing on the leadership aspect, this book discusses how retirement ceremonies can reinforce values and legacy within military units. It offers script ideas that highlight leadership lessons and the lasting impact of the retiring soldier's service.

7. *"Scripts and Protocols for Military Retirement Ceremonies"*

A detailed manual containing ready-to-use scripts and protocol guidelines for different types of military retirement ceremonies. It is designed to assist officers and ceremony coordinators in maintaining consistency and tradition while personalizing the event.

8. *"From Soldier to Civilian: Transition and Tribute in Army Retirement Ceremonies"*

This book addresses the emotional and practical aspects of transitioning from military to civilian life, explored through the lens of retirement ceremonies. It includes advice on crafting messages that honor past service while looking forward to new beginnings.

9. *"Celebrating Service: A Guide to Military Retirement Ceremony Etiquette and Speeches"*

Covering etiquette and speechwriting, this guide helps organizers and speakers navigate the formalities and emotional nuances of retirement ceremonies. It aims to ensure the event is respectful, engaging, and appropriately honors the retiree's contributions.

Army Retirement Ceremony Script

Army Retirement Ceremony Script: Honoring a Lifetime of Service

Don't let a momentous occasion be marred by awkward silence or a poorly planned ceremony. Planning a retirement ceremony for an Army veteran is a significant undertaking. You want it to be respectful, meaningful, and a fitting tribute to their years of dedication. But juggling logistics, finding the right words, and ensuring a smooth, heartfelt event can feel overwhelming. Are you struggling to create a script that truly captures their legacy and honors their service? Do you fear forgetting important details or failing to properly acknowledge their contributions? This guide provides the tools and resources to create a truly memorable and impactful retirement ceremony.

This ebook, *The Ultimate Guide to Army Retirement Ceremony Scripts: A Step-by-Step Planning Guide*, by Captain (Ret.) Eleanor Vance, will equip you with everything you need.

Contents:

Introduction: Understanding the Importance of a Meaningful Ceremony
Chapter 1: Structuring Your Ceremony: From Arrival to Farewell
Chapter 2: Crafting the Perfect Speech: Honoring the Retiree's Achievements
Chapter 3: Incorporating Military Traditions and Protocol
Chapter 4: Essential Elements: Presentations, Awards, and Remembrances
Chapter 5: Sample Scripts & Adaptable Templates
Chapter 6: Managing Logistics and Coordinating Speakers
Chapter 7: Handling Potential Challenges and Contingencies
Conclusion: Celebrating a Lifetime of Service and Sacrifice

The Ultimate Guide to Army Retirement Ceremony Scripts: A Step-by-Step Planning Guide

Introduction: Understanding the Importance of a Meaningful Ceremony

The retirement of an Army veteran marks not just the end of a career, but the culmination of years of unwavering commitment, sacrifice, and service to their country. A well-planned retirement ceremony isn't merely a formality; it's a powerful expression of gratitude, respect, and admiration. It provides a platform to publicly acknowledge their contributions, celebrate their achievements, and honor their unwavering dedication. A thoughtfully crafted ceremony can bring closure, provide a sense of accomplishment, and leave a lasting impression on the retiree and their loved ones. This guide will walk you through the process of creating a ceremony that truly reflects the significance of their service.

Chapter 1: Structuring Your Ceremony: From Arrival to Farewell

A well-structured ceremony ensures a smooth and meaningful flow, keeping the audience engaged and the retiree feeling honored. This chapter will outline a suggested structure, adaptable to various contexts and preferences.

Arrival and Welcome: The ceremony begins with a formal welcome, introducing the retiree and setting the tone. Consider including a brief musical prelude or a slideshow of photos showcasing the retiree's career highlights.

Opening Remarks: A brief speech acknowledging the significance of the event and expressing gratitude for the retiree's service. This can be delivered by a senior officer, family member, or close friend.

Presentations and Awards: The formal presentation of retirement certificates, medals, and other awards should be conducted with precision and respect. Ensure you understand the correct protocol for presenting each award.

Speeches and Tributes: This is the heart of the ceremony. Include speeches from significant individuals who can share personal anecdotes and highlight the retiree's contributions and character. Keep speeches concise and heartfelt.

Remarks by the Retiree: The retiree should have an opportunity to express gratitude, reflect on their career, and share their future plans.

Farewell and Closing Remarks: The ceremony concludes with a formal farewell, expressing gratitude

to everyone involved and wishing the retiree well in their retirement. A final musical piece or a group photograph can provide a fitting conclusion.

Reception: A post-ceremony reception provides a relaxed environment for guests to mingle, share memories, and offer their congratulations.

Chapter 2: Crafting the Perfect Speech: Honoring the Retiree's Achievements

A well-crafted speech should personalize the experience, making it relatable and emotionally resonant. Avoid clichés and generic statements. Instead, strive for authenticity by incorporating specific anecdotes and examples that showcase the retiree's dedication, leadership, and impact.

Research and Preparation: Thoroughly research the retiree's career, focusing on significant achievements, notable deployments, and any exceptional acts of service. Gather anecdotes and quotes from colleagues, superiors, and subordinates to build a compelling narrative.

Structure and Content: The speech should have a clear structure, opening with a compelling introduction, moving through key highlights of the retiree's career, and concluding with heartfelt wishes for their future.

Tone and Style: Maintain a respectful and appreciative tone. While acknowledging achievements, also incorporate elements of humor and personal reflection where appropriate, keeping the audience engaged and emotions high.

Delivery and Practice: Practice the speech thoroughly to ensure a confident and smooth delivery. Maintain eye contact with the audience, and speak with clarity and sincerity.

Chapter 3: Incorporating Military Traditions and Protocol

Adhering to military traditions and protocols adds an element of formality and respect to the ceremony. This section covers key aspects to ensure a flawless execution:

Uniform and Dress Code: Ensure that all attendees, especially speakers and those presenting awards, adhere to appropriate military dress regulations. This demonstrates respect for the occasion and the retiree's service.

Flag Ceremony: Incorporating a flag ceremony, such as the retiring of a flag or the presentation of a folded flag, adds a poignant touch to the event. Consult military protocol for proper flag handling.

Military Honors: Depending on the retiree's rank and achievements, military honors, such as a gun salute or a bugle call (Taps), may be included to add a symbolic touch to the ceremony.

Order of Events: Ensure all elements of the ceremony are sequenced according to appropriate protocol. This ensures a professional and respectful atmosphere.

Chapter 4: Essential Elements: Presentations, Awards, and

Remembrances

This chapter focuses on the specific elements of the ceremony:

Retirement Certificate Presentation: This is the official acknowledgment of the retiree's retirement from the Army. The presentation should be conducted with dignity and formality.

Medal and Award Presentations: This is an opportunity to recognize specific achievements and contributions made throughout the retiree's career. Ensure accurate presentation of all awards and medals.

Photo Displays and Mementos: Create a slideshow or display of photos showcasing the retiree's career and personal life, adding a visual and emotional element to the celebration. Consider collecting mementos from fellow soldiers to create a lasting keepsake.

Guest Book: Provide a guest book for attendees to share messages of congratulations and gratitude, creating a cherished memento for the retiree.

Chapter 5: Sample Scripts & Adaptable Templates

This chapter offers sample scripts for various situations, providing a starting point for crafting your unique ceremony. These templates can be adapted to fit the specific circumstances and personality of the retiree.

Chapter 6: Managing Logistics and Coordinating Speakers

This chapter tackles the practical aspects of planning:

Venue Selection: Choosing the right venue - from a formal military base to a more intimate location - is crucial for creating the desired atmosphere.

Guest List Management: Creating a comprehensive guest list, managing RSVPs, and coordinating seating arrangements are essential for a smooth event.

Speaker Coordination: Communicate clearly with speakers about the event's structure, their allotted time, and the desired tone of their speeches.

Catering and Refreshments: Arranging catering or refreshments contributes to a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere.

Chapter 7: Handling Potential Challenges and Contingencies

This chapter addresses potential issues:

Unexpected Delays: Have a contingency plan in place for unforeseen circumstances, such as late arrivals or technical difficulties.

Emotional Moments: Be prepared for emotional moments and have tissues readily available.

Protocol Variations: Understanding the variations in military protocol based on rank and branch is essential for a successful ceremony.

Conclusion: Celebrating a Lifetime of Service and Sacrifice

This book aims to guide you through the creation of a truly meaningful and impactful retirement ceremony for an Army veteran, honoring their legacy and celebrating their service.

FAQs

1. What if the retiree doesn't want a formal ceremony? Adapt the script and elements to reflect their wishes – perhaps a smaller, informal gathering with close friends and family.
2. How long should the ceremony be? Aim for a ceremony that's both meaningful and respectful of the attendees' time; typically 60-90 minutes.
3. Who should deliver the main speech? A close friend, family member, or a superior officer who can speak to the retiree's character and achievements is ideal.
4. What if I don't know the retiree's military history well? Thoroughly research their career, using official records and speaking with colleagues or supervisors.
5. How can I incorporate personal touches into the ceremony? Include photos, music, or anecdotes that reflect the retiree's personality and interests.
6. What's the appropriate dress code? Military dress uniform for speakers and attendees is generally preferred; check with the retiree for their preferences.
7. What if there's a technical malfunction during the ceremony? Have a backup plan in place (e.g., printed speeches, alternative music).
8. How do I handle emotional moments during the ceremony? Be sensitive and supportive. Have tissues available and allow time for reflection.
9. How can I ensure the ceremony stays respectful and appropriate? Carefully review the script and ensure all elements adhere to military protocol and etiquette.

Related Articles:

1. Planning a Military Retirement Party: This article delves into planning a celebratory party following the formal ceremony.
2. Military Retirement Gifts: The Ultimate Guide: This article offers ideas for thoughtful and meaningful gifts for the retiree.

3. Writing a Eulogy for a Veteran: This article provides guidance on writing a respectful eulogy for a veteran who has passed away.
4. Understanding Military Ranks and Insignia: This article explains military rank structure and insignia for better ceremony organization.
5. Creating a Military Retirement Slideshow: This article offers tips and resources for creating a memorable visual presentation.
6. Military Etiquette and Protocol: This article explains proper military etiquette and protocols relevant to the ceremony.
7. Choosing the Right Venue for a Military Retirement Ceremony: This article examines various venues and factors to consider when making a selection.
8. Budgeting for a Military Retirement Ceremony: This article helps in planning a ceremony within a predetermined budget.
9. Handling Difficult Situations at a Military Retirement Ceremony: This article provides strategies for handling unexpected challenges or emotional situations during the event.

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Liberation Army (PLA) has embarked on its most wide-ranging and ambitious restructuring since 1949, including major changes to most of its key organizations. The restructuring reflects the desire to strengthen PLA joint operation capabilities- on land, sea, in the air, and in the space and cyber domains. The reforms could result in a more adept joint warfighting force, though the PLA will continue to face a number of key hurdles to effective joint operations. Several potential actions would indicate that the PLA is overcoming obstacles to a stronger joint operations capability. The reforms are also intended to increase Chairman Xi Jinping's control over the PLA and to reinvigorate Chinese Communist Party (CCP) organs within the military. Xi Jinping's ability to push through reforms indicates that he has more authority over the PLA than his recent predecessors. The restructuring could create new opportunities for U.S.-China military contacts.

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comprehensive account to date of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon and aftermath, this volume includes unprecedented details on the impact on the Pentagon building and personnel and the scope of the rescue, recovery, and caregiving effort. It features 32 pages of photographs and more than a dozen diagrams and illustrations not previously available.

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Moving to America turns H&à's life inside out. For all the 10 years of her life, H&à has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by, and the beauty of her very own papaya tree. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. H&à and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, H&à discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food, the strange shape of its landscape, and the strength of her very own family. This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing as she journeys from one country to another, one life to the next.

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Force Structure, Tactics, and Modernization of the Russian Ground Forces
The mighty Soviet Army is no more. The feckless Russian Army that stumbled into Chechnya is no more. Today's Russian Army is modern, better manned, better equipped and designed for maneuver combat under nuclear-threatened conditions. This is your source for the tactics, equipment, force structure and theoretical underpinnings of a major Eurasian power. Here's what the experts are saying: A superb baseline study for understanding how and why the modern Russian Army functions as it does. Essential for specialist and generalist alike. -Colonel (Ret) David M. Glantz, foremost Western author on the Soviet Union in World War II and Editor of The Journal of Slavic Military Studies.
Congratulations to Les Grau and Chuck Bartles on filling a gap which has yawned steadily wider since the end of the USSR. Their book addresses evolving Russian views on war, including the blurring of its nature and levels, and the consequent Russian approaches to the Ground Forces' force structuring, manning, equipping, and tactics. Confidence is conferred on the validity of their arguments and conclusions by copious footnoting, mostly from an impressive array of primary sources. It is this firm grounding in Russian military writings, coupled with the authors' understanding of war and the Russian way of thinking about it, that imparts such an authoritative tone to this impressive work. -Charles Dick, former Director of the Combat Studies Research Centre, Senior Fellow at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, author of the 1991 British Army Field Manual, Volume 2, A Treatise on Soviet Operational Art and author of From Victory to Stalemate The Western Front, Summer 1944 and From Defeat to Victory, The Eastern Front, Summer 1944. Dr. Lester Grau's and Chuck Bartles' professional research on the Russian Armed Forces is widely read throughout the world and especially in Russia. Russia's Armed Forces have changed much since the large-scale reforms of 2008, which brought the Russian Army to the level of the world's other leading armies. The speed of reform combined with limited information about their core mechanisms represented a difficult challenge to the authors. They have done a great job and created a book which could be called an encyclopedia of the modern armed forces of Russia. They used their wisdom and talents to explore vital elements of the Russian military machine: the system of recruitment and training, structure of units of different levels, methods and tactics in defense and offence and even such little-known fields as the Arctic forces and the latest Russian combat robotics. -Dr. Vadim Kozyulin, Professor of Military Science and Project Director, Project on Asian Security, Emerging Technologies and Global Security Project PIR Center, Moscow. Probably the best book on the Russian Armed Forces published in North America during the past ten years. A must read for all analysts and professionals following Russian affairs. A reliable account of the strong and weak aspects of the Russian Army. Provides the first look on what the Russian Ministry of Defense learned

from best Western practices and then applied them on Russian soil. -Ruslan Pukhov, Director of the Moscow-based Centre for the Analysis of Strategies and Technologies (CAST) and member of the Public Council of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense. Author of *Brothers Armed: Military Aspects of the Crisis in Ukraine*, *Russia's New Army*, and *The Tanks of August*.

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army retirement ceremony script: Social Usage and Protocol Handbook Department of the Navy, 2001-06-15 Members of the naval service will find that at all points in their careers they can expect to be involved to some extent in the planning and execution of official ceremonies and social events. Protocol is a code of established guidelines on proper etiquette and precedence which, when followed, lays the foundation for a successful event. From this foundation, the host should consider the facets which make a particular situation unique, and from there, use imagination to design a memorable occasion. The most important consideration in planning should always be the comfort of one's guests. A clever host/hostess is able to reach a proper mixture of protocol and common sense that will enable guests to enjoy themselves completely. If this is accomplished, an event is truly successful.

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Kaplan describes how these men and women maneuvered the idea through the bureaucracy and made it official policy. This is a story of power, politics, ideas, and personalities—and how they converged to reshape the twenty-first-century American military. But it is also a cautionary tale about how creative doctrine can harden into dogma, how smart strategists—today's "best and brightest"—can win the battles at home but not the wars abroad. Petraeus and his fellow insurgents made the US military more adaptive to the conflicts of the modern era, but they also created the tools—and made it more tempting—for political leaders to wade into wars that they would be wise to avoid.

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army retirement ceremony script: *Khobar Towers: Tragedy and Response* Perry D. Jamieson, 2008 This account of the Khobar Towers bombing tells the story of the horrific attack and the magnificent response of airmen doing their duty under nearly impossible circumstances. None of them view their actions as heroic, yet the reader will marvel at their calm professionalism. All of them say it was just their job, but the reader will wonder how they could be so well trained to act almost instinctively to do the right thing at the right time. None of them would see their actions as selfless, yet countless numbers refused medical attention until the more seriously injured got treatment. Throughout this book, the themes of duty, commitment, and devotion to comrades resoundingly underscore the notion that America's brightest, bravest, and best wear her uniforms in service to the nation. This book is more than heroic actions, though, for there is also controversy. Were commanders responsible for not adequately protecting their people? What should one make of the several conflicting investigations following the attack? Dr. Jamieson has not shied away from these difficult questions, and others, but has discussed them and other controversial judgments in a straightforward and dispassionate way that will bring them into focus for everyone. It is clear from this book that there is a larger issue than just the response to the bombing. It is the issue of the example set by America's airmen. Future airmen who read this book will be stronger and will stand on the shoulders of those who suffered and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

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army retirement ceremony script: Frozen Chosin: U.S. Marines At The Changjin Reservoir [Illustrated Edition] Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, 2015-11-06 Includes more than 40 maps, plans and illustrations. This volume in the official History of the Marine Corps chronicles the part played by United States Marines in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. The race to the Yalu was on. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's strategic triumph at Inchon and the subsequent breakout of the U.S. Eighth Army from the Pusan Perimeter and the recapture of Seoul had changed the direction of the war. Only the finishing touches needed to be done to complete the destruction of the North Korean People's Army. Moving up the east coast was the independent X Corps, commanded by Major General Edward M. Almond, USA. The 1st Marine Division, under Major General Oliver P. Smith, was part of X Corps and had been so since the 15 September 1950 landing at Inchon. After Seoul the 1st Marine Division had reloaded into its amphibious ships and had swung around the Korean peninsula to land at Wonsan on the east coast. The landing on 26 October 1950 met no opposition; the port had been taken from the land side by the resurgent South Korean army. The date was General Smith's 57th birthday, but he let it pass unnoticed. Two days later he ordered Colonel Homer L. Litzenberg, Jr., 47, to move his 7th Marine Regimental Combat Team north from

Wonsan to Hamhung. Smith was then to prepare for an advance to the Manchurian border, 135 miles distant. And so began one of the Marine Corps' greatest battles—or, as the Corps would call it, the "Chosin Reservoir Campaign." The Marines called it the "Chosin" Reservoir because that is what their Japanese-based maps called it. The South Koreans, nationalistic sensibilities disturbed, preferred—and, indeed, would come to insist—that it be called the "Changjin" Reservoir.

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