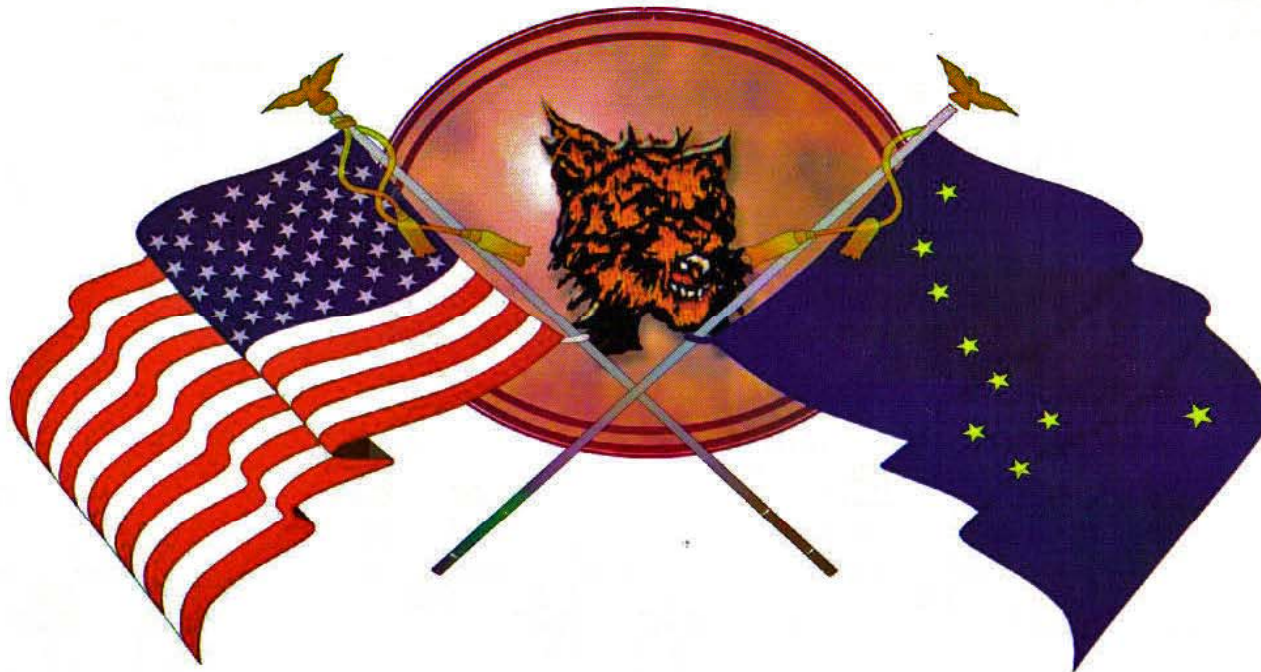




A.J. DIMOND JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS





Concept of the Briefing



While doing research last school year for a flag retirement ceremony, our JROTC program became aware of two glaring omissions from the state statutes which govern our flag:

- There is no proper method stipulated for displaying the flag against a wall
- There is no proper method stipulated for folding the flag

The purpose of this briefing is to discuss these two omissions and to recommend solutions to improve our statutes.

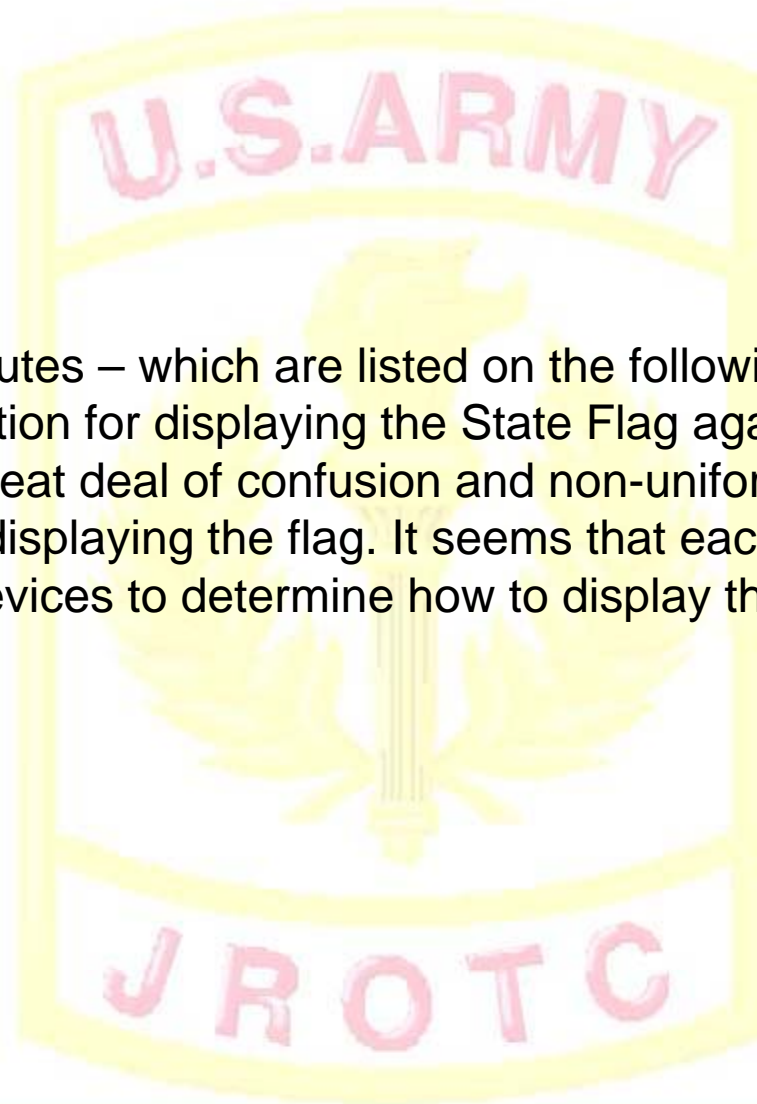
The format used will be the military Problem-Discussion-Recommendation format.



Problem – How to display the flag



The Alaska Statutes – which are listed on the following slide- do not give an explanation for displaying the State Flag against a wall. This has caused a great deal of confusion and non-uniformity in how institutions are displaying the flag. It seems that each facility is basically left to its own devices to determine how to display the flag.





Problem – How to display the flag



- **AS 44.09.030. Display and Retirement of Flags.**
- **(a)** The official flag of the state shall be displayed with the flag of the United States only from sunrise to sunset, or between the hours designated by proper authority. However, the flag may be displayed after sunset upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect.
- **(b)** The flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Alaska shall be displayed daily, weather permitting, in the following places:
- **(1)** on or near the main administration building of every institution under the authority or control of the state government;
- **(2)** in or near every schoolhouse during school days.
- **(c)** An official flag of the state that is no longer a fitting emblem for display because it is worn, tattered, or otherwise damaged may be respectfully retired by fire.



Problem – How to display the flag



Schools with the North Star displayed to the observers' right



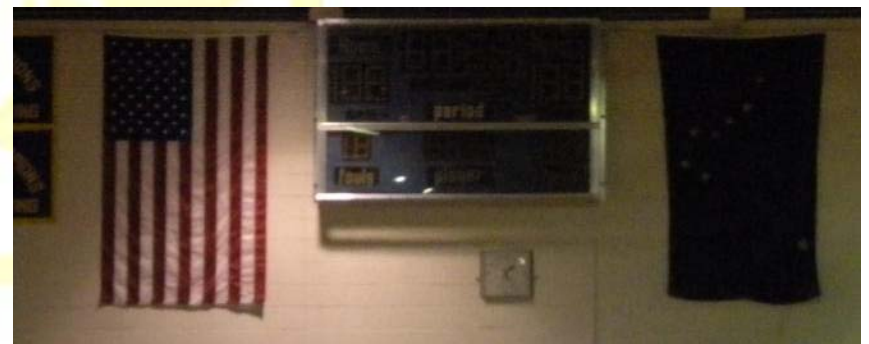
Dimond High School



Grace Christian School



Chugiak High School



Bartlett High School



Problem – How to display the flag



Schools with the North Star displayed to the observers' left



East High School



Service High School

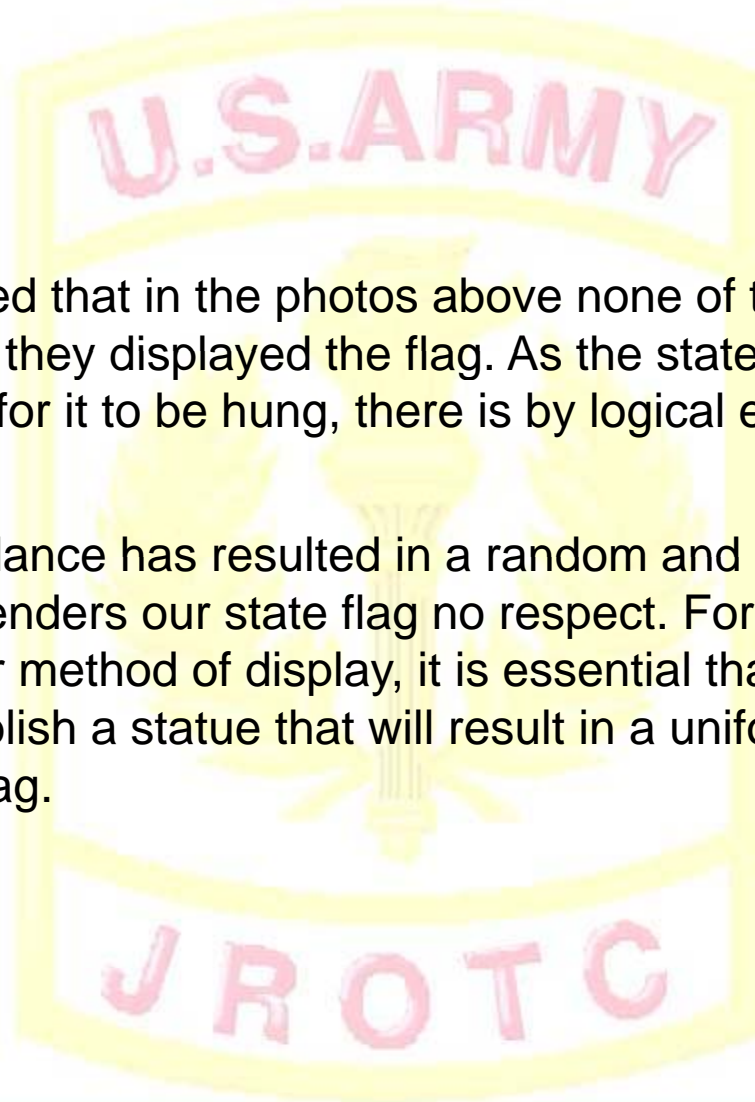


Discussion



It should be noted that in the photos above none of the schools are incorrect in how they displayed the flag. As the state has not mandated the correct way for it to be hung, there is by logical extension no incorrect way.

This lack of guidance has resulted in a random and inconsistent manner of display that renders our state flag no respect. For the sake of being consistent in our method of display, it is essential that our state legislature establish a statute that will result in a uniform method of displaying the flag.





Recommendation



While neither method of display seems to have significant advantages over the other, the cadets of Dimond JROTC would like to recommend that the statute be worded to mandate that when hung vertically from a wall, that the North Star be displayed to the observer's right (a.k.a. "the flag's own left") as in the photo below.





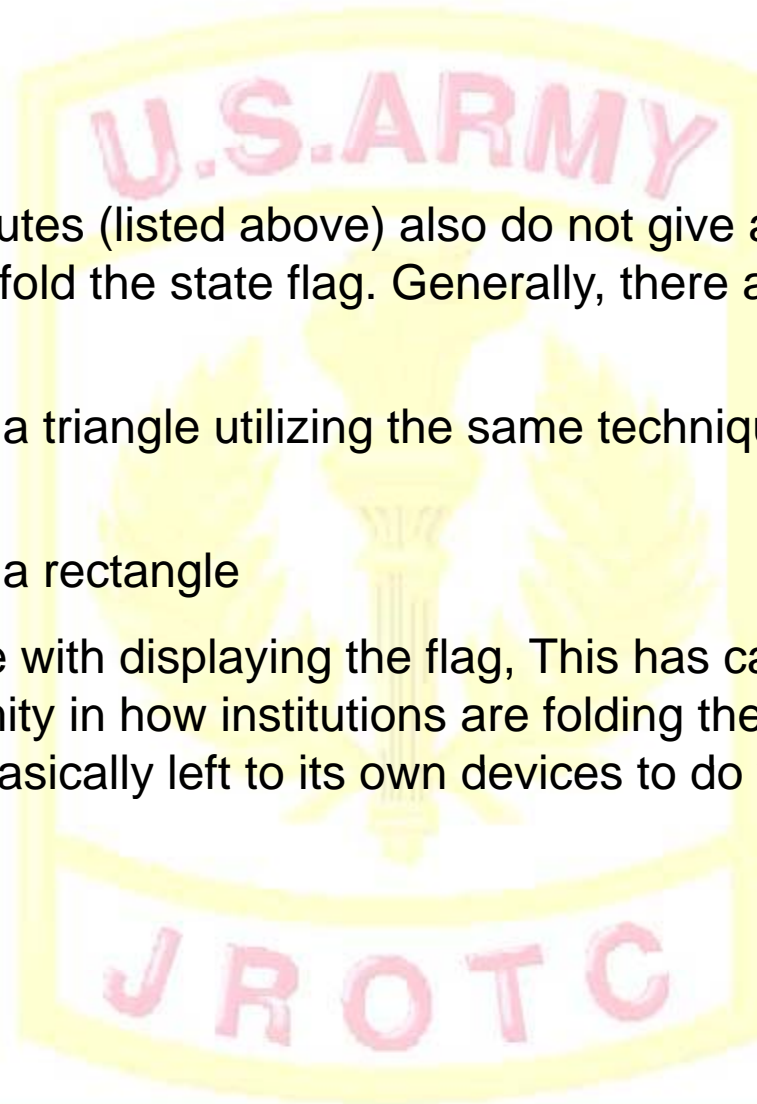
Problem – How to fold the flag



The Alaska Statutes (listed above) also do not give an explanation for how to properly fold the state flag. Generally, there are two common options.

- Fold the flag in a triangle utilizing the same techniques used to fold our national colors
- Fold the flag in a rectangle

As was the case with displaying the flag, This has caused confusion and non-uniformity in how institutions are folding the flag. It seems that each facility is basically left to its own devices to do what it thinks is best.

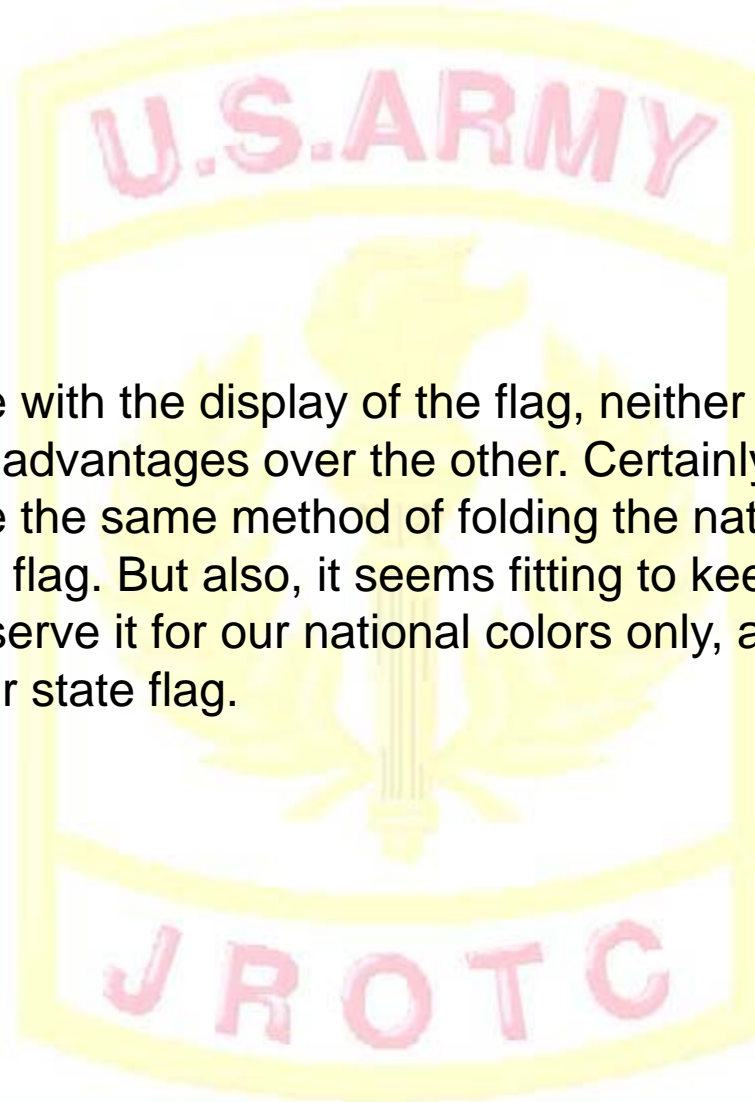




Discussion



As was the case with the display of the flag, neither options seems to have significant advantages over the other. Certainly it seems a logical extension to use the same method of folding the national colors when folding our state flag. But also, it seems fitting to keep that method “sacred” and reserve it for our national colors only, and to use a “lessor” technique for our state flag.





Recommendation



After much thought and deliberation, the cadets of Dimond JROTC would like to recommend that the triangle technique used for our national colors be reserved for it alone, and we opt to fold our state flag in a rectangle.

Part of our motivation in this recommendation is respect for our national flag, and part is a passionate belief in the uniqueness of Alaska and a desire to reflect that in how we fold our flag. After much trial and error, we have developed a technique that is neither complicated or cumbersome, and yet when done properly, results with the North Star – the defining emblem of our state – being displayed on top of the flag. The slides that follow describe how this is done.



Recommendation

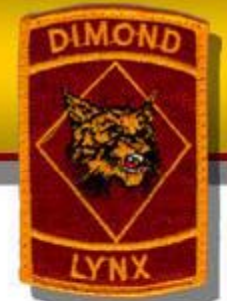


With the flag held horizontally and with the north star in the upper right corner from the camera's perspective...





Recommendation



Fold the flag width-wise.





Recommendation



When done, the open edge is away from and the folded edge is toward the camera.





Recommendation



Fold the flag width-wise a second time.





Recommendation



As before, when done, the open edge is away from and the folded edge is toward the camera.





Recommendation



Fold the flag length-wise.





Recommendation



When done, the open edge is to the right and the folded edge is to the left as viewed by the camera.





Recommendation



Fold the flag length-wise a second time.





Recommendation



(Continued)





Recommendation



As before, when done, the open edge is to the right and the folded edge is to the left as viewed by the camera.





Recommendation



Fold the flag length-wise a third time.





Recommendation

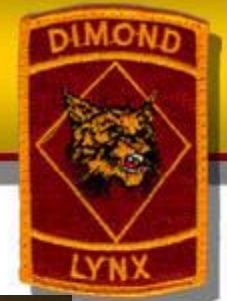


As before, when done, the open edge is to the right and the folded edge is to the left as viewed by the camera.





Recommendations



When properly folded, the North Star will be visible on the top of the flag.





Summary



Through our research and experience, we have seen that the Alaskan flag has no proper method of display or folding. This can be seen in many schools and other public institutions regulated by the government.

Just as the United States has a thorough flag code, we would like to propose putting in a more valid and descriptive flag code for the state of Alaska.

This in turn would remedy the confusion of how to display and fold the flag create and create uniformity throughout our public and governmental institutions.

We firmly believe that this project would provide for the betterment of our school, community, and state. We urge you to consider our proposal and help guide us in this matter.