

POW Flag Protocol

The POW/MIA flag, or Prisoners of War/Missing in Action, has been deemed by the 101st United States Congress to be "the symbol of our nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation."

U.S. Flag Code

1. The United States Flag Code states, "Display of the POW/MIA flag pursuant to this section shall be in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public."

POW/MIA Recognition Day

2. In 1998, the United States Congress ruled that the POW/MIA flag would fly in the public lobbies of all military buildings, post offices, veterans memorials, and defense agencies. These institutions were required to fly the flag on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

National Flag Precedence

3. The United States Flag Code also states "The POW/MIA flag should be flown beneath the flag of the United States, if displayed on the same pole." Just as with any other state, presidential, or military flag, the United States flag must be flown at the top.

State Precedence

4. The POW/MIA flag should be flown above any state or military flag.

Flag Size

5. The POW/MIA flag should be the same size or smaller than the above adjacent American flag if flown on the same pole.

It must be noted the POW/MIA flag is a "symbol of our nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia". Unlike the flag of the United States, it is not a symbol of our nation and therefore the **POW/MIA flag is not to be saluted.**