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U.S. Army Reserve Retires Unit Guidon Prior To Deactivation

On September 7, 2008, Army Reserve Soldiers from the 70th Regional Readiness Command, Fort Lawton, Wash., conducted a guidon retirement ceremony for the 70th Army Band. The retirement ceremony was to honor the lineage and achievements of the deactivating unit.

The 70th Army Band was constituted on January 18, 1943 in the Army of the United States under Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 70th Infantry Division. Its campaign credits are: World War II: Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. Its deactivation date is September 15, 2008.



The guidon retirement ceremony is significant because the guidon is located at a place of honor within the formation, a guidon has traditionally served as a rally point for Soldiers during battle. In earlier times the Soldiers entrusted with bearing flags, guidons and emblems of the unit were expected to sooner part with their lives than part with the colors.

The presence of these guidons in the ceremony was of the utmost significance. The guidons represent the Soldiers, past and present, which comprise the unit. The guidons are also physical symbols of the unit's spirit, tradition and lineage.