Basic Elements of a MILITARY INVOCATION

In the Military, an **Invocation** is a patriotic prayer asking God to bless a certain event whether it is a Change of Command ceremony or a special event. It is encouraged to keep a prayer as non-sectarian as possible since not everyone will share your faith. These events are typically not voluntary meaning Service Members of various traditions will be required to attend.

### Element 1: Introduction
Begin with a line of addressing Who you are trying to invoke. Be sure to keep it general and non-sectarian.
Highlight **Character Qualities** of God that may be relevant to your event.

- "Mighty God, in you we find wisdom and courage to lead…"
- "Loving Father, thank you for your example of sacrificial leadership…"

### Element 2: Event
Clearly identify the **Event** that you are invoking God for.

- "I ask for your blessing for this Change of Command ceremony."
- "Bless CPT Smith as she relinquishes command. Bless her and her family…"
- "Thank you for bringing 1SG Kim to our Battalion. Empower him to care for his Soldiers with wisdom and care…"
- "Thank you for those who have paved the way for us…"
- "Bless those who are gathered here…"
- "May we leave a great legacy for those coming behind us."
- "Bless all who have sacrificed greatly and continue to do so for our great Nation."
- "Strengthen us as we continue to faithfully serve our Nation with Honor."
- "In Your great name, I pray, Amen."

### Element 3: Blessing
Specify who you are blessing and be sure to mention families when possible.

In a **Change of Command/Responsibility**, begin with the outgoing leader and finish with the incoming leader.

During a **Special Event** like a Military Ball or a Special Observance mention the people that are involved or have been involved in the **past, present, and future**.

- "Thank you for those who have paved the way for us…"
- "Bless those who are gathered here…"
- "May we leave a great legacy for those coming behind us."

### Element 4: Conclusion
Finish your prayer with a simple blessing of our nation.
Include everyone in the prayer that a blessing will be upon everyone gathered.

I recommend keeping God generic and pray in **first-person singular** since not everyone is praying with you.