

MARCHING BAND DRILL

OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson you will learn the formation, alignment, turns, and countermarches of Army bands on the drill field. You will also learn the actions of each individual bandmember during these movements.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

- OBJECTIVE:** After completing this lesson, you will be able to identify the movements required to lead marching band drill.
- CONDITIONS:** Given the information in this subcourse.
- ACTIONS:** You will identify the movements required to lead marching band drill.
- STANDARDS:** IAW the information contained in this lesson.

INTRODUCTION

In order for you to lead the band on the field, you must know every movement a drum major is required to perform as well as the movements of the commander and bandmembers. This lesson includes information on movements that involve the drum major and the band commander. It also includes the movements of each bandmember during the marching drill.

PART A - FORMATIONS AND ALIGNMENT

NOTE: Words in UPPER CASE indicate commands or actions of the band commander, the drum major, or the band. Words in "UPPER CASE" with quotation marks (") indicate actions, commands, or directives given by the commander of troops, the adjutant, or unit commander other than the band commander. Words underlined indicate the titles of music.

1. Normal and Close Formations.

- a. Army bands normally march in a column formation with 60 inches (two full steps) between ranks and 60 inches (two full steps) between files. [Figure 3-1](#) shows Army band formed at normal intervals.

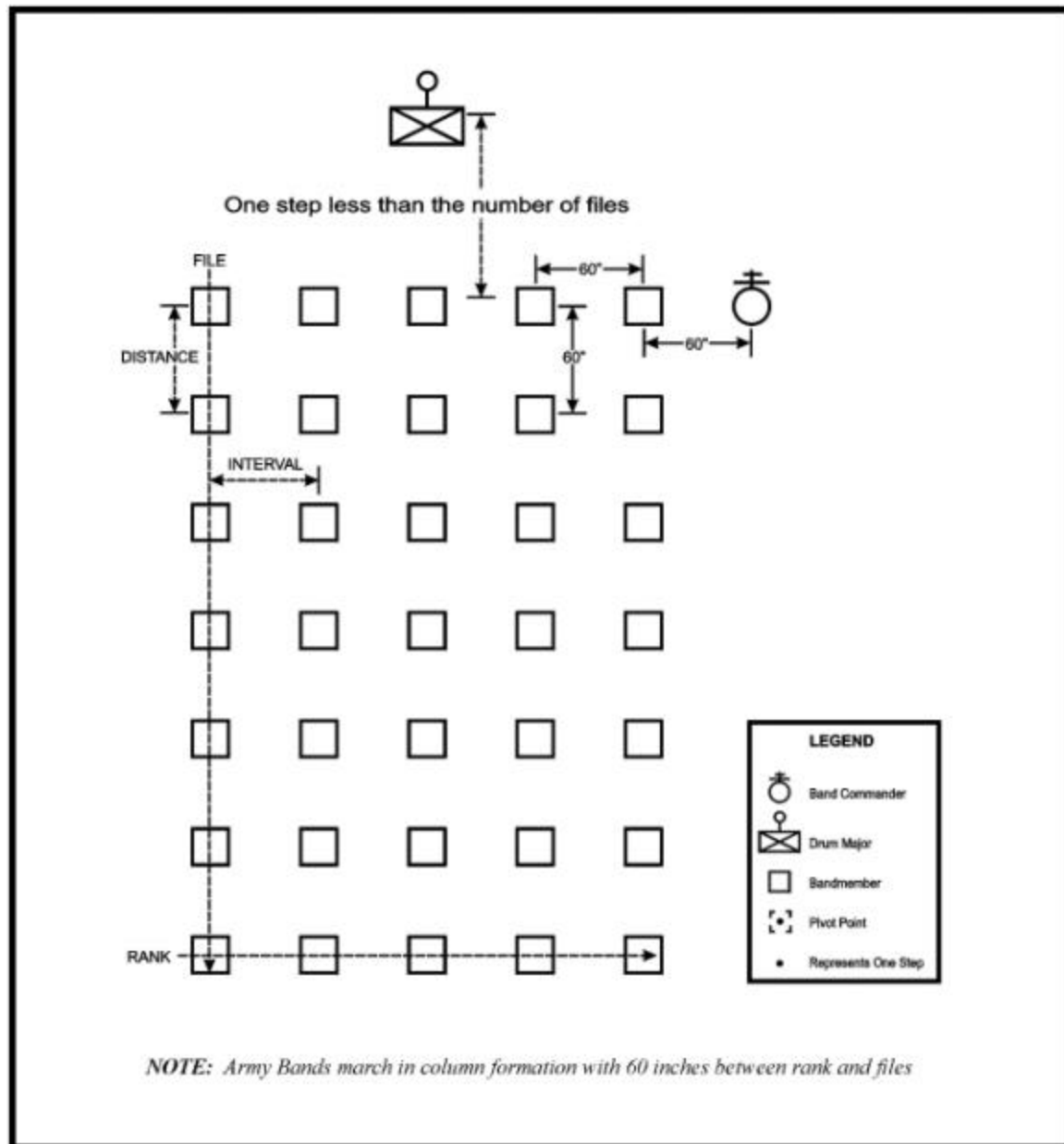


Figure 3-1. Army Bands Formed At Normal Intervals.

- b. Army bands can also march in close formation. The intervals are 30 inches (one full step) between files and 60 inches (two full steps) between ranks. [Figure 3-2](#) shows Army bands formed at close intervals.

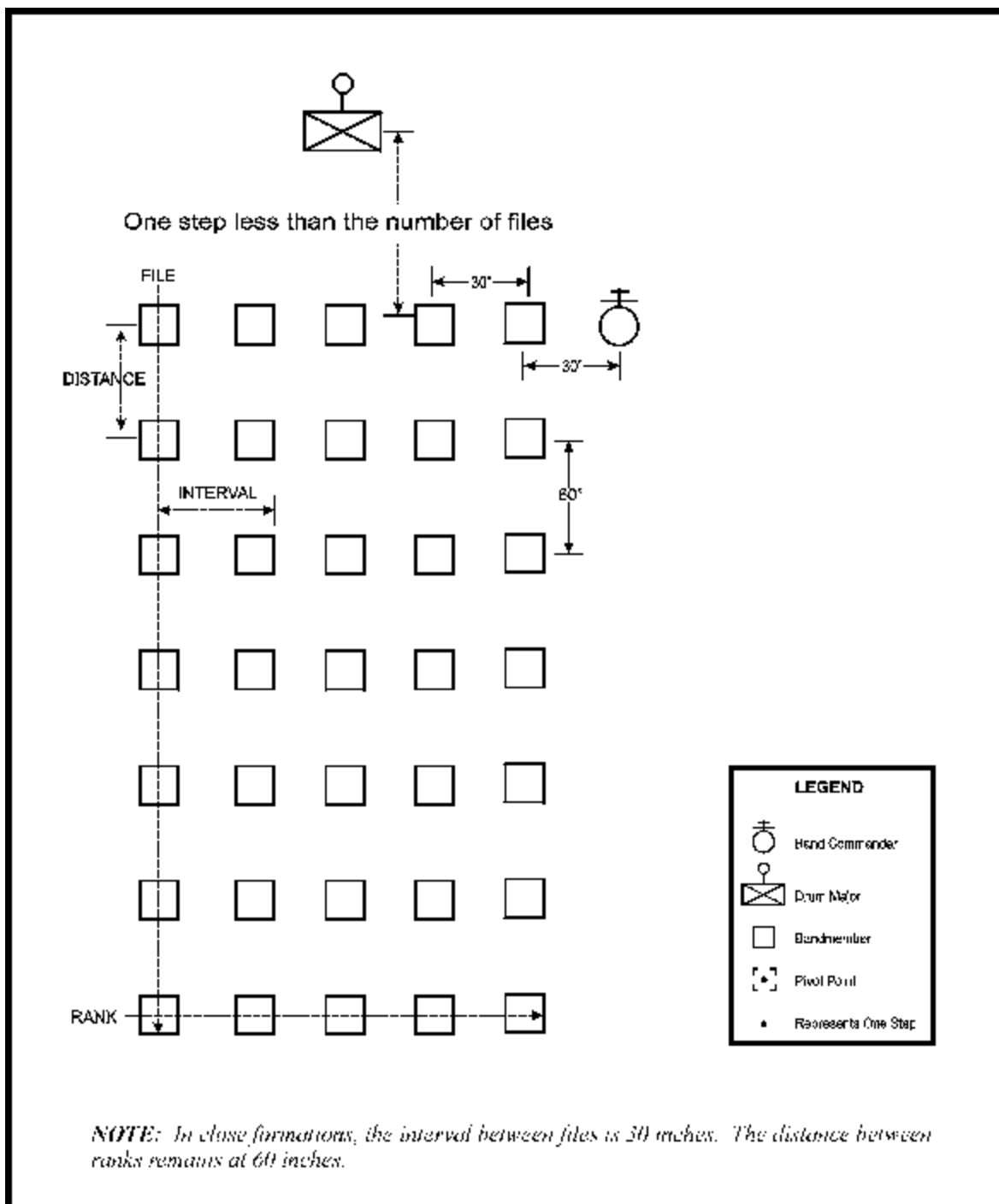


Figure 3-2. Army Bands Formed At Close Intervals.

NOTE: When marching, the full step is 30 inches; the half step is 15 inches.

2. Marching Positions.

Drum Major: MARCH centered between the flanks of the band. The distance between the drum major and the first rank is one step less than the number of files in the band. For example, if the band has five files, the drum major stands four steps in front of the first rank; if the band has four files, the drum major stands three steps in front of the first rank (See [Figure 3-1](#)). Do not include the band commander's position when measuring the band's width. When the band commander is conducting the band, STAND 60 inches to the right of the first rank of the band.

Band Commander: MARCH in the position 60 inches to the right of the first rank of the band. In street parades, there may not be enough room to march with the first rank. When this happens, MARCH in front of the second file from the right. When conducting the band, STAND in the drum major's marching position. If the band has an odd number of files, STAND off-center. This will permit the bandmembers behind the first rank of the center file to see your baton movements. If all bandmembers still cannot see your baton movements, you may modify your position by moving slightly further from the band.

Band Senior Sergeant: When you are not the drum major or performing as an instrumentalist, MARCH 60 inches to the left of the first rank of the band. In street parades, there may not be enough room to march with the first rank. When this happens, MARCH in front of the second file from the left.

3. Instrumental Placement. There is no prescribed pattern for positioning instruments within the band. However, band commanders can increase the effectiveness of the marching band by following these basic principles:

- Place French horns so that their bells project into the center of the band, not away from the band.
- Avoid dividing instrumental sections. As an exception, you may place piccolos on opposite flanks of the band.
- Group instrumental sections with similar tonal registers and timbres together.
- Fill the front rank, flanks and guide files. When necessary, leave open spaces in the last rank. Open positions in the middle of the formation interfere with alignment. They also complicate turns and other marching movements.
- Place sousaphones so that their bells are not obstructing other bandmember's view of the drum major or band commander's signals.

4. Guide Files. The guide file has the responsibility of maintaining the correct distance between the ranks within the band and between the first rank and the drum major. The guide file must maintain the 60 inch (two steps) interval between ranks. The rest of the files can then maintain the correct interval simply by dressing on the guide

file.

- a. The center file is the guide file if there is an odd number of files in the band.
 - b. The file to the right of center is the guide file if there is an even number of files.
 - c. The right file is the guide file on right turns, and the left file is the guide file on left turns.
5. Alignment. Accurate alignment is fundamental to the appearance of the marching band. The drum major aligns the band first by file, then by rank starting at the left file of the band.
- a. To align the band at normal interval (See [Figure 3-1](#)) use the following procedure.

Drum Major: Hold the mace in the **LEFT CARRY**. Move directly to a point four steps in front of the left flank file. Face the first person in the file. Perform the **BAND ALIGNMENT SIGNAL**. The drum major commands "COVER".

Bandmembers: On the command **COVER**, if you are the first person in the file, align yourself on the drum major's mace.

If you are not the first person in the file, align yourself on the person in front of you and the drum major's mace.

Drum Major: Check the file's alignment. If necessary, correct it by telling the persons not aligned to move. For example, say, **THIRD PERSON, LEFT (OR RIGHT)**. After the file is aligned, return the mace to **LEFT CARRY**. Do a **LEFT FACE, MARCH** two 30-inch steps **FORWARD**, and **HALT**. Do a **RIGHT FACE**. Repeat the alignment procedure for each file. After the last file is aligned, do a **LEFT FACE. MARCH** two steps and **HALT**. Do a **RIGHT FACE**. ~~To align the ranks, command DRESS~~

Bandmembers: If you are in the right flank file, continue to face forward.

If you are not in the right flank file, on the drum major's command **DRESS RIGHT, DRESS, TURN** your head and eyes to the right. ~~Align yourself on the drum major and~~

Drum Major:	Check the rank's alignment. If necessary, correct it by telling the persons not aligned to move. For example say, FIRST PERSON FORWARD (OR BACK). After the rank is dressed, do a LEFT FACE. MARCH two steps and do a RIGHT FACE. Repeat this procedure to align each rank. After the last rank is aligned, do a RIGHT FACE. MARCH to a point four steps past the first rank, HALT, and do a LEFT FACE. Command, READY, FRONT.
Bandmembers:	If you are in the right flank file, make no movement. If you are not in the right flank file at the command FRONT, TURN your head and eyes forward.
Drum Major:	After aligning the band ,return to your position in front of the band (See Figure 3-1). Face away from the band and wait for the band commander to arrive. You may give the band PARADE REST.if there is time before the band commander arrives to assume control of the band. Call the band to ATTENTION before the band commander approaches.
Band Commander:	MARCH to a point four steps in front of the drum major. HALT and FACE the drum major.
Drum Major:	SALUTE the band commander and report, SIR (or MA'AM) THE BAND IS FORMED. Hold your salute until the band commander SALUTES you.
Band Commander:	Return the drum major's salute and say, TAKE YOUR POST.
Drum Major:	Do a RIGHT FACE. MARCH to a point two steps past the right flank file and HALT. Do a RIGHT FACE. MARCH to a point on line with the first rank. HALT and FACE FORWARD.

- b. Use the same procedure to align the band at close interval (See [Figure 3-2](#)), but take only one 30-inch step between files.
6. Changing Posts. Changing Posts occurs when the drum major and band commander change positions from the front of the band to the right side of the band. The band commander always takes the shortest route of march (diagonal). The drum major always takes the longest route of march(square).

- a. The band commander and drum major take the following actions to exchange positions when the drum major is in front of and facing the band. The band commander gives the command.

(1) On the preparatory command ("CHANGE POST")

Band Do a HALF-LEFT FACE.

Commander: (Alternate) No movement.

Drum Major: Bring the mace to **CARRY**. Do a **LEFT FACE**.

(2) On the command of execution ("MARCH")

Band MARCH directly to the present position of the drum major. HALT and
Commander: do a HALF-RIGHT FACE.

(Alternate) STEP OFF with a HALF-LEFT TURN. MARCH directly to the present position of the drum major. HALT and do a HALF-RIGHT FACE. You may wait and do your final facing movement to coincide with the drum major's final facing movement.

Drum Major: MARCH forward until you are two steps past the band's right flank. Do a RIGHT TURN and MARCH until you are aligned with the front rank. HALT and do an ABOUT FACE.

[Figure 3-3](#) shows the changing of posts between the drum major and the band commander when the band commander is at the right of the band.

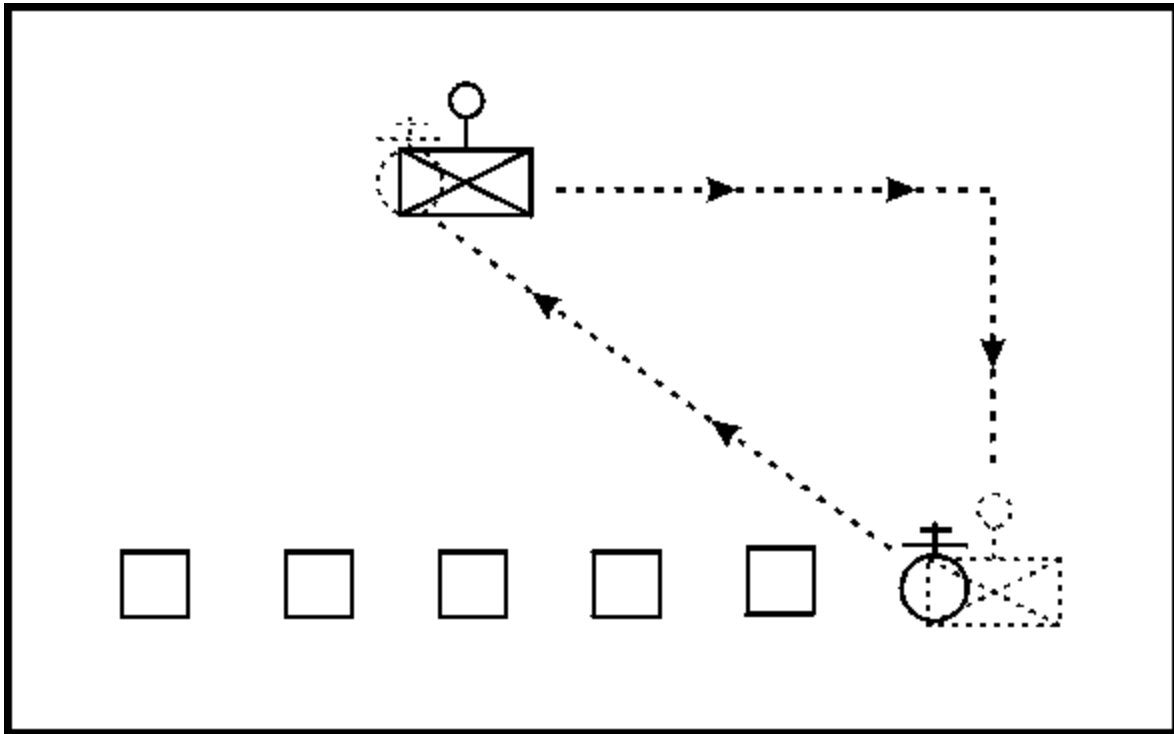


Figure 3-3. Change Posts, Band Commander at Right of Band.

- b. The band commander and drum major take the following actions to exchange positions when the band commander is at the front of the band. The band commander faces the band and gives the command.

- (1) On the preparatory command ("CHANGE POST")

Band Do a HALF-LEFT FACE.

Commander: (Alternate) No movement.

Drum Major: Bring the mace to **CARRY**

- (2) On the command of execution ("MARCH")

Band MARCH directly to the present position of the drum major. HALT and
Commander: do a HALF-RIGHT FACE followed by an ABOUT FACE.

(Alternate) STEP OFF with a HALF-LEFT TURN. MARCH directly
 to the present position of the drum major. HALT and do a HALF

RIGHT FACE followed by an ABOUT FACE. You may wait to do your final facing movement to coincide with the drum major's final facing movement.

Drum Major: MARCH forward a distance half the width of the band. Do a LEFT TURN. MARCH until centered in front of the band. HALT and do a RIGHT FACE. Remain at the position of ATTENTION.

[Figure 3-4](#) shows the changing of posts between the drum major and the band commander when the band commander is at the front of the band.

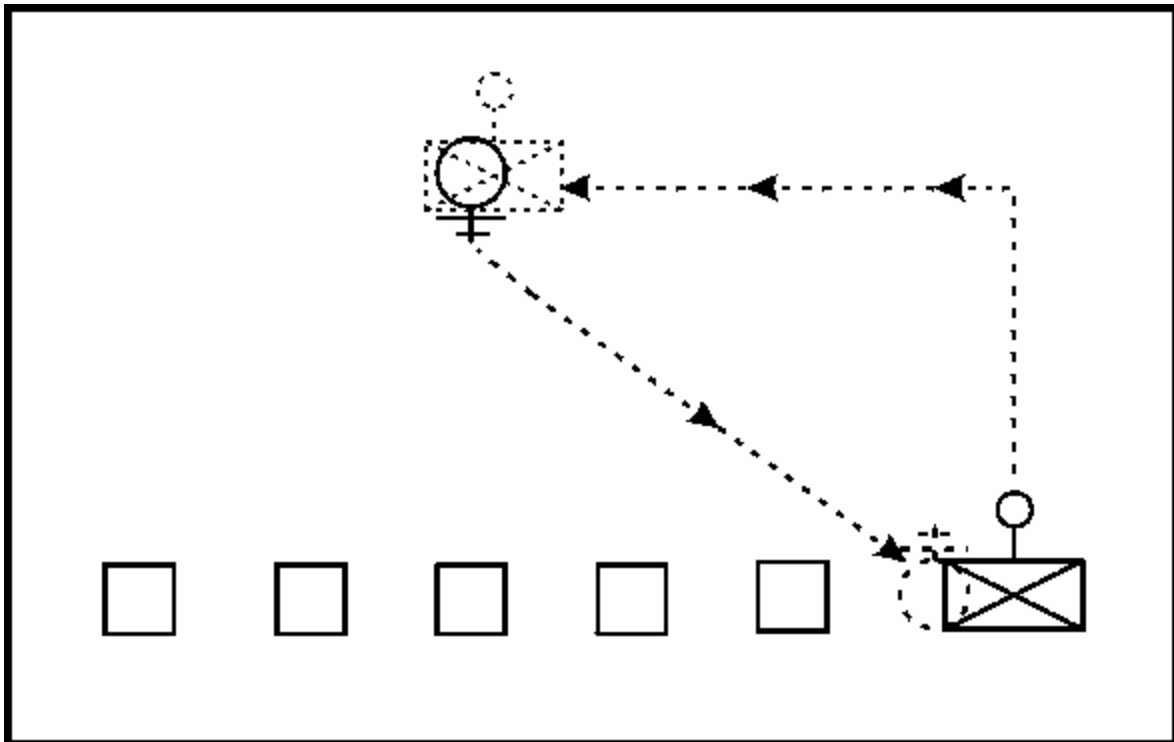


Figure 3-4. Change Posts, Band Commander At Front of Band.

PART B - TURNS AND COUNTERMARCHES

7. Standard Left Turn. [Figure 3-5](#) shows the left turn.

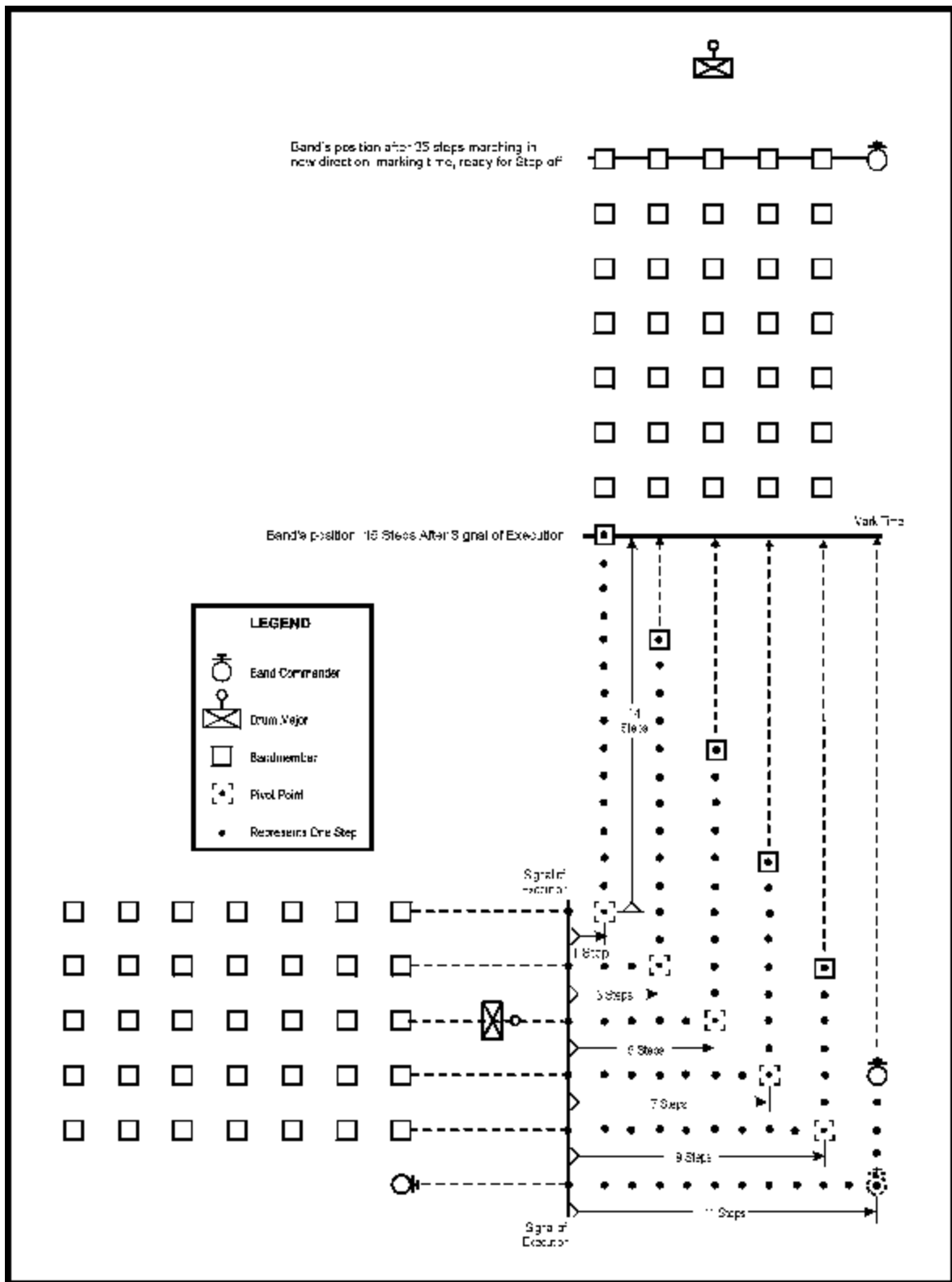


Figure 3-5. Left Turn.

Drum Major:	Perform the LEFT TURN SIGNAL (See Lesson 2, paragraph 16). When the first bandmember in the left file reaches the place to turn, perform the PREPARATORY SIGNAL followed by the SIGNAL OF EXECUTION . March forward until you are even with the first bandmember in the left file, then continue forward to the appropriate number of steps and MARK TIME. When all bandmembers have turned and aligned themselves, signal a FORWARD MARCH .
Left File:	If you are the first person in the file, do the following when the drum major gives the SIGNAL OF EXECUTION. MARCH one step and TURN LEFT. MARCH forward two steps for each rank in the band, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step. If you are not the first person in the file, TURN LEFT two steps after the person in front of you. Turn where the first file member turns. MARCH forward two steps for each rank in the band minus two steps for each rank in front of you. (If you are in the third rank of a band with seven ranks, march forward ten steps [14 minus 4].) MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step.
Other Files:	If you are the first person in the file, do the following: TURN LEFT two steps after the person to your left turns. MARCH forward until you are aligned with your rank, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step. If you are not the first person in the file, TURN LEFT two steps after the person in front of you turns. Turn where the first file member turns. MARCH forward until you are aligned with your rank, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step.
Band Commander:	TURN LEFT two steps after the person to your left turns. MARCH FORWARD until you are aligned with the first rank, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH , STEP OFF at a full step.
Band Senior Sergeant:	When the drum major performs the SIGNAL OF EXECUTION , take two steps backward and TURN LEFT. (Pivot on your left foot.) MARCH forward two steps for each rank in the band minus two steps, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH , STEP OFF at a full step.

8. Standard Right Turn. [Figure 3-6](#) shows the right turn.

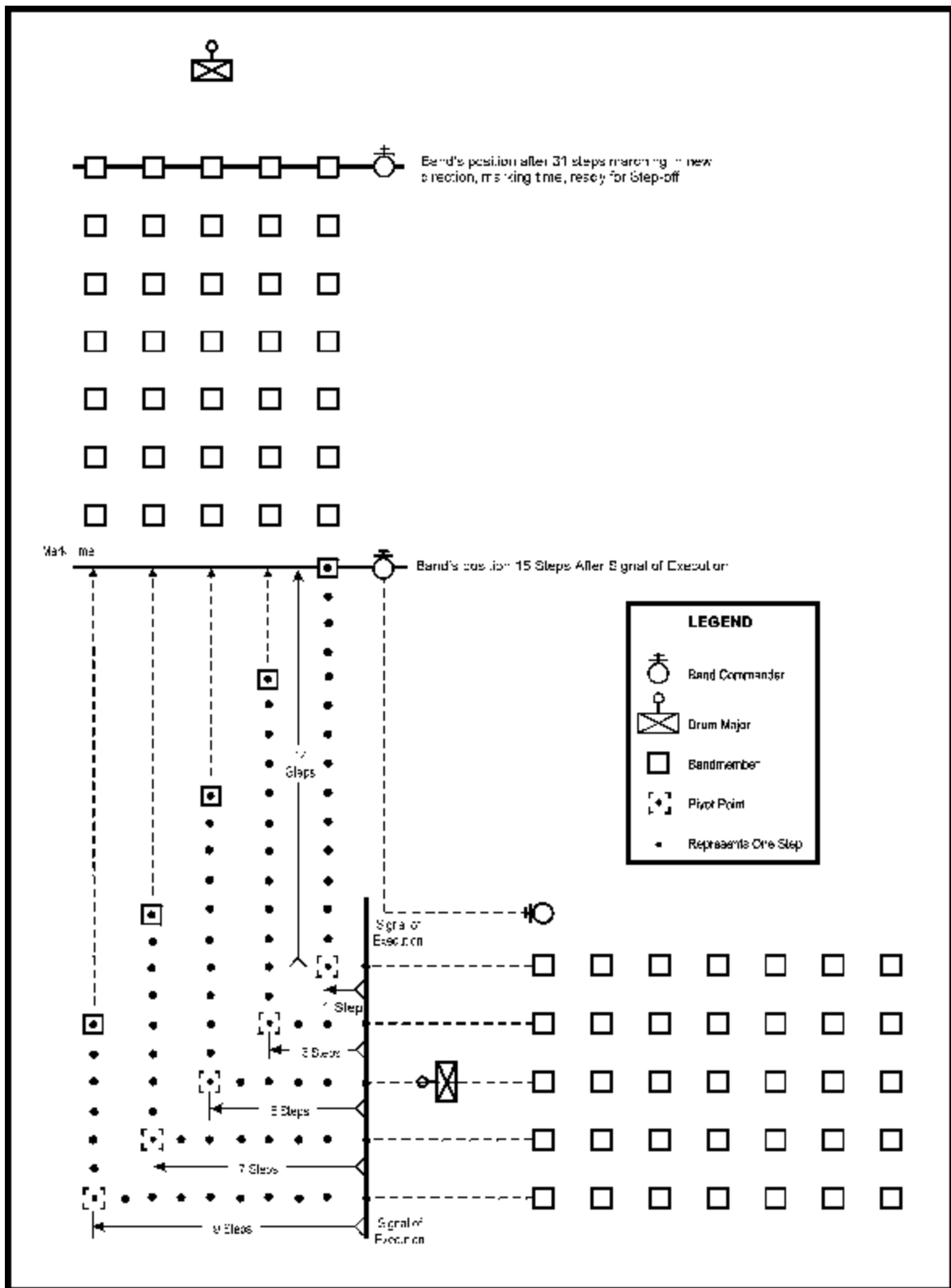


Figure 3-6. Right Turn.

Drum Major:	Perform the RIGHT TURN SIGNAL (See Lesson 2, paragraph 17). When the first bandmember in the right file reaches the place to turn, perform the PREPARATORY SIGNAL followed by the SIGNAL OF EXECUTION . March forward until you are even with the first bandmember in the right file, then continue forward to the appropriate number of steps and MARK TIME. When all bandmembers have turned and aligned themselves, signal a FORWARD MARCH .
Right File:	If you are the first person in the file, do the following when the drum major performs the SIGNAL OF EXECUTION: Take one step and TURN RIGHT. MARCH forward two steps for each rank in the band then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step. If you are not the first person in the file, TURN RIGHT two steps after the person in front of you turns. MARCH forward two steps for each rank in the band minus two steps for each rank in front of you. If you are in the fifth rank of a band with seven ranks, march forward six steps (14 minus 8). Mark time. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step.
Other Files:	If you are the first person in the file, do the following: TURN RIGHT two steps after the person to your right turns. MARCH FORWARD until you are aligned with your rank, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step. If you are not the first person in the file, TURN RIGHT two steps after the person in front of you turns. MARCH forward until you are aligned with your rank, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF at a full step.
Band Commander:	When the drum major performs the SIGNAL OF EXECUTION , MARCH two steps backward and TURN RIGHT. (Pivot on your right foot.) MARCH forward two steps for each rank in the band minus two steps, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH , STEP OFF at a full step.
Band Senior Sergeant:	TURN RIGHT two steps after the person to your right turns. MARCH forward until you are aligned with the first rank, then MARK TIME. When the drum major signals FORWARD MARCH , STEP OFF at a full step.

9. Alternate Left Turn. [Figure 3-7](#) shows the alternate left turn.

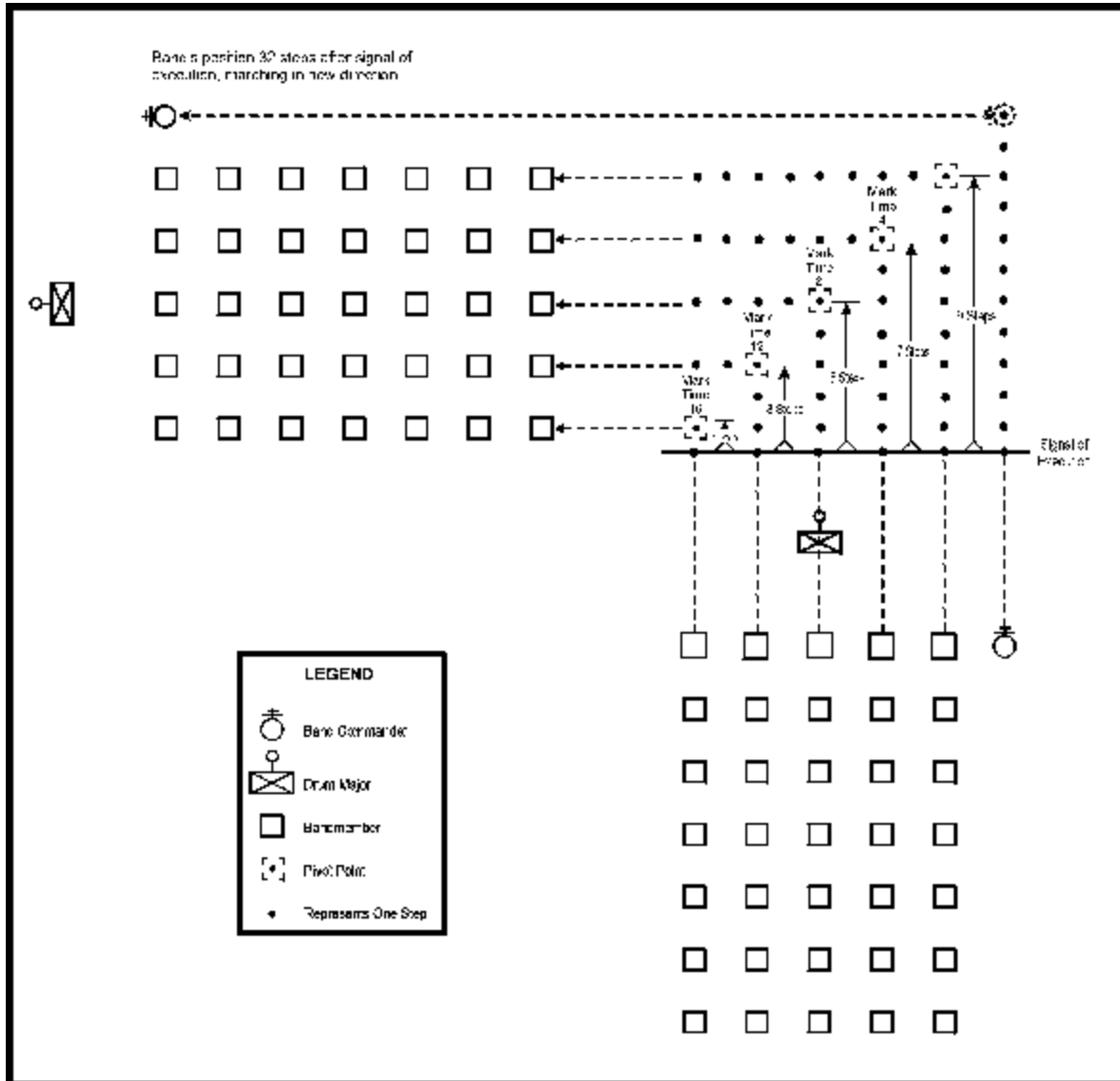


Figure 3-7. Alternate Left Turn.

Drum Major: Perform the **LEFT TURN SIGNAL**. Pivot to the left on the step after the signal of execution. March forward until you are the appropriate number of steps past the first person in the left file (appropriate number of steps equals the number of files minus one: For example, for a five person front, continue four steps past the first person in the left file; for a four person front, three steps past the first person in the left file). Mark time until the front rank is on line in the new direction of march. **STEP OFF** with a full step.

Band Commander: Continue to **MARCH** in your position two steps to the right of the first person in the band's right flank file. As the first person in the right flank file pivots to the left, execute two left obliques (half turns) to maintain your position. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction.

Band Senior Sergeant: When the drum major raises his arm in preparation for signaling a **LEFT TURN** take one step forward with your left foot, rock back on your right foot, and step forward with your left foot. This will put you in line with the second rank. Continue to march in this position until the drum major gives the signal of execution. **MARK TIME** one step after the signal of execution. Pivot to the left on the ball of your right foot two steps after the person on the left flank of the front rank pivots. This will return you to your original position two steps to the left of and in line with the front rank.

Left File: If you are the first person in the file do the following: One step after the signal of execution stop on your right foot. Bring your left foot even with your right foot and begin to **MARK TIME**. Continue to **MARK TIME** until the person to your right pivots to the left. Two steps after the person to your right pivots, pivot to the left on the ball of your right foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. Dress to the right until the entire rank completes the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center file, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

If you are not the first person in the left file, one step after the signal of execution stop on your right foot. Bring your left foot even with your right foot and begin to **MARK TIME**. Continue to **MARK TIME** until the file to your right steps off. Two steps after the file to your right steps off, **STEP OFF** at a full step. Pivot to the left on the ball of your right foot two steps after the person in front of you pivots. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. From the signal of execution, the right file is the guide file until your entire rank has completed the turn. At that time, the guide returns to the center file, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

Right File: If you are the first person in the file do the following: On the signal of execution continue to **MARCH** at a full step. Two steps after the file to your left stops and begins to **MARK TIME**, pivot to the left on the ball of your right foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. Your file is the guide file until the entire rank has completed the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

If you are not the first person in the right file do the following:

Continue to march forward at a full step after the signal of execution. Two steps after the person in front of you turns, pivot to the left on the ball of your right foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. Your file is the guide file until your entire rank has completed the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

Other Files:

If you are the first person in the file do the following: Two steps after the file to your left stops and begins to mark time, stop on your right foot. Bring your left foot even with your right foot and begin to **MARK TIME**. Continue to **MARK TIME** until the person to your right turns. Two steps after the person to your right turns, pivot to the left on the ball of your right foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. The right file is the guide file from the signal of execution until your entire rank has completed the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

If you are not the first person in the other files, two steps after the file to your left stops and begins to **MARK TIME**, stop on your right foot. Bring your left foot even with your right foot and begin to **MARK TIME**. Continue to **MARK TIME** until the file to your right steps off. **STEP OFF** at a full step two steps after the file to your right steps off. Two steps after the person in front of you turns, pivot to the right on the ball of your right foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. The right file is the guide file from the signal of execution until your entire rank has completed the turn. At that time, the guide reverts to the center or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

10. Alternate Right Turn. [Figure 3-8](#) shows the alternate right turn.

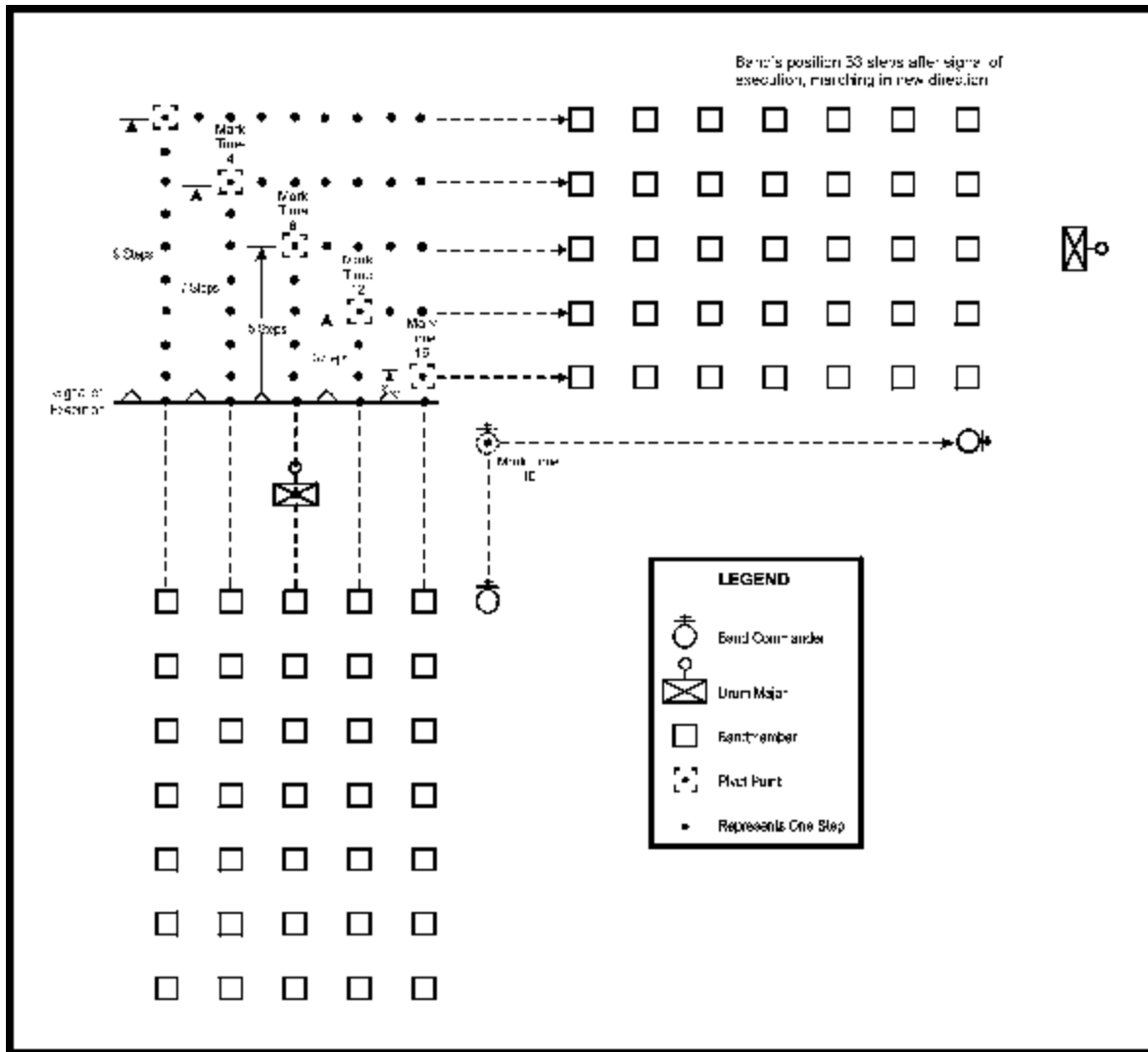


Figure 3-8. Alternate Right Turn Signal.

Drum Major: Perform the **RIGHT TURN SIGNAL**. Take two steps for every file to the right of the guide file plus one more step. On the last step stop on your left foot, bring your right foot even with your left foot, and begin to **MARK TIME**. Continue to **MARK TIME** until the first person in the file to your left pivots, pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. No forward march signal is necessary.

Band Commander: On the signal of execution, stop on your left foot (this puts you one step behind the first rank). Bring your right foot even with your left foot and begin to **MARK TIME**. As the first person in the left flank

file pivots to the right, pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction.

**Band Senior
Sergeant:**

Continue to march in your position two steps to the left of the first person in the band's left flank file. As the first person in the left flank file pivots to the right, execute two right obliques (half turns), to maintain your position. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction.

Right File:

If you are the first person in the file, do the following: One step after the signal of execution stop on your left foot. Bring your right foot even with your left foot and begin to MARK TIME. Continue to MARK TIME until the person to your left pivots to the right. Two steps after the person to your left pivots, pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. Dress is to the left until the entire rank completes the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center file, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

If you are not the first person in the file, do the following: One step after the signal of execution stop on your left foot. Bring your right foot even with your left foot and begin to MARK TIME. Continue to MARK TIME until the file to your left steps off. Two steps after the file to your left steps off, STEP OFF at a full step. Pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot two steps after the person in front of you pivots. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. The left flank file is the guide file until your entire rank completes the turn. At that time the guide returns to the center file, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

Left File:

If you are the first person in the file, do the following: On the signal of execution continue to march at a full step. Two steps after the file to your right stops and begins to MARK TIME, pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. Your file is the guide file until the entire rank has completed the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center file, or to the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

If you are not the first person in the file, continue to march forward at a full step after the signal of execution. Two steps after the person in front of you turns, pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. Your file is the guide file until your entire rank has completed the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center file or the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

Other Files:

Other Files: If you are the first person in the file do the following: Two steps after the file to your right stops and begins to MARK TIME, stop on your left foot. Bring your right foot even with your left foot and begin to MARK TIME. Continue to MARK TIME until the person to your left turns. Two steps after the person to your left turns, pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. The left file is the guide file from the signal of execution until your entire rank has completed the turn. At that time, the guide reverts to the center file or the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

If you are not the first person in the file, do the following: Two steps after the file to your right stops and begins to MARK TIME, stop on your left foot. Bring your right foot even with your left foot and begin to MARK TIME. Continue to MARK TIME until the file to your left steps off. STEP OFF at a full step two steps after the file to your left steps off. Two steps after the person in front of you turns, pivot to the right on the ball of your left foot. Continue to march at a full step in the new direction. The left file is the guide file from the signal of execution until your entire rank has completed the turn. At that time the guide reverts to the center file, or the right of center in a band with an even number of files.

11. Reversible Countermarch. [Figure 3-9](#) shows the reversible countermarch.

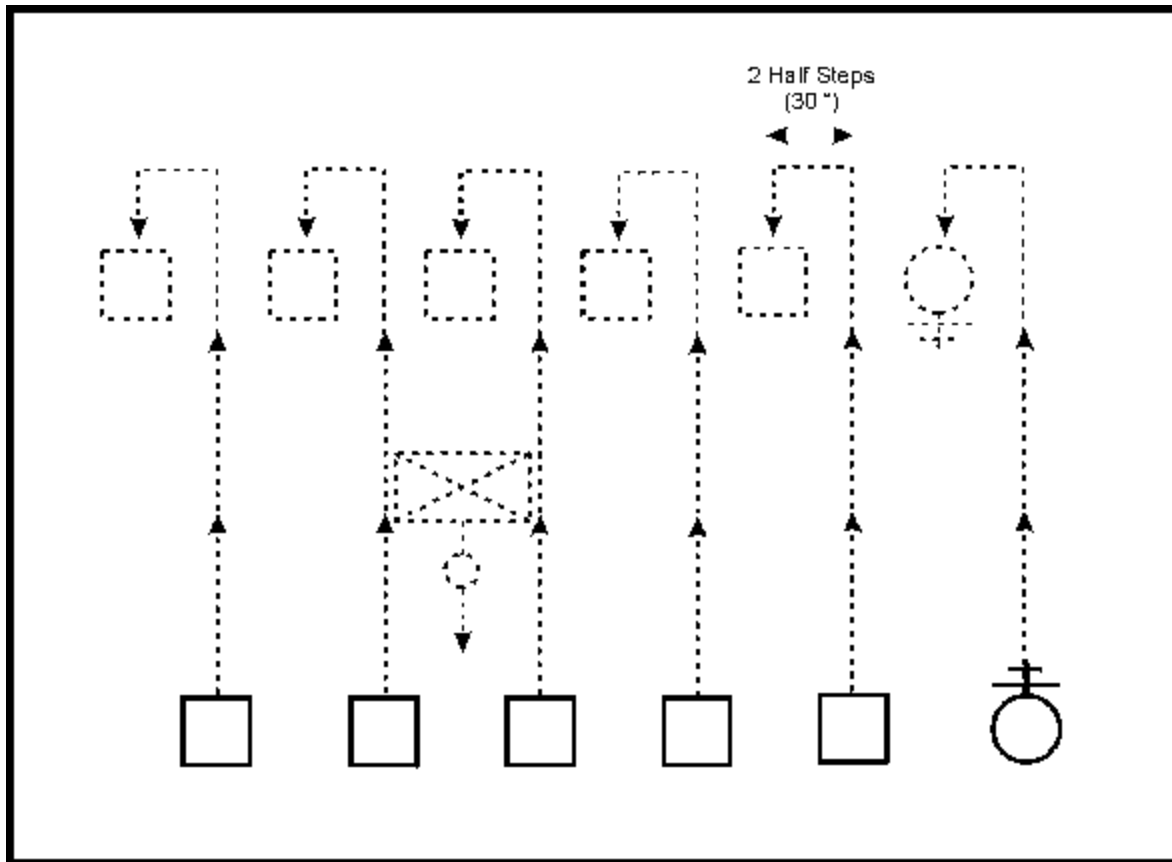


Figure 3-9. Reversible Countermarch.

Drum Major: Perform the **PREPARATORY SIGNAL** and the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**.

When the entire band has completed the counter march, perform the **FORWARD MARCH SIGNAL**.

Band Commander and all other band members:

If you are in the front rank, take the following actions when the drum major gives the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**. Take one more fifteen inch step and do two consecutive fifteen inch **LEFT FLANKS**. Continue marching forward at a half step. When the drum major signals **FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF** at a full step.

Trombone players will bring their instrument to the **READY INSTRUMENTS** position on the pivot of the first left flank. On the step after completing the second left flank, trombone players return to the **DEAD END TO THE ADVANCE** position. Both actions occur on the right

foot.

If you are not in the front rank, immediately take up the half step upon the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**. Turn on the fifth step after the person in front of you turns. Turn where the first rank turns. Guide on the center file of the band. In a band that has an even number of files, guide on the file right of the center. When the drum major signals **FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF** at a full step.

12. Nonreversible Countermarch. [Figures 3-10](#) and [Figure 3-11](#) show the nonreversible countermarch.

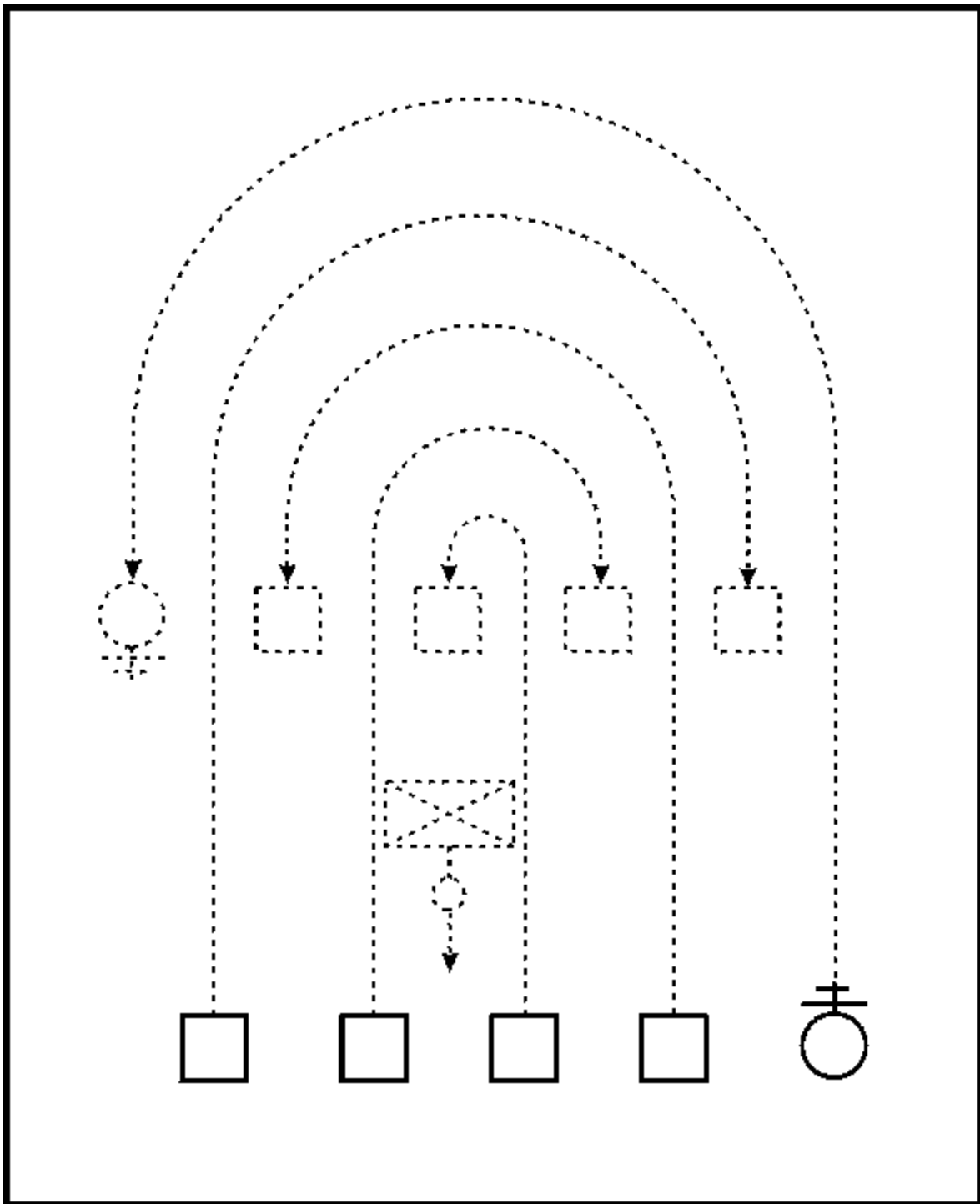


Figure 3-10. Nonreversible Countermarch Even number of Files.

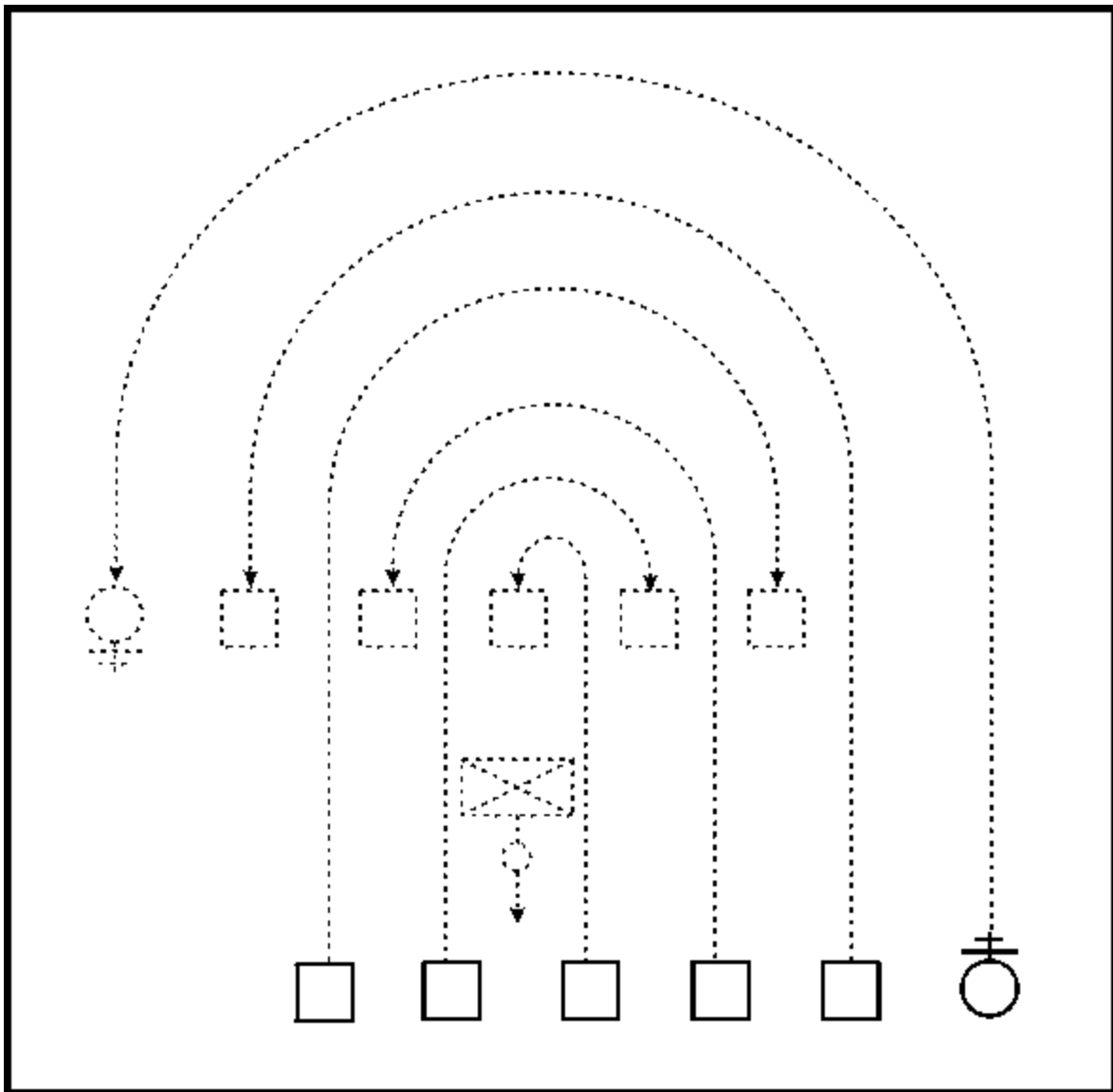


Figure 3-11. Nonreversible Countermarch Odd Number of Files.

Drum Major: Perform the **PREPARATORY SIGNAL** and **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**.

Guide File: When the Drum Major gives the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**, march at a half step. If you are the first person in the guide file, follow the Drum Major in a semi-circle to the left (both in bands with an even number of files and those with an odd number of files).

If you are not the first person in the guide file, follow the person in

front of you. Begin to **MARK TIME** on the Drum Major's signal. When the Drum Major signals **FORWARD MARCH**, step off at a full step.

Files to the right of the guide file:

On the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**, continue marching at a full step. If you are the first person in your file, march in a semi-circle to the left.

If you are not the first person in your file, follow the person in front of you. When you are aligned with the guide in your rank, begin to **MARK TIME**. When the Drum Major signals **FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF** at a full step.

Band Commander:

On the signal of execution, follow the file beside you in a semi-circle to the left. When you are aligned with the front rank, **MARK TIME**. When the Drum Major signals **FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF** at a full step.

Files to the left of the guide file:

On the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**, continue marching at a full step. If you are the first person in the file, march in a semi-circle to the right.

If you are not the first person in your file, follow the person in front of you. When you are aligned with the guide in your rank, begin to **MARK TIME**. When the Drum Major signals **FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF** at a full step.

Band Senior Sergeant (if present):

On the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**, march in a semi-circle to the right. When you are aligned with the first rank, begin to **MARK TIME**. When the Drum Major signals **FORWARD MARCH, STEP OFF** at a full step.

13. Guide Around And Half Turns.

Drum Major:

Perform the GUIDE SIGNAL.

Guide File:

The right file is the guide file when guiding right, the left file is the guide file when guiding left. The guide reverts to the center file upon completion of the guide around. If you are the first person in the file, guide around in the direction set by the Drum Major ensuring that your rank is in line and the appropriate distance behind the Drum Major. March at a half step until the Drum Major signals the completion of the guide around. Resume marching at a full step.

If you are not the first person in the file, maintain the correct interval with the person in front of you. March at a half step until

the Drum Major has signaled the completion of the guide around. Resume marching at a full step.

Other files:

On the signal of execution, begin marching at a half step. If you are the first person in the file, guide around in the direction set by the Drum Major. Adjust the size of your steps to stay dressed on the guide file. March at a half step until the Drum Major has signaled the completion of the guide around. Resume marching at a full step.

If you are not the first person in the file, maintain the correct interval with the person in front of you. Adjust the size of your steps as necessary to stay dressed on the guide file. March at a half step until the Drum Major has signaled the completion of the guide around. Resume marching at a full step.

**Band
Commander/Band
Senior Sergeant
(if present):**

On the **SIGNAL OF EXECUTION**, begin marching at a half step. Guide around in the direction set by the Drum Major. Adjust the size of your steps as necessary to stay dressed on the guide file. **MARCH** at a half step until the Drum Major has signaled the completion of the guide around. Resume marching at a full step.

NOTE: When guiding around an obstacle, the lead person in the file makes movements necessary to get around the obstacle. All other file members follow the person in front of them.