

Drill

Drill Ship Formations and Movements

The electives in Ordinary, Able, and Quartermaster ranks call upon Sea Scouts to demonstrate the ability to execute and give commands for formations and movements. The basic Sea Scout drill movements are described in the following pages. For a more detailed explanation of drill movements, the best source is the *Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual*, NAVMC pub 2691. This manual is the standard for the U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Merchant Marines, and has been adopted by Sea Scouts as the authority on Sea Scout drill. Remember, the use of rifles, swords, simulated rifles, or any type of weapon in connection with Sea Scout drill is strictly prohibited.

Techniques for Close-Order Drill

In general, the leader of a drill formation must take several things into account when standing in front of the crew. First, he or she should take pride in his or her personal appearance and bearing. The leader should not expect the crew to act or look any better than he or she does.

Next, the leader of a drill formation must be extremely patient. Sea Scouts will make mistakes, especially when they are exposed to close-order drill for the first time or while learning new movements. Keep an open mind and be understanding. To lose one's bearing and become angry does not make a good leader and frustrates everyone involved.

When teaching new movements, ensure they are explained and demonstrated as clearly as possible and every member of the drill unit fully understands them. Do not touch individuals to position or adjust them. Rather, point to where they should move to or tell them how to adjust.

Always become familiar with a drill card before executing it, noting what movements need to be executed. During competition, look at the card you are given frequently by extending your left arm straight out in front of you. (You need your right arm free for saluting.)

Keep a positive mental attitude when teaching or leading close-order drill. It helps the unit to practice over and over when the leader is in high spirits. Last, always watch your drill unit for mistakes. When they do occur, correct them immediately, noting what errors need to be worked out at the appropriate time. The crew members should understand that they should not correct themselves. Instead, they should wait for you, the drill leader, to correct them. When a correction has been made during practice, the unit or element should repeat the movement to ensure comprehension.

Commands will become more familiar with practice. Many members of the armed services forget how to execute movements properly because they are not exposed to them regularly. When giving commands, the leader must be aware of four techniques. First, make the commands definite. Second, the commands must be given in a positive voice. Third, the command must be concise and understandable. Last, always look at the unit to reinforce the effectiveness of the leader, not just to note mistakes, but to show that you are really interested in the performance of the drill unit as well.

Types of Commands

PREPARATORY COMMAND—the command that indicates what movement is to be executed. It is given in a normal voice loud enough to be heard by the entire unit with rising inflection. It normally lasts one count, but may last up to three counts.

COMMAND OF EXECUTION—the command that indicates when a movement is to be executed. It is given at a higher pitch than the preparatory command. There should be no inflection in the voice, and it should be given with snap.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMAND—a command given when an element of a larger unit is acting separately. One instance when a supplementary command would be given is in **COLUMN OF FILES**. The crew leaders would give supplementary instruction to the elements in their lines after the commands given by the drill leader. The commands are given in the same voice and inflection as the preparatory command and command of execution. The cadence is normally one count, but may be more.

General Rules

POSITION OF ATTENTION. The heels are together on the same line. The feet are turned out equally and form an angle of 45 degrees. The knees are straight without stiffness. The hips are kept level and drawn back slightly. The body is erect and rests equally on the hips. The chest is lifted and arched. The shoulders are square and fall equally. Arms are to hang naturally at your side, with the fingers joined in a natural curl with the thumb touching the second joint of each index finger and the outside forward portion of the thumb tip on the trouser seam. No movement and no talking. The head is erect and squarely to the front, the chin drawn in so that the axis of the head and neck is vertical. The eyes are straight to the front. The weight of the body rests equally upon the heels and the balls of the feet.

THE RESTS. Being at halt, there are four positions of rests: **FALL OUT**, **REST**, **AT EASE**, and **PARADE REST**. The unit leader executes the command after the unit does. The unit leader may only give the command **ATTENTION** once he or she has given a **REST** command. The unit leader comes to attention before he or she gives the command of (1) **SHIP**, (2) **ATTENTION**. The unit leader positions himself or herself in front of the formation, at center, at a distance of six paces, facing the formation while giving commands. In large formations, the unit leader will do an about face after giving commands.

On the command (1) **PARADE**, (2) **REST**, the Sea Scouts move their left feet approximately 12 inches to the left. At the same time the left foot is moved, clasp the hands behind the back. The left hand is placed in the small of the back, just below the belt, and the right hand is placed over the left. The thumb of the right hand lightly grasps the thumb of the left hand. All the fingers are extended and joined, and the palms are to the rear. The elbows will be in line with the body. Do not move or talk. Hold your head and eyes in the same position as you would at the **POSITION OF ATTENTION**. Upon hearing the command (1) **SHIP**, (2) **ATTENTION** and on the command of execution, smartly bring the left heel against the right, and at the same time drop the arms to the sides and assume the **POSITION OF ATTENTION**.

On the combined command (1) **AT EASE**, the unit first moves to the **POSITION OF PARADE REST** for an instant, and then the Sea Scouts are allowed to move their heads, hands, and adjust their uniforms, but keep their feet in position, no talking. Upon hearing the preparatory command of **SHIP** of the full command (1) **SHIP**, (2) **ATTENTION**, the unit will come immediately to the **POSITION OF PARADE REST** and then, upon

the command of execution ATTENTION, will move from PARADE REST to the POSITION OF ATTENTION.

On the combined command (1) REST, the unit breaks the POSITION OF ATTENTION. The Sea Scouts may move about and talk in low tones. The only requirement is that the right foot remains in place. As with AT EASE, when the preparatory command SHIP is given, the unit will snap to the POSITION OF PARADE REST and then move to the POSITION OF ATTENTION, with the command of execution.

On the combined command (1) FALL OUT, the unit breaks formation and remains in the immediate area. The only command that may follow FALL OUT is FALL IN.

EYES RIGHT OR LEFT. (1) EYES, (2) RIGHT or LEFT. When marching, on the command of execution, RIGHT or LEFT, all except the Sea Scouts on the flank in the direction called snap their heads 45 degrees in that direction. The unit leader executes the movement with the unit and also executes a HAND SALUTE. When the unit has passed the reviewing officer, the unit leader calls (3) READY, (4) FRONT. On FRONT, the unit leader retires his or her salute and the Sea Scouts snap their heads to the front. When halted, everyone turns their head 45 degrees in the direction called and the unit leader salutes. If the unit leader is the one giving the command, he or she gives it facing the unit, then faces about and executes the salute.

POSITION OF THE UNIT LEADER. The unit leader takes a position six paces in front of and at the center of the front rank. In the column, the unit leader marches at the head of the left file of the extreme left column. Stationary commands are usually given from the position of six paces in front of and at the center of the first line. The unit will fall in and fall out with the unit in line formation and the unit leader "front and six." The command FORWARD MARCH will only be given while the unit is in columns, and the unit leader will take his or her proper position three paces in front of the first person in the extreme left column before giving that command. If the unit is in line, the unit leader will give the command RIGHT/LEFT FACE to establish the unit in columns before giving the command FORWARD MARCH.

TO ALIGN THE SHIP, the command is (1) DRESS RIGHT, (2) DRESS. This command may only be given while the ship is in a line. On the command of execution, DRESS, each Sea Scout except the Sea Scout on the extreme left of the line will raise his or her left arm straight with the palm flat and the fingers and thumb straight and joined to establish interval. All Sea Scouts will turn their heads sharply to the right to correct alignment. The Sea Scout on the extreme right of the line keeps his or her head forward. The unit leader will then face half left and march by the most direct route until positioned on a line with the front rank and one pace from the extreme right flank Sea Scout. When in position, the unit leader executes a halt, facing to the rear, and then executes a right face facing down the line. He or she aligns the front rank by commanding those Sea Scouts in advance or rear of the line to move forward or backward until in line. The unit leader aligns each Sea Scout by calling out the Sea Scout's name and instructing him or her to move forward or back. The unit leader executes a series of short side steps to right and left to check and direct the alignment of the first line. When the alignment is correct, the unit leader repeats the alignment procedure with each line. Once the lines are aligned, the unit leader marches to the front of the extreme right flank and takes a position three paces in front of the first person on the right of the front line, facing left, and gives the command (3) READY, (4) FRONT. On the command of execution, FRONT, all Sea Scouts drop their arms and turn their heads smartly front at the same time.

The unit leader will then give the command COVER. All Sea Scouts then slightly adjust their alignment with the person immediately in front of them. The correct distance in a column is 40 inches back-to-chest interval. The unit leader then marches to his or her position at the center and six paces in front of the first rank.

For close interval, the command is (1) AT CLOSE INTERVAL, DRESS RIGHT, (2) DRESS. This movement is the same as DRESS RIGHT DRESS, except instead of Sea Scouts raising their arms straight out, they place their left hands on their hips, fingers and thumbs straight and joined, wrists at the belt line with elbows extended 90 degrees to the body, thus establishing a closer interval. If the unit appears aligned to the unit leader, the unit leader may just give the command COVER and need not inspect the ranks.

FACINGS. (1) RIGHT (LEFT), (2) FACE. Raise slightly the left heel and right toe and face to the right, turning on the right heel assisted by slight pressure on the ball of the left foot; place the left foot by the side of the right. Similarly, left face is executed on the left heel. Half left or right is executed similarly, by turning 45 degrees. To face the rear: (1) ABOUT, (2) FACE. Carry the toe of the right foot about a half foot length to the rear and slightly to the left of the left heel without changing the position of the left foot. Turn to the right on the left heel and right toe.

SALUTE WITH THE HAND. (1) HAND, (2) SALUTE, (3) READY, (4) TWO. At the command SALUTE, raise the right hand smartly, the fingers rigidly extended in a flat hand, till the tip of the forefinger touches the forehead just right of the right eye or the eyebrow if uncovered; the palm should be to the left, forearm inclined at 45 degrees, hand and wrist straight. At the same time, look toward the person being saluted. At the command READY TWO, drop the arm smartly by the side.

STEPS AND MARCHES. All steps and marches that are executed from a halt, except right step and right flank, begin with the left foot. The length of the full step in quick time is 30 inches, measured from heel to heel. The cadence is 120 steps per minute.

The length of a full step at double time is 36 inches. The cadence of the step is 180 steps per minute. When necessary, the instructor indicates the cadence of the step by calling ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR or LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT the instant the left and right foot respectively should be planted.

All steps, marches, and movements involving marching are executed in quick time, unless the ship has been commanded to march in double time. In this case, DOUBLE TIME is added to the preparatory command.

QUICK TIME. Being at a halt, to march forward in quick time: (1) FORWARD, (2) MARCH. At the command FORWARD, shift the weight of the body to the right leg, left knee straight. At the command MARCH, move the left foot smartly straight forward 26 inches from the right, sole near the ground; plant it without shock. Next, in a like manner, advance the right foot and plant it as above. Continue the march. Let the arms swing naturally.

MARK TIME. Being in march: (1) MARK TIME, (2) MARCH. At the command MARCH, given as either foot strikes the ground, advance and plant the other foot. Bring up the rear foot and continue the cadence by alternately raising each foot about 2 inches and planting it aligned with the other. Being at a halt, at the command MARCH, raise and plant the feet as described above. Always start with the left foot.

HALF STEP. (1) HALF STEP, (2) MARCH. Take steps of 15 inches in quick time or double time. To resume the full step from half step or mark time, command (1) FORWARD, (2) MARCH. This is the only occasion when the command (1) FORWARD, (2) MARCH may be given when the unit is not halted.

BACK STEP. Being at a halt or mark time: (1) BACKWARD, (2) MARCH. Take steps 13 inches straight to the rear. The back step is used for short distances only.

HALT. To arrest the march in quick time: (1) CREW, (2) HALT. At the command HALT, given as either foot strikes the ground, plant the other foot as in marching. Raise and place the first foot by the side of the other.

MARCH BY THE FLANK. Being in march: (1) RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, (2) MARCH. At the command MARCH, given as the right foot strikes the ground, advance and plant the left foot; then face to the right while marching then step off in the new direction with the right foot.

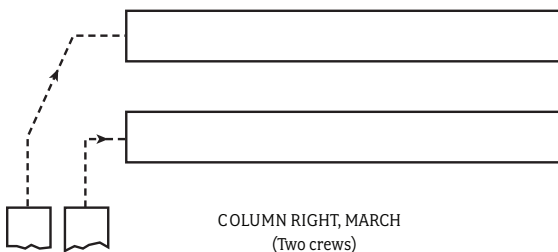
MARCH TO THE REAR. Being in march: (1) TO THE REAR, (2) MARCH. At the command MARCH, given as the right foot strikes the ground, advance and plant the left foot. Turn to the right on the balls of both feet and immediately step off in the new direction with the left foot.

COUNT OFF. At this command, all except the right file execute EYES RIGHT. Then, beginning on the right, the Sea Scouts in each rank in turn count ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR. Each Sea Scout turns their head and eyes to the front as they count.

Being in line, forming a column, and marching to the flank, the commands are: (1) RIGHT (LEFT), (2) FACE, (3) FORWARD, (4) MARCH. The line must be at normal intervals, so that after facing, there is sufficient distance for a full marching step between Sea Scouts. All Sea Scouts start off with a full left step at the command MARCH.

The crew normally marches in a column. It should march forward in line for short distances only.

Being in column, to change direction the commands are: (1) COLUMN RIGHT (LEFT), (2) MARCH. At MARCH, the leading Sea Scout executes by the right flank (by the left flank) and continues in the new direction. The other Sea Scouts execute the same movement successively at the same pivot point as the leading Sea Scout.



COLUMN OF TWOS. When marching in small groups, not at drill, the crew may be formed in two ranks and given the command: (1) RIGHT (LEFT), (2) FACE.

FOLLOW THE LEADER. To march the ship without unnecessary commands, the leader places himself or herself in front and commands: FOLLOW ME, and the column follows the leader.

School of the Ship

TO FORM THE SHIP. The youth officer in charge commands: FALL IN. The first group (fixed by custom or rotation) forms in line at normal intervals, its center opposite and three paces from the youth officer. The other groups form in rear of the first group and in the same manner with a 36-inch interval between ranks. Crew leaders are on the right of their groups. Sea Scouts (other than ship's youth officers) not assigned to groups fall in on the left at normal interval.

To form at close interval, the commands are: (1) AT CLOSE INTERVAL, (2) FALL IN.

The youth officer gives the command: (1) DRESS RIGHT, (2) DRESS. He aligns each group successively, returns to point A, and commands: (1) READY, (2) FRONT. Returning to the post in front of the center of the ship, the youth officer faces the Skipper or mate, salutes, and reports, "Sir, the ship is formed."

TO MARCH THE SHIP. The normal formation for marching is in columns of twos, threes, or fours, depending on the size of the ship. The unit leader will march at the head of the column to the extreme left. He or she takes that position once the unit is formed and ready to march. On the command (1) FORWARD, (2) MARCH, Sea Scouts step forward with their left feet smartly and take 30-inch steps. At the same time, they begin to swing their arms in their natural arc, 6 inches to the front and 3 inches to the rear of the legs, taking 120 steps per minute. Do not half-step unless given the command to do so.

TO CHANGE DIRECTION IN COLUMN. The commands are (1) COLUMN RIGHT/LEFT, (2) MARCH. At MARCH, given as the right foot strikes the ground, the right flank person of the leading rank executes a right flank movement, stepping off in the new direction with one full step, followed by half steps. The other group column leaders turn to the right without changing interval, and continue at full steps until abreast of the pivot person. When all group column leaders are again in line, they resume the full step. The rank in the rear of the leading rank executes the movement on the same ground and in the same manner.

OPEN/CLOSE RANKS. This movement forms the unit for inspection. The command is (1) OPEN RANKS, (2) MARCH. On the command of execution of COLUMN RIGHT, MARCH, the first rank will take two steps forward and execute a DRESS RIGHT DRESS. The second rank will take one step forward and execute a DRESS RIGHT DRESS. The third rank will stand fast and execute a DRESS RIGHT DRESS. The fourth rank will take one step backward and execute a DRESS RIGHT DRESS. Each additional rank will take another step backward and execute a DRESS RIGHT DRESS. The unit leader makes a half left face and marches to a position at the extreme right flank of the first line of Sea Scouts, calling cadence until he or she reaches the position. Then he or she will check the alignment of each rank as described in DRESS RIGHT DRESS.

After every rank has been checked, the unit leader will step off, marching so as to take a position one pace to the right and three paces in front of the first Sea Scout on the extreme right flank. There, execute a left face and give the command (3) READY, (4) FRONT. On the command of execution, FRONT, the Sea Scouts drop their arms and turn their heads back to the front in one count. The unit leader gives the command COVER, then takes one step forward to post in front of the first Sea Scout in the first rank, executes a RIGHT FACE, and reports the unit ready for inspection. When the inspection is over, the unit leader will return to three paces in front of the first Sea Scout in the first rank. After receiving directions from the inspector, the unit leader will execute a LEFT FACE and give the command (5) CLOSE RANKS, (6) MARCH.

On the command of execution, MARCH, the first rank will stand fast. The second rank will take one step forward, the third rank will take two steps, and so on. The unit leader will march to the position of six paces and centered, again, giving cadence while he or she is on the march. The unit leader will pace his or her steps so the last step will be on the right foot, which he or she will place on the deck, bringing the left foot up to assume the POSITION OF ATTENTION, and execute a LEFT FACE, analyze his or her position, and adjust as necessary, taking side steps to the left or right to move to center and forward or back to place himself or herself center and six of the first rank of Sea Scouts

To form for inspection at close interval, the command is (1) AT CLOSE INTERVAL, OPEN RANKS, (2) MARCH. All is the same except instead of raising their arms straight out, the Sea Scouts place their left hands on their hips, fingers and thumbs straight and joined. The command (1) CLOSE RANKS, (2) MARCH is used to re-form the unit at both normal and close.

MARCH AT THE OBLIQUE. This movement may be executed only when marching at quick-time cadence. (The word "oblique" is pronounced to rhyme with "strike.") Upon receiving the command (1) RIGHT/LEFT OBLIQUE, (2) MARCH, all Sea Scouts in the formation will half turn to the right/left and continue marching. Each Sea Scout shall keep a position with his or her shoulders parallel to the Sea Scout in front. The command MARCH is given as the foot in the direction of the turn hits the deck. The Sea Scout takes one more step forward, faces half right/left in marching, and steps off at an angle of 45 degrees from the original direction of march. To resume the original direction of march, the command (1) FORWARD, (2) MARCH is given.

Once the unit is marching at the oblique, the only commands that may be given are (1) FORWARD, (2) MARCH or (1) SHIP, (2) HALT. If the unit is marching at the oblique at half step, the command to resume full step to the oblique is (1) RESUME, (2) MARCH.