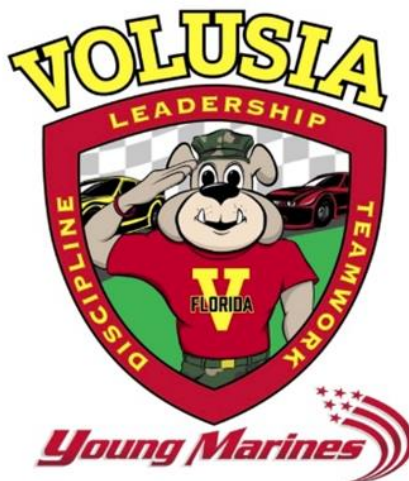


YOUNG MARINES DRILL MANUAL



Strengthening the lives of America's youth

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INTRODUCTION

There are two words of command that you will be given while conducting Close Order Drill. One is called the **preparatory command**, and the other is called the **command of execution**.

The **preparatory command** is the command that tells you to get ready to do something.

The **command of execution** is the command that tells you to do it.

A **squad** is a group of individuals formed for the purpose of instruction, discipline, control, and order.

- Members of the squad take positions and move as stated in this Manual. All individuals execute the movements at the same time. Squads may drill as squads or as part of a platoon or larger formation.
- Squads are kept intact when practical. The normal formation for a squad is a single rank (squad on line) or single file (squad in column). This permits variation in the number of individuals composing the squad.
- The first formation is always on line. Column formation may be taken from line formation. A squad, not at drill, may be marched in column of twos by forming in two ranks. The squad marches in line for minor changes of position only.

The term “**unit leader**,” means the individual drilling the squad. He/she may be the Squad Leader, or Squad Member drilling the squad for an inspection or evaluation. If the Unit Leader is the Squad Leader, then the Assistant Squad Leader executes the movements of the Squad Leader.

The Unit Leader must maintain a proper distance (3 paces) from the squad and remains centered on the squad during all drill movements.

- If the squad executes a right step, the Unit Leader, who is facing the squad, would execute a left step in cadence with the squad to maintain proper position. For a left step the unit leader would execute a right step.
- If the squad executes a back step, the Unit Leader would execute a half step, in cadence with the squad to maintain proper position.
- Movements of the Unit Leader during other squad movements are explained in the paragraph describing the movement.

BASIC MOVEMENTS

Attention

The command of attention will be given in the following ways:

“squad, ATTENTION”

“platoon, ATTENTION”

Upon hearing the command “**ATTENTION**”, follow the steps below:

- Bring your left heel against the right heel sharply and quickly.
- Your toes should point away from each other at a 45-degree angle, keeping the heels touching.
- Keep your legs straight but not stiff. A little flex in the knees is good. If you lock your knees you will become dizzy and pass out.
- Keep your hips and your shoulders level and facing to the front. Lift your chest like you are taking a big breath. Don't forget to breathe.
- Let your arms hang naturally at your side. Make a loose fist with the fingers curled and your palms facing the side of your leg. Your thumbs are placed along the seam of your trousers.
- Keep your head and body straight and tall. Look straight ahead.
- Stand still and do not talk or look around. Keep your mouth closed and tuck your chin in just a little.



Parade Rest

Parade Rest is a way to relax from the position of attention while still keeping your head and eyes to the front. We call this the modified position of attention. You can stand this way longer than you can at Attention and still look sharp and uniform with everyone else. You can only go to Parade Rest from Attention.

The command will be given in the following way:

“parade, REST”

Upon hearing the command “**parade, REST,**” follow the steps below:

- At “**parade,**” shift the weight of your body to the right leg without noticeable movement.
- On “**REST**” and for the count of one, quickly move your left leg to the side so that your left heel is about 12 inches from your right heel.
- Keep your legs straight but not stiff, resting the body weight equally on both legs.
- Clasp the hands behind the back while moving the left foot.
- Place the left hand at the small of your back just below the belt and place the right hand inside the left.
- Grasp the thumb of the left hand lightly with the thumb of the right hand.
- Extend and join all the fingers with palms facing the rear. Align the elbows with the body.
- Hold your head and eyes in the same position as you would at Attention.



Note: The only command you may receive while at parade rest is back to the position of Attention.

The command is “**squad, ATTENTION.**”

- On the command of execution, smartly bring the left heel against the right heel.
- At the same time, drop the arms to the sides and assume the position of Attention.

Video: Parade Rest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NISA8iXIrBU>

At Ease

At Ease is another way to relax from the position of Attention. It is almost like Parade Rest, except, you can move to make adjustments to your uniform and equipment as long as you keep your right foot in place. You cannot talk in this position.

There is no preparatory command for “**AT EASE.**”

At Ease is performed as follows:

- On “**AT EASE**” and for the count of one, keep your right foot in place. Step out with your left foot as in Parade Rest. Move about to adjust your uniform and equipment only.
- Maintain silence.

Note: The only command you may receive while at ease is “**ATTENTION.**”

- When you hear “squad” or “platoon” assume the position of Parade Rest.
- On “**ATTENTION,**” quickly bring the left heel against the right heel and assume the position of Attention.



Video: At Ease: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3VYa7u5Z-c>

Rest

Rest is another way to relax from the position of Attention. Just like “At Ease,” you keep your right foot in place, and you can make adjustments to your uniform. You may speak in low conversational tones to the members directly next to you. Like the command AT EASE, there is no preparatory command.

On “**REST**” and for the count of one, keep right foot in place. Step out with your left foot as in Parade Rest. Move about only to adjust equipment.

Note: The only command you may receive while at rest is the command “**ATTENTION.**”

- When you hear “**squad**” or “**platoon**” assume the position of Parade Rest.
- On “**ATTENTION**” quickly bring the left heel against the right heel and assume the position of Attention.



Video: Rest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utL-xL9Us2k>

Execute Facing Movements

Facing movements are those individual movements that you perform either as one or as part of a squad or a platoon. Facing movements are done in one place and do not require movement from one place to another.

There are three main facing movements:

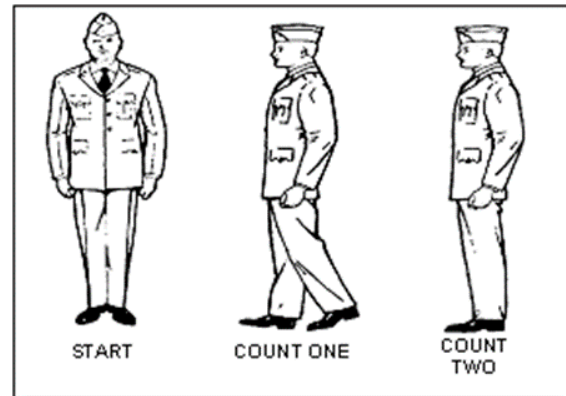
1. Right Face tells you to turn to the right. The preparatory command is **“right”**, and the command of execution is **“FACE”**.
2. Left Face tells you to turn to the left. The preparatory command is **“left”**, and the command of execution is **“FACE”**.
3. About Face tells you to face in the opposite direction. The preparatory command is **“about”**, and the command of execution is **“FACE”**.

Note: If properly executed, the heels will be on line and touching when the movement is completed, and you will be facing in the opposite direction from where you were. Remain in this position until given another command.

“right, FACE”

The preparatory command **“right”** tells you the direction you are about to move in.

- On **“FACE”** and for the count of one, slightly lift the toe of the right foot and the heel of the left foot.
- Then face 90 degrees to the right by pivoting on the right heel assisted by slight pressure from the left toe.
- Hold the left leg straight without stiffness. Remember to keep your thumbs along the seams of the trousers.

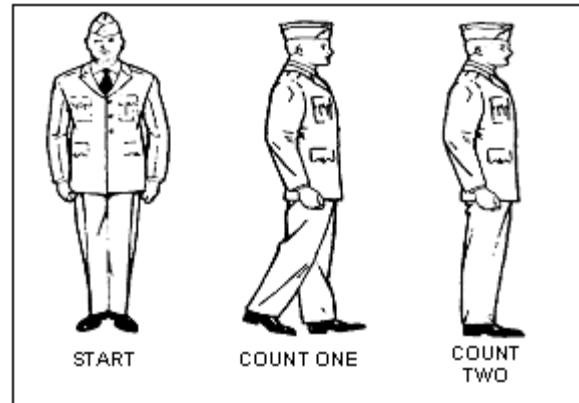


- For the count of two, smartly bring the left heel against the right heel, assuming the position of attention.
- Remain in this position until given another command.

“left, FACE”

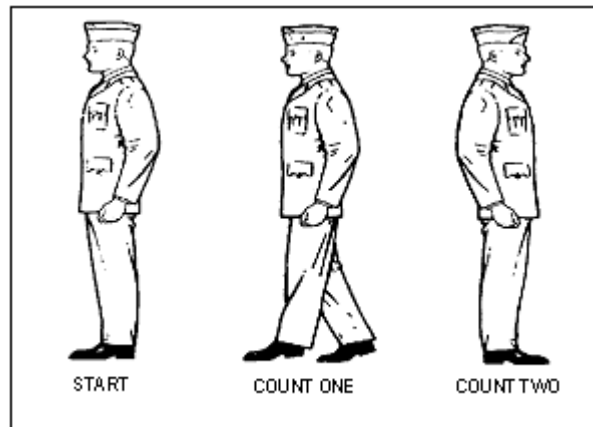
The preparatory command **“left”** tells you the direction you are about to move in.

- On **“FACE”** and for the count of one, slightly lift the toe or the left foot and the heel of the right foot.
- Then face 90 degrees to the left by pivoting on the left heel, assisted by slight pressure from the right toe.
- Hold the right leg straight without stiffness. Remember to keep your thumbs along the seams of the trousers.
- For the count of two, smartly bring the left heel against the right heel, assuming the position of attention.
- Remain in this position until given another command.

**“about, FACE”**

At **“about,”** shift the weight of your body to the left leg without noticeable movement.

- On **“FACE”** and for the count of one, place the ball of the right foot in position, touching the deck at one-half of your foot’s length to the rear and slightly to the left of your left heel.
- Keep the right leg straight without stiffness. Rest the body weight on both legs.
- For the count of two, face to the rear by turning to the right.
- Pivot on the heel of the left foot and the ball of the right foot, assuming the position of Attention.



Video: Right Face: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3Rf0tT9jnc>

Video: Left Face: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jviqRZ2XPwA>

Video: Abut Face: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UN4_8V2KMgs

Execute the Hand Salute

The command for the Hand Salute will be given with the following two commands:

“hand, SALUTE” and **“ready, TWO”**

The Hand Salute is to be performed on command, rendered to Colors, and in the presence of Federally Commissioned Officers and the Unit Commander. The Hand Salute is accompanied with commands, without arms, and without commands.

Hand Salute on Command

Upon hearing the command, the steps are as follows:

- On **“SALUTE”** raise the right hand until the tip of the right forefinger touches the lower portion of the headdress above or slightly to the right of the right eye.
- Keep the wrists and forearm straight.
- Incline the forearm at a 45-degree angle.
- Keep the upper arm parallel to the deck and the elbow in line with the body.
- Extend and join the fingers with the thumb along the hand and the palm down. Ensure that you are able to see the entire palm when looking straight ahead.



On **“ready, TWO”** smartly and in the most direct manner, return the right hand to the right side.

- Assume the position of Attention.
- Remain in position until another command is given.

Present Arms without Arms

The command will be given with the following two commands:

“present, ARMS” and **“order, ARMS”**

Upon hearing the command, the steps are as follows:

- On **“ARMS”** execute the Hand Salute.

The next command will be **“order, ARMS.”** Smartly and in the most direct manner, return the right hand to the right side.

- Assume the position of Attention.
- Remain in position until another command is given.

Hand Salute Without Commands

A salute shall be rendered to Colors, all Federally Commissioned Officers, and the Unit Commander only.

Render the salute when colors or the person to be saluted is at a six-pace distance or at the nearest point of approach if it is within six paces. Do not render the salute if the person to be saluted does not approach within 30 paces.

When an officer comes within saluting distance:

- Execute a Hand Salute.
- At the same time, turn your head in the direction of the officer.
- Offer an appropriate greeting while saluting the officer such as “Good Morning, sir or Ma’am.”

When you are in a group but not in a formation, the entire group salutes at one time. When you are in a formation, the senior person calls the formation to Attention, if not already at Attention, and salutes for the unit.

Fall In and Out of Ranks

The commands of **“fall, IN”** and **“fall, OUT”** are given to bring Young Marines together and to dismiss them from the group.

Whenever these commands are given, you will do the following:

“fall, IN”

- Quickly move to the designated area. (You will know this by the person who gave the command.)
- Get in your squad and adjust your spacing by raising your left arm straight out to your side with your fingers extended and joined. Once your fingers touch the shoulder of the person to your left, you have your proper distance and can drop your arm to your side and remain at Attention until given other orders.
- If you are the Squad Leader of a squad other than the first squad, when you fall in, raise your right arm out in front of you with your fingers extended and joined. Get your distance between you and the squad leader in front of you this way. The proper distance should be about 40 inches. Once you have this distance, drop your arm and remain at attention until given other orders.

“fall, OUT”

- On **“fall, OUT”** leave your position in ranks.
- Go to a pre-designated area or remain in the immediate vicinity.

Note: The only command you may receive from **“fall, OUT”** is **“fall, IN.”**

Dress Right, Dress

This command is given when the squad or platoon have fallen in but are not properly in line with one another. In order to properly form the platoon, the command will be given with three separate commands:

“dress right, DRESS”

“ready, FRONT”

“COVER”

Upon hearing the first command, **“dress right, DRESS,”** follow the steps below:

- Raise your left arm shoulder height with hand and fingers joined and extended.
- At the same time, turn your head to the right.
- Move right or left until your right shoulder touches the extended arm of the person to your left. Move forward or backward until you are in line with the person to your right.



On the command **“ready, FRONT,”** drop your left arm to your side in the position of Attention and turn your head to the front.

On the command **“COVER,”** squad two and three align themselves with the Recruit in front of them. First Squad will stand fast.

- If you have someone to your front, align yourself directly behind the person in front of you. This is also done at the command of **“COVER.”**



Video: Dress Right, Dress: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bujYdwHzeX4>

Video: Dress Right, Dress (At Close Interval):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT9dfu8E-s>

March in Quick Time

Quick Time is the term for marching at a regular pace. Cadence is the number of steps per minute or the “beat” you march to. Regular cadence in Quick Time is 120 steps or beats per minute. A regular Quick Time step is 30 inches for adults. In the Young Marines though, the Platoon Sergeant may adjust the length of the steps for shorter Young Marines.

In most cases, marching will begin from the halt – a stationary position – with Young Marines standing at Attention.

The command will be given with the following phrase:

“forward, MARCH” – the preparatory command being **“forward,”** and the command of execution being **“MARCH.”**

Upon hearing the command, follow the steps below:

- At **“forward,”** shift the weight of your body to the right leg without noticeable movement.
- On **“MARCH”** smartly take a normal step to the front with the left foot.
- At the same time, begin to swing your arms in their natural arc, six (6) inches to the front and three (3) inches to the rear of your legs.
- Continue to march without stiffness or exaggeration of movement, swinging the arms as indicated above until given another command.
- Make sure you keep the same distance between you and the Young Marine in front and to the right of you. You should always be in line with the Young Marine to your right.

Video: Basic Marching Terminology:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Vj0w_d9_cw&t=3s

March in Double Time

Double Time is the term for running or jogging. Regular cadence in Double Time is 180 steps or beats per minute. A regular step in Double Time is thirty-six (36) inches for adults. In the Young Marines, the Platoon Sergeant may adjust the length of the steps for shorter Young Marines.

In most cases, marching will begin from the halt – a stationary position – with Young Marines standing at Attention. The command will be given with the following phrase:

“double time, MARCH” with the preparatory command being **“double time,”** and the command of execution being **“MARCH.”**

Upon hearing the command, follow the steps below:

- At **“double time,”** shift the weight of your body to the right leg without noticeable movement.
- On **“MARCH”** sharply take a slightly longer than normal step to the front with the left foot.
- Simultaneously raise the forearms to a horizontal position along the waistline, fingers closed and knuckles out.
- Continue to march, taking slightly longer than normal steps, swinging your arms in their natural arc across the front of your body until given another command.
- Make sure you keep the same distance between you and the Young Marine in front and to the right of you. You should always be in line with the Young Marine to your right.

March in Mark Time

Mark Time is the term for marching in place without moving forward or backward. Regular cadence in Mark Time is 120 steps or beats per minute just as in Quick Time, but instead, you will take vertical steps to march in place.

This command can be given from a halted position or while marching and will be given as follows:

“mark time, MARCH.” The preparatory command is **“mark time,”** and the command of execution is **“MARCH.”**

Upon hearing the command, follow the steps below:

- At **“mark time,”** shift your body weight to the right leg without noticeable movement.
- On **“MARCH,”** take a two-inch, vertical step (measured from the ball of the foot to the deck) in place with your left foot. The heel should be four inches from the deck.
- At the same time, begin swinging your arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear of your leg.
- Continue marching in place at Quick Time cadence, taking two-inch vertical, alternating steps, swinging your arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear of your legs until given another command.
- Make sure you keep the same distance between you and the Young Marine in front and to the right of you. You should always be in line with the Young Marine to your right.

The command can also be given while marching in Quick Time. In this case, follow the steps below upon hearing the command:

- On **“MARCH”** take one more normal step to the front with your right foot.
- Bring the left foot alongside the right foot as in halt.
- Without losing cadence, take a two-inch vertical step in place with your right foot.
- Continue marching in place at Quick Time cadence, taking two-inch vertical, alternating steps, swinging your arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear of your legs until given another command.
- Make sure you keep the same distance between you and the Young Marine in front and to the right of you. You should always be in line with the Young Marine to your right.

March at the Half Step

The purpose of half step is to march forward at a Quick Time cadence while taking 15-inch steps (half of the full 30-inch steps). It may be executed when halted, at Attention, or marching forward at Quick Time.

While marching it may be given as either foot strikes the deck. The command is **“half step, MARCH.”**

If the command is called from the Halt:

- On the command **“MARCH,”** step off forward in quick time cadence with 15-inch steps. Raise your knees and point your toes as described previously for “Mark Time.” The balls of your feet should strike the deck before your heels. At the same time begin swinging your arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear as you would in quick time.

If the command is called while marching in **Quick Time**:

On the command “MARCH,” take one more 30-inch step.
Begin the 15-inch steps as explained above.

To resume quick time from half step, the command is “forward, MARCH.” It may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

On “MARCH,” take one more half step.
Step off at Quick Time.

Video: Half Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcmbB7iq3w4>

Execute the Halt

When you “halt,” you stop what you are doing. If you are marching forward, to halt would mean to stop marching forward and come to the position of attention in the direction you are facing. Once you have halted, you will remain at the position of attention until given another command.

The procedure to execute the halt is slightly different depending on if you are marching at Quick Time, Double Time, Mark Time, or at the Half Step, but the command will always be the same:

“**squad, HALT.**” The preparatory command is “**squad,**” and the command of execution is “**HALT.**”

(Note: The command is given as the left foot strikes the deck.)

While marching in **Quick Time**, the steps are as follows:

- On the count of one, take one more normal step.
- For the second count of halt, take the next step; sharply bring your left heel against the right heel.
- Assume the position until given another command.

While marching in **Double Time**, the steps are as follows:

- For the first count of halt and for your next step, take one more step forward with your right foot.
- For the second count of halt and for your next step, sharply bring the right heel against the left heel.
- Assume the position of Attention.
- Remain in this position until given another command.

While marching in **Mark Time**, the steps are as follows:

- For the first count of halt and for your next step, take one more vertical step in place with the right foot.
- For the second count of halt, take a vertical step in place with the left foot.
- For the third count of halt and for your next step, take a vertical step in place with the right foot, bringing the right heel smartly against the left heel and assume the position of Attention.
- Remain in this position until given another command.

While marching at the **Half Step**, the steps are as follows:

- For the first count of halt and for your next step, take one more fifteen-inch step to the front with your right foot.
- For the second count of halt and for your next step, sharply bring the left heel against the right heel.
- Assume the position of Attention.
- Remain in this position until given another command.

Video: Halt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyf-EmryH6U>

March at the Route Step

The purpose of Route Step is to march over rough terrain or long distances where calling cadence would be inefficient or impractical.

To march at Route Step, the command given is

“route step, MARCH”.

- Upon the execution of **“MARCH”**, cadence is stopped, and the formation is no longer required to stay in step. However, the formation is still required to march with proper technique while maintaining the proper interval and alignment.

To resume marching at Quick Time, the command given is **“ATTENTION”**.

- Upon the command **“ATTENTION”**, cadence will resume, and the formation will resume marching in step.

Video: Route Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k33B42gLFTY>

Open Ranks

The purpose of this movement is to increase the distance between ranks to 70 inches in order to accommodate the movements of an inspection party or to stack arms. It may be executed when halted in line at attention, and at normal or close interval. If armed, rifles will be at order arms.

The commands are:

“(At Close Interval) Open Ranks, MARCH;”

“Ready, FRONT;”

“COVER.”

When at normal interval –

- On **“MARCH,”** the front rank takes two 30-inch steps forward, halts, and executes Dress Right Dress.
- The second rank takes one 30-inch step forward, halts, and executes Dress Right Dress.
- The third rank stands fast and executes Dress Right Dress.
- IF there is a fourth rank, it takes two 15-inch back steps, halts, and executes Dress Right Dress.

When at close interval –

- All ranks will execute at Close Interval, Dress Right Dress in place of Dress Right Dress.

The Platoon Commander/Platoon Sergeant verifies alignment as for dress right dress, except that he/she will verify the 70-inch distance between ranks by taking two 30-inch steps and one 10-inch step when moving from one rank to the next.

- After verifying the alignment of the rear rank, he/she faces to the right in marching, marches 3 paces beyond the front rank, and 1 pace to the guide’s right, halts, faces to the left, and commands **“ready, FRONT”** and **“COVER.”** The platoon responds to these commands in the same manner as when they are given following dress right dress.
- If the platoon is about to be inspected the Platoon Commander, after the command **“COVER”** will take one step to the front so that he/she is 3 paces directly in front of the guide, and then execute a right face. From this position the Platoon Commander reports the Platoon to the inspecting officer.

Close Ranks

The purpose of this movement is to decrease the distance between opened ranks to a normal distance (40 inches). It may only be given when the platoon is at attention at open ranks.

The command is “**close ranks, MARCH**” and may only be given when the platoon is at Attention at open ranks. It should be given immediately after the reasoning for opening ranks is accomplished, and before the platoon is given further drill movements or dismissed.

On the command of execution, “**MARCH**”:

- The front rank stands fast.
- The second rank takes one 30-inch step to the front and halts.
- The third rank, simultaneously, takes two 30-inch steps to the front and halts.
- If there is a fourth squad, it takes three 30-inch steps to the front and halts.
- Each individual maintains cover and alignment while moving. No dressing movements are executed.

After the platoon is inspected, the Platoon Sergeant will return to a position three paces in front of the Guide and halts facing to the front. They would exchange salutes with the Inspector, face to the left, and then command “**close ranks, MARCH.**” After the command, they will return to their position six paces and centered in front of the platoon.

Eyes Right (Left)

The purpose of eyes right (left) is to demonstrate military courtesy to reviewing officers and dignitaries during parades and ceremonies.

The command is “**eyes, RIGHT (LEFT),**” and is executed in one count at Attention or marching at Quick Time. The command to turn the head back to the position of Attention is “**ready, FRONT.**”

While at the halt or marching –

- On the command of execution, “**RIGHT (LEFT),**” turn your head smartly and look 45 degrees to the right (left) keeping your shoulders square to the front.
- Only the Unit leader and the Guide salute the reviewing officer or dignitaries.
- On the command of “**FRONT,**” turn your head and eyes smartly back to the front.
- The furthest right squad for “**eyes, RIGHT**” will remain with their heads facing front, and this will be the opposite for “**eyes, LEFT.**”

Count Off

The purpose of this movement is to designate the relative position in the ranks of each member of the platoon. It may be executed when the platoon is halted at Attention in a line or column.

When in line, the command is “**count, OFF;**” when in column, the command is “**from front to rear, count, OFF.**”

While in line –

- On the command “**OFF,**” everyone except the Squad Leaders turn their heads 90 degrees over the shoulder and look right.
- The Squad Leaders shout **ONE**.
- The person in the file to the left of the Squad Leaders turns their head smartly back to the front and shouts **TWO**.
- Each subsequent person to the left turns their head back to the front and at the same time shouts the next higher number.

While in column –

- On the command “**from front to rear, count, OFF,**” the Squad Leaders turn their heads 90 degrees over their right shoulder and shouts **ONE** as the head is turned back to the front.
- Each subsequent rank turns their heads to the right and shouts the next highest number as the head is turned back to the front.

This is carried on in sequence at quick time cadence. The guide does not turn his/her head nor count off. The Platoon Commander gives the command from a position 6 paces in front and centered on the squad leaders.

Change Step

The purpose of this movement is to change the cadence count without changing the rhythm of the cadence.

The command is “**change step, MARCH.**” It may be given while marching at Quick or Double Time, Marking Time, or Double Timing in place.

The command of execution is given as the right foot strikes the deck.

While Marching at Quick Time or Double Time:

- On “**MARCH,**” take one more step, 30 or 36 inches, as appropriate.
- As your right foot comes forward to the next step, place the toe near the left heel and step out again with the left foot. This changes the cadence count, but not the rhythm.

While Marking Time:

- On “**MARCH,**” lift and lower the left foot twice in succession.
- The second time it touches the deck, raise the right foot and continue marking time.

While Double Timing in Place:

- On “**MARCH,**” hop twice on the left foot.
- Continue double timing in place.

Video: Change Step: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exPY2TdJ_GQ

Side Step

The purpose of Side Step is to move the unit a short distance to the right or left. There are no counts, however there is a cadence of “1-2.”

The command “**right (left) step, MARCH**” is given only when you are at a halt.

- At the command “**MARCH,**” move your right foot 12 inches to the right, then place your left foot smartly beside your right as to reassume the position of Attention. Repeat this movement at a quick time cadence. Keep your legs straight, but not stiff. Hold your arms at your sides as in the position of Attention.
- During the movement, the formation must continue to cover.

Video: Side Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmL7IHrwys8>

Back Step

The purpose of Back Step is to march the unit backwards for a short distance.

The command “**backward, MARCH**” is given only when you are at a halt. Please note that the command is “backward, MARCH” and not “backstep, MARCH.”

- At the command “**MARCH,**” step off to the rear with your left foot and take 15-inch steps at a Quick Time cadence. At the same time swing your arms 6 inches to the front and 3 inches to the rear. This is the equivalent of marching in Half Step backwards. When your foot comes down, the foot must strike with the ball of the foot first. Be sure to bring your feet “boot-top high” and maintain proper alignment.

Video: Back Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnDhfGLsKFA&t=108s>

PLATOON DRILL

A platoon consists of a Platoon Headquarters and two or more squads. Platoon Headquarters consists at a minimum of a Platoon Commander, a Platoon Sergeant and a Platoon Guide. One or more assistants may be designated.

- Squads in a Platoon are numbered from front to rear in column (when facing the front of the column) and from right to left in line.
- The Platoon forms in two or more ranks with a 40-inch distance between ranks.
- The Platoon changes interval while in line and counts off in the same manner as the Squad. Squad Leaders are the base for these movements. The Guide moves to the right when interval is taken to the left and does not count off.
- In Platoon Drill, if all members of the Platoon are to execute a movement simultaneously, the movement is executed on the command of the Platoon Commander. In this case, Squad Leaders do not repeat or give any commands. When squads of the Platoon are to execute a movement in successive order, such as forming column of twos (files) and reforming into column (of threes, etc.), Squad Leaders give appropriate supplemental commands for the movement of their Squads.
- Unless specified for the Platoon to be at close interval, all changes in formation should be executed with normal interval and distance between files and ranks.
- The Unit Leader will march to the left and parallel to the platoon, from a position where he/she can best control the unit.
 - All commands given by the Unit Leader while the platoon is halted will be 6 paces in front of the unit and centered on the element.

Formations

Column and Line are the two formations for a platoon.

- The platoon normally forms in line with the squad leaders on the right of their squads and the guide on the right of the first squad leader. The platoon marches in line for short distances only. The Platoon is normally marched in column with the squad leaders in front of their squads and the guide in front of the third (right) squad leader.

Posts of Individuals

- In line, the platoon commander's stand 6 paces in front of the center of the front rank of the platoon. In column, the platoon commander marches at the head of the left file of the platoon, unless drilling the platoon, in which case he/she would maintain position 6 paces from the platoon.
- When the platoon commander is present, the platoon sergeant takes post to the left of the left member of the rear rank when the platoon is in line. When in column, the platoon sergeant follows the last member of the right file (squad). When the platoon commander is not present, the platoon sergeant takes the platoon commander's post and drills the platoon in the manner prescribed for the platoon commander.
- Extra members may fall in on the left when the platoon is in line and in the rear when in column. If the squads are evenly filled, the first extra member falls in with the first squad, the second with the third (fourth) squad and then remaining squads. The platoon sergeant will reposition when necessary so as to remain the last person in the last rank.
- In this Guide the term "platoon commander," e.g., the platoon commander then checks the alignment, means the individual drilling the platoon. He/she may be the platoon leader, platoon sergeant, or platoon member drilling the platoon for an inspection or evaluation. Except when marching at the head of a platoon column, the platoon commander must maintain proper distance (6 paces) from the platoon and remain centered on the platoon during all drill movements.
 - If the platoon were executing a right step, the platoon commander, who is facing the platoon, would execute a left step in cadence with the platoon in order to maintain proper position. For a left step the platoon commander would execute a right step.
 - If the platoon were executing a back step, the platoon commander would execute a half step, in cadence with the platoon in order to maintain proper position.
 - Movements of the platoon commander during other platoon movements are explained in the paragraph describing the movement.

Rules for the Guide

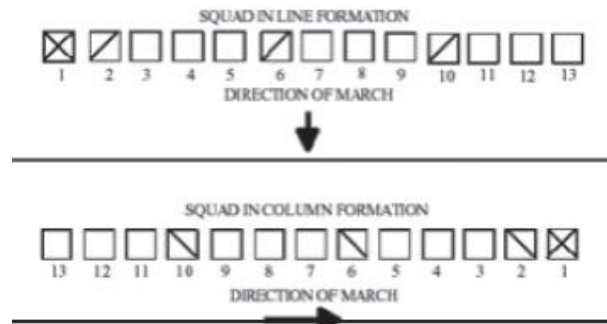
- Unless otherwise directed, guide is right and the platoon guide takes post on the right. In line, the guide is posted to the right of the squad leader of the first squad. In column, the guide is posted in front of the squad leader of the third or right squad.
- In column, when it is desired to guide left or center, the command **“GUIDE LEFT”** is given. At this command, the guide and the platoon commander exchange positions. The guide crosses between the platoon commander and the platoon. To return the guide to normal position, **“GUIDE RIGHT”** is commanded. The guide and platoon commander return to their normal positions with the guide again passing between the platoon commander and the platoon. This movement may be made at a halt or while marching. The base squad or file is the one behind the guide.
- The guide does not change position at the command **“Dress Left, DRESS.”**
- When a platoon in line is given the command **“Right, FACE,”** the platoon guide executes right face with the platoon. The guide then faces to the right in marching, moves to a position in front of the right squad leader, halts, and executes left face. If a platoon in line is given **“Left, FACE,”** the guide executes left face with the platoon but does not change position within the platoon.
- When a platoon in column is given the command **“Column of Files from the Left,”** the guide takes position in front of the left squad leader so as to remain at the head of the column.
- When a platoon in column is given the command **“Column of Twos from the Left,”** the guide takes position in front of the second squad so as to remain at the head of the right file of the column. These movements are executed by facing left as in marching, moving to the appropriate position, halting, and facing right.
- When reforming in a column of threes or fours from a column of files or twos, the guide takes post at his normal position when the movement is completed.
- The guide sets the direction and cadence of the march. The leading member of each file is responsible for interval.
 - When a platoon is marching in column and the command **“By the Right (Left) Flank, MARCH”** or **“To the Rear, MARCH”** is given, the guide executes the movement with the platoon but does not change relative position except during specific movements of unit drill.
- **Note:** The guide does not count off.

Video: Controlling the Guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DWyqgXQr2E>

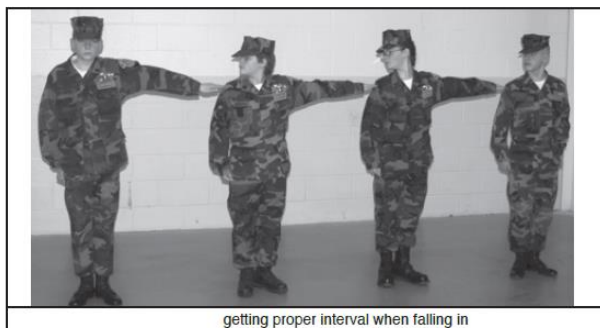
Form the Squad

To Form the Squad.

- Members of the squad normally form as indicated this diagram. (e.g., maintain fire team/section integrity). However, for parades and ceremonies where appearance is more important, the squads should be sized. To size the squad the tallest member takes position 2 with the shortest squad member in position 13. The squad leader, regardless of height, always forms as the squad leader, in position 1.



- To form at normal interval, the command is **“FALL IN.”**
- The squad forms on line on the left of the squad leader. Each member of the squad, except the individual on the left flank, raises their left arm shoulder high in line with their body. Fingers are extended and joined, palm down thumb extended along the forefinger. Each individual except the squad leader turns their head and looks to the right. To obtain a normal interval, everyone places himself in line so their right shoulder touches the fingertips of the person on their right. As soon as each individual is in line with the person on their right, and the person on their left has obtained normal interval, they assume the position of attention smartly but quietly.



To form at close interval, the command is **“At Close Interval, FALL IN.”**

- The squad forms on line on the left of the squad leader. Each member of the squad, except the individual on the left flank, places their left hand on their hip, elbow in line with the body. They rest the heel of the palm on the hip with fingers extended and joined and pointing down. Everyone except the squad leader turns their head and looks to the right. To obtain close interval, they place themselves in line so their right arm touches the elbow of the person on their right. As soon as each individual is in line with the person on their right, and the person on their left has obtained close interval, they assume the position of attention smartly but quietly.



Squad formed with proper interval



getting proper close interval when falling in



Squad formed at close interval

Align the Squad

To Align the Squad.

The purpose of these movements is to dress the alignment of the squad. They may be executed when the squad is halted at attention on line.

The command is **“Dress Right, DRESS”** or **“At Close Interval, Dress Right, DRESS.”** These commands are given only when the squad is at approximately the same interval as the interval at which the dress is commanded.

Dress Right Dress.

- On the command **“Dress Right, DRESS,”** everyone except the squad leader, smartly turn their heads to the right, 90 degrees over the shoulder look, and align themselves. At the same time, everyone except the individual on the left flank, provide interval by smartly raising their left arm to shoulder height and in line with their body. Fingers are extended and joined, thumb along the forefinger, palm down.

- As the base of the movement, the squad leader keeps his/her head and eyes to the front. All other members of the squad position themselves by short steps until their right shoulders lightly touch the fingertips of the person on their right.



- The unit leader, on his/her own command of execution **“DRESS,”** faces half left, as in marching, and proceeds by the most direct route to a position on line with and one pace to the right of the individual on the right flank. At this position, the unit leader executes a halt in the oblique facing the rear of the formation, and then executes a right face, facing down the line of the squad. The unit leader aligns the squad by commanding those individuals in advance or rear of the line to move forward or backward until in line. Name or number designates these individuals. For example: **“Jones, FORWARD;”** or **“Number Three, BACKWARD.”** Those individuals will move until receiving the command **“STEADY.”** The unit leader may execute a series of short side steps to the right or left in order to identify an individual. However, prior to commanding the identified individual to move, the unit leader will be on line with the rank. After verifying the alignment of the squad, the unit leader faces to the right in marching, marches straight to a point 3 paces beyond the squad, halts, faces to the left, and commands **“Ready, FRONT.”** Immediately after commanding **“FRONT,”** the unit leader marches by the most direct route back to post 3 paces, front and centered, on the squad.
- On the command **“Ready, FRONT,”** all members of the squad who raised their left arm and turned their head to the right, will smartly but quietly lower their arm to their side and at the same time turn their head back to the front, assuming the position of attention.

- When aligning a squad of well-drilled Young Marines or when there is insufficient time to verify alignment, the unit leader may command, **“Ready, FRONT”** from his/her normal position (3 paces front and centered), without having verified alignment.

At Close Interval Dress Right Dress. This movement is executed in the same manner as dress right dress except, on the command, **“At Close Interval, Dress Right, DRESS,”** those individuals providing interval will do so by placing the heel of their left hand on their hip with the elbow in line with their body. Fingers are extended and joined and pointing down. Members gaining interval will move by short steps until their right arm is touching the left elbow of the individual to their left.



Dismiss the Squad

To Dismiss the Squad.

- The squad is dismissed only from a line with individuals at attention.
- Color Guard Riflemen are dismissed with the commands **“ORDER ARMS;”** and **“DISMISSED.”**
- Unarmed Young Marines are dismissed with the command **“DISMISSED.”**

Form the Platoon

To Form the Platoon. The platoon forms in line at normal interval and distance between files and ranks on the command “**FALL IN.**” To form at close interval, the command is “**At Close Interval, FALL IN,**” in which case the platoon forms in line with normal distance between ranks, but with close interval between files. The platoon sergeant or platoon commander forms the platoon as described below.

Forming the Platoon by the Platoon Sergeant.

- The platoon sergeant takes post 3 paces in front of the point where the center of the platoon will be, faces that point, draws sword if so armed, and commands either “**FALL IN**” or “**At Close Interval, FALL IN.**” At this command, the guide takes post so that the first rank, when aligned on the guide will be centered on and 3 paces from the platoon sergeant. The squad leader of the first squad falls in to the left of the guide and aligns at normal or close interval. Other squad leaders fall in directly behind the squad leader of the first squad with 40 inches distance between them. The members of the squads fall in and align on their squad leaders at normal or close interval as prescribed in squad drill, except that exact interval is measured only by the front rank. Individuals in the rear ranks gain their interval by covering the corresponding member of the rank in front of them. All personnel fall in at attention and, if armed with the rifle, at the position of order arms.
- When a report is appropriate, after all personnel are formed, the platoon sergeant commands, “**REPORT.**” Remaining in position, the squad leaders, in sequence from front to rear, salute and report, “**All present**” or “**(Rank and Name) absent.**” The platoon sergeant then executes about face. (**Note:** If the platoon cannot be formed in regularly organized squads prior to forming the platoon, the platoon sergeant calls the roll. Each Marine answers “here,” as their name is called. The platoon sergeant then organizes the platoon into squads and faces the front.)
- To receive the platoon, the platoon commander takes post 3 paces in front of the platoon sergeant, the platoon sergeant salutes and reports, “**Sir (Ma am), all present or accounted for**” or “**Sir (Ma am), (number) absent.**” The platoon commander returns the salute and may discuss absentees and issue necessary instructions to the platoon sergeant. The platoon commander then commands the platoon sergeant, “**TAKE YOUR POST.**” The platoon sergeant marches by the most direct route to a post on the left of the rear rank. The platoon commander then draws sword, if so armed. If the platoon commander does not receive the platoon, the platoon sergeant takes 3 paces forward, faces about and assumes the post and duties of the platoon commander.

Forming the Platoon by the Platoon Commander.

- When appropriate, the platoon may be formed by the platoon commander rather than the platoon sergeant. The procedures are the same except that the platoon commander takes post 6 paces in front of the point where the center of the platoon will be, faces that point, and commands “**FALL IN**” or “**At Close Interval, FALL IN.**”
- The platoon forms on the platoon commander, the platoon sergeant falling in on the left of the rear rank. The platoon commander then receives the report from the squad leaders.

Align the Platoon

The purpose of these movements is to dress the alignment of the platoon. They may be executed when the platoon is halted at attention in line or column.

When in line, the commands are **“Dress Right (Left), DRESS”** or **“At Close Interval, Dress Right (Left), DRESS.”** These commands are given only when the platoon is at approximately the same interval as the interval at which the dress is commanded.

Dress Right Dress.

- On the command **“Dress Right, DRESS,”** everyone except those individuals on the right flank, smartly turn their heads to the right, look, and align themselves. At the same time, everyone except those individuals on the left flank, provide interval by smartly raising their extended left arm to shoulder height and in line with their body. Fingers are extended and joined, thumb along the forefinger, palm down.
- As the base of the movement, the guide stands fast and remains looking to the front. The first squad leader looks to the right and aligns on the guide. The other squad leaders cover on the first squad leader and look to the front, ensuring they have a 40-inch distance. All other members position themselves by short steps until their right shoulders touch the fingertips of the person on their right.
- The platoon commander, on his/her own command of execution **“DRESS,”** faces half left, as in marching, and proceeds by the most direct route to a position on line with the front rank and 1 pace to the guide’s right (or first squad leader if there is no guide).
- At this position, the platoon commander executes a halt while facing rear, and then executes a right face, facing down the line of the first rank. The platoon commander aligns the front rank by commanding those individuals in advance or rear of the line to move forward or backward until in line. Name or number designates these individuals. For example: **“Jones, FORWARD;”** or **“Number Three, BACKWARDS.”** Those commanded to move will move the designated number of steps or will continue to move (taking small steps) until receiving the command **“STEADY.”** The commander may execute a series of short side steps to the right e. or left in order to identify an individual. However, prior to commanding the identified individual to move, the commander will be on line with the rank. After verifying the alignment of the first rank, the platoon commander faces to the left as in marching, and moves to a position on line with the next rank.
- The 1 pace interval from the guide is maintained (this results in a 2 pace interval from the second and subsequent squad leaders). The commander halts on line with each succeeding rank, executes right face, and aligns the rank.
- After verifying the alignment of the last rank, the platoon commander faces to the right in marching, marches straight to a point 3 paces beyond the front rank, maintaining the 1 pace interval to the guide’s right, halts, (see figure 1 -3e) faces to the left, and commands **“Ready, FRONT”**.
- Immediately after commanding, **“Ready, FRONT”;**

- The platoon commander marches by the most direct route back to a post 6 paces front and centered on the platoon, halts facing down line or to the front.
- All members of the platoon who raised their left arm and turned their head to the right, will smartly but quietly lower their arm to their side and at the same time turn their head back to the front, assuming the position of attention.
- When aligning a platoon of well-drilled troops or when there is insufficient time to verify alignment, the platoon commander may command **“Ready, FRONT”** from his/her normal position (6 paces front and centered), without having verified alignment.

At Close Interval Dress Right Dress.

- This movement is executed in the same manner as dress right dress except for the following: On the command **“At Close Interval, Dress Right, DRESS,”** those individuals providing interval will do so by placing the heel of their left hand on their hip with the elbow in line with their body. Fingers are extended and joined and pointing down. Members gaining interval will move by short steps until their right arm is touching the left elbow of the individual to their right.

Aligning in Column.

- The base squad for maintaining alignment while halted or marching in column is normally the third (right) squad. However, when executing a column left, column half left or eyes left alignment is to the first (left) squad. While marching, alignment is maintained by constantly glancing out of the corner of the right (left) eye, without turning the head.

Halted.

- When halted in column, (except for parades and ceremonies) a. the platoon is aligned by the command **“COVER.”** At the command, the base squad leader obtains a 40-inch distance from the guide and covers on him/her. Other squad leaders obtain proper interval from the base squad leader and align toward the base by glancing out of the corner of their right (left) eye without turning their heads. Other members of the base squad obtain a 40-inch distance and covers on the person in front of them. At the same time, the remaining members of the platoon align on the base squad, by glancing out of the corner of their right (left) eye without turning the head and covers on the person in front of them. Only small adjusting steps are taken by platoon members to gain cover and alignment.

Marching.

- While marching, cover and alignment are constantly maintained by glancing out of the corner of the right (left) eye, without turning the head, to align on the base squad. The command of **“COVER”** is only given if required.

Video: Align the Platoon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJ8tFPydhBA>

Dismiss the Platoon

To Dismiss the Platoon.

- The platoon is dismissed only from in line while at attention.
- Young Marines are dismissed with the command “**DISMISSED.**”
- The platoon sergeant usually dismisses the platoon.

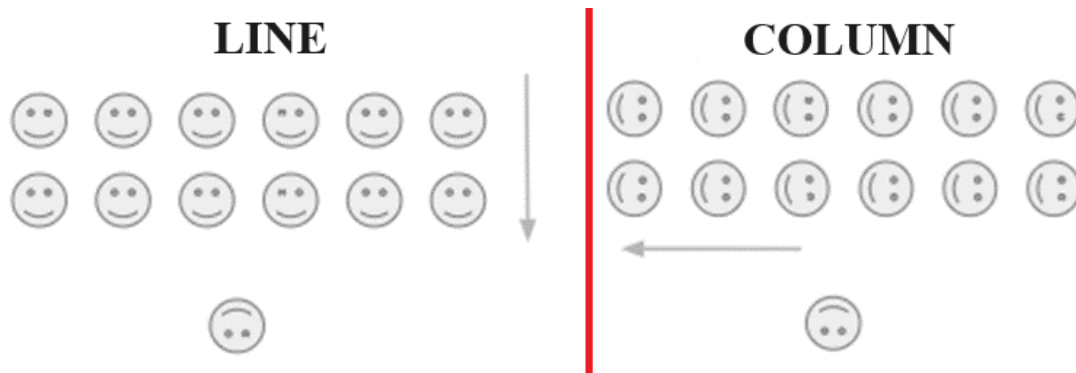
Video: Fall Out/Dismissed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJaoDMADWHA&t=3s>

Form Column from Line

The purpose of this movement is to change the formation from line to column. It may be executed only when halted at normal interval and at attention.

The command is **“Right, FACE.”**

- On the command of execution **“FACE,”** all members of the platoon face to the right, hereby forming a column. The guide moves to his/her position in front of the right squad leader.
- The Platoon Commander may then command any halted movement from his/her current position, (e.g., facing movements, right/left step; etc.) unless otherwise indicated in this guide.
- If the platoon is to march as part of a larger formation the Platoon Commander takes post in front of the left file and the guide in front of the right file. From this position the platoon commander would command, **“Forward (Column Right {Left}), MARCH”** to cause the platoon to march in column.
- (**Note:** Since the platoon becomes inverted if faced to the left, this should only be done for short adjusting movements. To properly form column facing to the left, the platoon should first form column by facing to the right, then execute successive column movements until the column is faced in the desired direction.)



Form Line from Column

The purpose of this movement is to change the formation from a column back to a line. It may be executed when halted at attention and at order arms if armed with rifles.

The command is **“Left, FACE.”**

- At the command of execution **“FACE,”** all members of the platoon face to the left, the platoon commander, if necessary, moves by the most direct route to a post 6 paces front and center of the platoon, and the platoon guide takes post on the right of the front rank.
- (**Note:** When in column, if the platoon is faced to the right it becomes inverted. This should only be done for short adjusting movements.)

Execute Column Movements

Column movements are used when marching in column formation to change direction of the squad, platoon, or company. It is essentially executing a right or left face except you are doing so while marching instead of while standing still.

While marching, the command of execution, **“MARCH,”** will always be given as the left foot strikes the deck.

Column movement commands are:

“column right, MARCH” – On **“MARCH”** the column turns 90 degrees to the right.

“column left, MARCH” – On **“MARCH”** the column turns 90 degrees to the left.

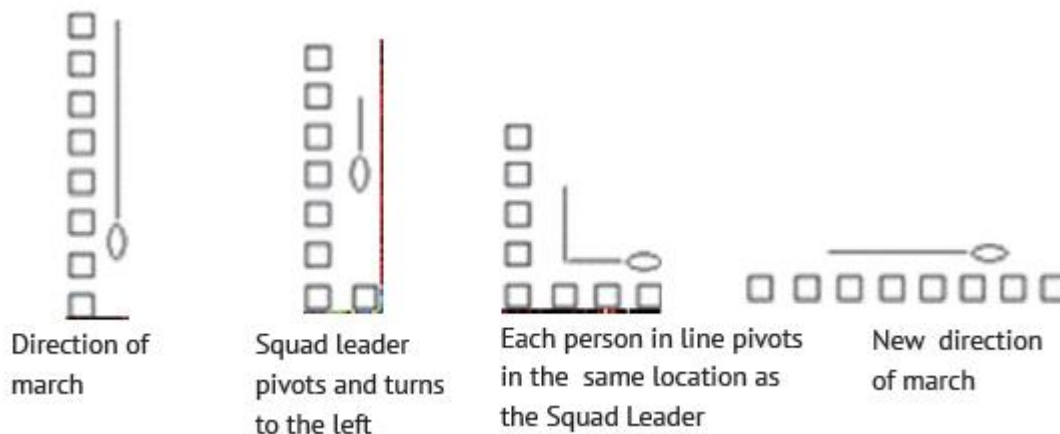
“column half-right, MARCH” – On **“MARCH”** the column turns 45 degrees to the right.

“column half-left, MARCH” – On **“MARCH”** the column turns 45 degrees to the left.

When moving as a platoon or larger group, all squads follow the base element. The base element is the squad that is closest to the turn. If you are turning to the left, the first squad would be the base element. The pivot Young Marine for the movement is the first Young Marine in the base squad, excluding the Platoon Commander or the Guide.

Each person that follows the pivot Young Marine will pivot or execute their turn in the same spot as the pivot Young Marine.

In this example, the squad will perform a **“Column Left.”**



To perform a column movement while marching, follow the steps below after receiving one of the above commands:

- On the command “**column left, MARCH,**” the first squad is the base element. On the next step after “**MARCH,**” the First Squad Leader pivots 90 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot. Following the pivot, the First Squad Leader steps off in a 30-inch step. Beginning with the second step after the pivot, the First Squad Leader takes up the Half Step. Each succeeding member of the first squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader (lead person). (For “**Column Right,**” third squad is the base element and the pivots occur on the opposite foot noted for “**Column Left.**”)
- Diagram illustrating the "Column Left" movement. It shows four squads (1, 2, 3, 4) moving from right to left. Squad 1 is the base element. Squad 2 pivots 45 degrees left, Squad 3 pivots 45 degrees left, and Squad 4 pivots 90 degrees left. The diagram shows the "Step & Pivot" and "MARCH" steps for each squad. A "SECOND PIVOT POINT" is indicated for Squad 2. A legend shows "1 2 3 4 = SQUAD NUMBER".
- The Second Squad leader takes one 30-inch step, pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot, takes two 30-inch steps prior, and again pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot. Following this pivot, the Second Squad Leader steps off in a 30-inch step. Each succeeding member of the second squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader (lead person). The Second Squad Leader continues marching in 30-inch steps until aligned with the First Squad Leader, then picks up the Half Step. Each succeeding member of the second squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader. (For “**Column Right,**” the pivots occur on the opposite foot noted for “**Column Left.**” The Second Squad Leader will pick up the Half Step once he or she aligns with the First Squad Leader.)
 - The Third Squad leader takes one 30-inch step, pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot, takes four 30-inch steps prior, and again pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot. Following this pivot, the Third Squad Leader steps off in a 30-inch step. Each succeeding member of the third squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader (lead person). The Third Squad Leader continues marching in 30-inch steps, without picking up the Half Step at any point. Once the Third Squad Leader is aligned with the First and Second Squad Leader, the First and Second Squad Leaders will automatically resume full 30-inch steps. This procedure is followed by all succeeding members of the respective squads. (For “**Column Right,**” the first squad performs the outermost pivots. The pivots occur on the opposite foot noted for “**Column Left.**” The First Squad Leader will continue marching at a full 30-inch step after the second pivot without picking up the Half Step. Once he or she aligns to the Second and Third Squad Leaders, those squad leaders will resume the full 30-inch step.)
 - During column movements, the Unit Leader/ Platoon Commander and Guide execute either an oblique or a 90-degree pivot (depending on the direction of the movement) on

the command of execution. After completing their turn, they adjust their line of march so that they are in front of the appropriate squad.

- For slight changes of direction, the command is **“INCLINE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT).”** At that command, the guide changes direction as commanded. This is not a precision movement and is executed only while marching.

Video: Column Movements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emt8dzkU0l4>

Video: Column Half Movements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhGLrZDhAfA>

Video: Column Left (Halted): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czmJ0kSkfd8>

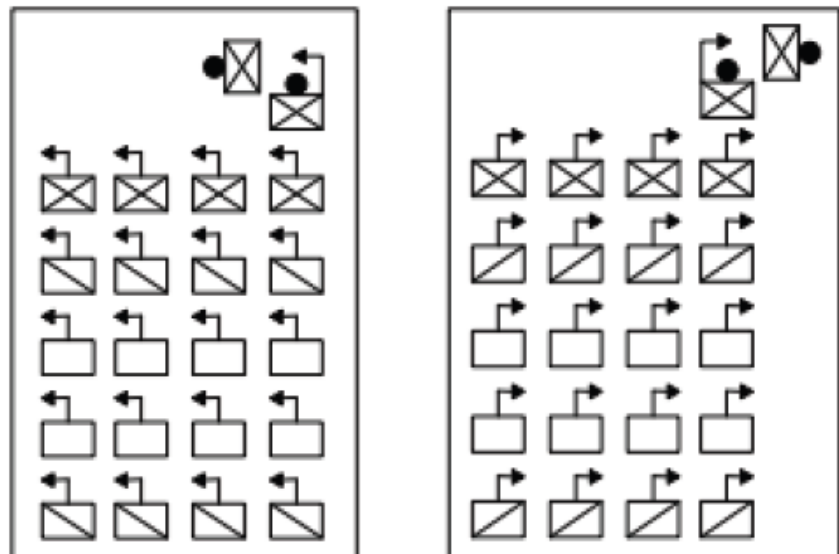
Video: Column Left (Right): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPnXCXNkoKc&t=4s>

March to the Flank

The purpose of this movement is to march the entire unit to the right (left) for a short distance. The Flank differs from the Column movement by changing the direction of the formation simultaneously instead of one after the other. During the execution of the Flank, the formation will be marching in line instead of in column. The Flank may be executed when halted or while marching.

The command is **“by the right (left) flank, MARCH.”** When marching the command of execution is given as the foot in the direction of the movement strikes the deck.

- To execute a right flank when marching at quick time, the command is **“By the Right Flank, MARCH.”** On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** everyone takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the left foot and then pivots 90 degrees to the right on the ball of the left foot. Stepping out of the pivot with a 30-inch step, the entire squad/platoon marches in line to the right flank. The Unit Leader/Platoon Commander and Guide execute the flanking movement with the squad/platoon, but does not change their position within the Platoon. For the Squad/Platoon to resume marching in the original direction, the command is **“By the Left Flank, MARCH.”** To march to the left flank, substitute left for right and right for left in the above sequence. No other command may be given when marching to the flank until the unit has resumed marching to the original front.
- When this movement is executed from a column at close interval, squad(s) to the rear of the squad that becomes the leading squad takes up the half step. They resume a full step as soon as a 40-inch distance has opened between squads. After such a movement, the platoon maintains normal interval until close march is commanded.
- When marching at double time, on the command of execution **“MARCH,”** everyone takes two more 36-inch steps to the front and then two 6-inch vertical steps in place at double time cadence. While stepping in place, everyone turns 90 degrees toward the direction commanded and then steps off with a 36-inch step in the new direction.
- When the platoon executes flank movements from a column at close interval, squad(s) to the rear of the squad that becomes the leading squad, will take up a half step. They resume a full step as soon as a 40-inch distance has opened between squads. After such a movement, the platoon maintains normal interval until close march is commanded.



- Figure 1-12 shows the original direction of march.
- Figure 1-13 shows the 90 degree turn performing **“By the Left Flank”**.
- Figure 1-14 shows the new direction of march, and
- Figure 1-15 shows the return to the original direction of march by means of the command **“By the Right Flank”**.



Figure 1-12



Figure 1-13



Figure 1-14



Figure 1-15

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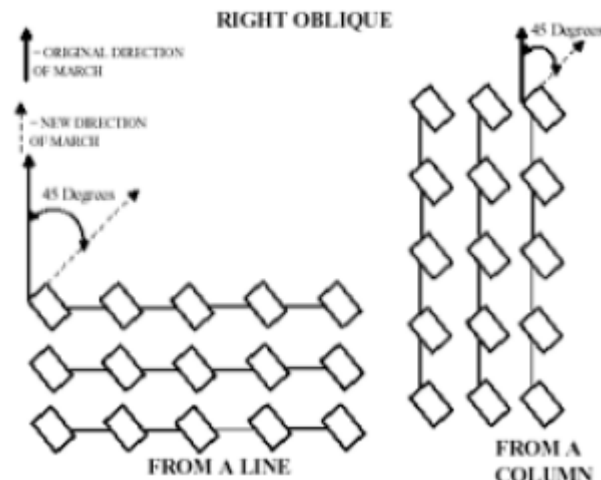
Video: Flanking Movements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMcGgHB-PVE>

March to the Oblique

The purpose of this movement is to shift the line of march to the right or left for a short distance and then resume marching in the original direction. It may be executed from any formation that is marching at quick time cadence.

The command is **“right (left) oblique, MARCH.”** The word oblique is pronounced to rhyme with ‘Mike’. The command of execution is given as the foot in the direction of the turn strikes the deck. The command to resume the original direction of march is **“forward, MARCH.”** The command of execution is given as the foot toward the original front strikes the deck.

- To teach the platoon to march to the oblique, the unit leader aligns the unit and has members face half right (left). The unit leader then explains that these positions are maintained when marching to the oblique. Individuals keeping their shoulders parallel to the persons in front and/or adjacent to them achieve this. The squad leader (in a squad) or the individual at the corner of the platoon towards the direction of the oblique (in a platoon) is the base of the movement and must maintain a steady line of march keeping his/her other shoulders blocked perpendicular to the direction of march.
- At the command **“Right Oblique, MARCH”** the command of execution is given as the right foot strikes the deck. Everyone then takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the left foot and pivots 45 degrees to the right on the ball of the left foot. Stepping out of the pivot with a 30-inch step, the entire squad/platoon marches to the right oblique until given another command.
- For the squad/platoon to resume marching in the original direction, the command is **“Forward, MARCH,”** in this case the command of execution will be given as the left foot strikes the deck. Everyone then takes one more step in the oblique direction with the right foot; pivots back to the original front and continues to march. To march to the left oblique, substitute left for right and right for left in the above sequence.
- To halt the squad/platoon facing in the original direction of march the command is **“Squad or Platoon, HALT.”** The command of execution **“HALT”** is given on the left foot when marching to the right oblique, and on the right foot when marching to the left oblique. At the command **“HALT,”** everyone takes one more step in the oblique direction, pivots to the original front on the toe of the right (left) foot and places the left (right) foot beside the other at the position of attention.
- To temporarily halt the squad/platoon in the oblique direction, in order to correct errors, the command is **“In Place, HALT.”** The command of execution **“HALT”** may be given as either foot strikes the deck. At the command of execution **“HALT,”** the squad halts in two counts as in quick time and remains facing in the oblique direction. The only



command that can be given after halting in place is **“Resume, MARCH.”** At that command the movement continues marching in the oblique direction.

- When given half step or mark time while marching in the oblique, the only commands that may be given are, **“Resume, MARCH,”** to continue marching with a 30-inch step in the oblique; or **“In Place, HALT.”** to halt in the oblique in order to correct errors.

Video: Obliques: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEZ4ffb3VG0&t=13s>

March to the Rear

The purpose of this movement is to march the squad/platoon to the rear for a short distance. It may be executed when halted or marching forward at quick time or double time.

The command is **“To the Rear, MARCH.”** The command of execution will be given as the right foot strikes the deck.

- When halted, on the command of execution **“MARCH,”** everyone takes one 15-inch step to the front with the left foot and then pivots 180 degrees toward the right on the balls of both feet. Stepping out of the pivot with a 30-inch step, the entire squad/platoon marches to the rear. For the squad/platoon to resume marching in the original direction, the command **“To the Rear, MARCH”** is given again. No other command may be given when marching to the rear until the unit has resumed marching to the original front.
- When marching at quick time, on the command of execution **“MARCH,”** everyone takes one more 15-inch step to the front with the left foot and then pivots 180 degrees toward the right on the balls of both feet. Stepping out of the pivot with a 30-inch step, the entire squad/platoon marches to the rear. For the squad/platoon to resume marching in the original direction, the command **“To the Rear, MARCH”** is given again. No other command may be given when marching to the rear until the unit has resumed marching to the original front.
- When marching at double time, on the command of execution **“MARCH,”** everyone takes two more 36-inch steps to the front and then four 6-inch vertical steps in place at double time cadence. On the first and third steps in place, everyone pivots 180 degrees to the right. After the fourth step in place, and for the fifth step, they step off with a 36-inch step in the new direction. For the squad/platoon to resume marching in the original direction, the command **“To the Rear, MARCH”** is given again. No other command may be given when marching to the rear until the unit has resumed marching to the original front.

Video: March to the Rear: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvzNiYAyFHI>

Obtain Close Interval from Normal Interval in Line

The purpose of this movement is to close the interval between files of a platoon in line to 4 inches. It may be executed when the platoon is halted at attention and in line at normal interval.

The command is “**Close, MARCH.**”

- The squad leaders are the base of this movement. On the command of execution “**MARCH,**” the squad leaders stand fast and place their left hand on their hip to provide interval for the individuals to their left.
- At the same time, all other members of the platoon, except for the guide, face to the right as in marching, march toward the right flank until approximately 4 inches from the person in front of them, halt, and face to the left. They then execute at close interval dress right dress. After aligning and without command, they will smartly lower their left hands and turn their heads to the front as soon as the individual to their left has touched their elbow with his/her right arm and stopped moving. Cover is then obtained without command.
- On the command of execution, the guide will step to the left as in marching and close to 4 inches on the first squad leader. After halting and facing to the right, the guide will execute at close interval dress left dress. When aligned and at the proper interval the guide will return to the position of attention.
- The platoon commander on his/her own command of execution “**MARCH**” will step to the left in marching. He/she marches parallel to the platoon maintaining a distance of 6 paces from the platoon. When approximately on the center of the platoon at close interval the platoon commander halts and faces the platoon. The platoon commander then adjusts to the center of the platoon by taking small steps left, right, forward or back.

Obtain Close Interval in Column (Close)

The purpose of this movement is to close the interval between files in a column to 4 inches. It may be executed when halted or marching at normal interval in column.

The command is **“Close, MARCH.”**

When halted and the guide is right.

On the command **“MARCH,”** members of the base (right) squad will stand fast.

- Members of the squad next to the base squad will execute two side steps to the right.
- The next squad to the left will execute four side steps to the right.
- If there are four squads in the platoon, the left most squad will execute six side steps to the right.
- While side stepping, cover and alignment will be maintained. Steps may be adjusted slightly so that a 4-inch interval is obtained. Upon completion of the designated number of steps, members of the squad will halt and resume the position of attention.

When marching and the guide is right, the command of execution **“MARCH”** is given as the right foot strikes the deck.

At this command:

- The base (right) squad takes one more 30-inch step with the left foot and then begins to half step.
- The squad to the left of the base squad takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the left foot; execute right oblique toward the base squad for one step and then steps 30-inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- The next squad to the left takes one more 30-inch step to the front and then executes right oblique toward the base squad for three steps and steps 30 inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- If there are four squads in the platoon, the first (left) squad would execute the same movements as above except the members would take five steps in the oblique.
- Steps in the oblique may be adjusted slightly so that a 4-inch interval is obtained.
- At the command **“Forward, MARCH”** all squads resume taking 30-inch steps.
- If the guide has been shifted to the left or center, the base squad will become the squad behind the guide. The commands of execution will be given as the left foot strikes the deck, if guide is left, or on either foot if guide is center. Side steps or oblique movements will be made toward the base squad as appropriate.

- The Platoon Commander, on his/her command “**MARCH,**” oblique the number of steps necessary to remain parallel to the platoon and picks up the half step. The platoon commander picks up a full 30-inch step on his/her command of “**Forward, MARCH.**”

Obtain Normal Interval from Close Interval in Line

The purpose of this movement is to extend the interval between files of a platoon in line to one arm length. It may be executed when the platoon is halted at attention and in line at close interval.

The command is “**Extend, MARCH.**”

- The squad leaders are the base of this movement. On the command of execution “**MARCH,**” the squad leaders stand fast and raise their left arms to shoulder height to provide interval for the persons on their left.
- At the same time, all other members of the platoon, except for the guide, face to the left as in marching, march toward the left flank until they have opened approximately a 30-inch distance from the person behind them, halt, and face to the right. They then execute dress right dress. After aligning and without command, they will smartly lower their left arms and turn their heads to the front as soon as the individual to their left has touched their finger tips with his/her right shoulder and stopped moving. Cover is then obtained without command.
- On the command of execution, the guide will take one step to the right as in marching, halt and face to the left. The guide will then execute dress left dress. When aligned on the first squad leader and at the proper interval the guide will return to the position of attention.
- The Platoon Commander on his/her own command of execution “**MARCH**” will step to the right in marching. He/she marches parallel to the platoon maintaining a distance of 6 paces from the platoon. When approximately on the center of the platoon at normal interval the platoon commander halts and faces the platoon. The platoon commander then adjusts to the center of the platoon by taking small steps left, right, forward or back.

Extend to Normal Interval in Column (Extend)

The purpose of this movement is to extend the interval between files in a column from close to normal interval. It may be executed when halted or marching in column at close interval.

The command is **“Extend, MARCH.”**

While at the Halt and the Guide is right –

- On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** members of the base (right) squad stand fast.
- Members of the squad next to the base will execute two side steps to the left.
- The next squad to the left will execute four side steps to the left.
- If there is a fourth squad, the left most squad will execute six side steps to the left.
- While side stepping, cover and alignment will be maintained. After the designated number of steps, members of the squad will halt and resume the position of Attention.

While marching and the Guide is right, the command of execution **“MARCH”** is given as the left foot strikes the deck.

At this command:

- The base (right) squad take one more 30-inch step with the right foot and then begins to half step.
- The squad to the left of the base squad takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the right foot, executes left Oblique toward the base squad for one step, and then steps 30 inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- The next squad to the left takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the right foot, executes left Oblique toward the base squad for three steps, and then steps 30 inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- If there is a fourth squad, the left most squad will execute the same movements as above except the members will take five steps in the oblique.
- At the command **“forward, MARCH,”** all squads resume taking 30-inch steps.
- If the guide has been shifted to the left or center, the base squad will become the squad behind the guide. Side steps or oblique movements will then be made away from the base squad as appropriate.
- The Platoon Commander, on his/her command **“MARCH,”** oblique the number of steps necessary to remain 6 paces from the platoon and picks up the half step. The platoon commander picks up a full 30-inch step on his/her command of **“Forward, MARCH.”**

Obtain Double Arm Interval in Line

The purpose of this movement is to extend the interval between the files of a platoon to a double arm distance. It may be executed when the platoon is halted at attention and in line at normal or close interval.

The command is **“Take Interval to the Left, MARCH.”**

- The squad leaders are the base of this movement. On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** the squad leaders stand fast and raise their left arms to shoulder height, to provide interval for the persons on their left. The first squad leader will also raise his/ her right arm to provide interval for the guide.
- At the same time, all other members of the platoon, except for the guide, face to the left as in marching, march toward the left flank until they have opened approximately a 70-inch distance from the person behind them, halt, and face to the right.
- They then smartly turn their heads to the right and raise both arms to shoulder height. Individuals on the left flank will only raise their right arm. After aligning and without command, they will smartly lower their right arms and turn their heads to the front as soon as they have proper interval. They will lower their left arms when they feel the individual to their left lower his/her right arm. Cover is then obtained without command.
- On the command of execution, the guide will take two steps to the right as in marching, halt and face to the left. The guide will then execute dress left dress. When aligned on the first squad leader and at the proper interval, the guide will return to the position of attention. When the first squad leader feels the guide lower his/her left arm, the squad leader will lower his/her right arm.
- The platoon commander on his/her own command of execution **“MARCH”** will step to the right in marching. He/she marches parallel to the platoon maintaining a distance of 6 paces from the platoon. When approximately on the center of the platoon at double arm interval the platoon commander halts and faces the platoon. The platoon commander then adjusts to the center of the platoon by taking small steps left, right, forward or back.



Obtain Normal Interval from Double Arm Interval

The purpose of this movement is to decrease the interval between files of a platoon in line from double arm to normal interval. It can only be executed when the platoon is halted at attention and in line at a double arm interval.

The command is “**Assemble to the Right, MARCH.**”

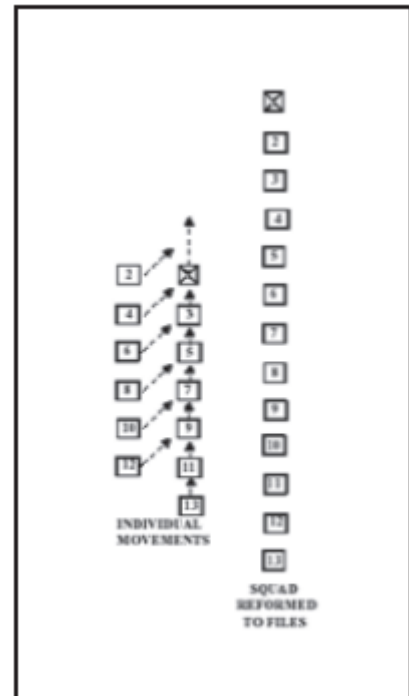
- On the command of execution, the interval is reduced in a manner similar to close march; except that individuals halt approximately 30 inches from each other, face and execute the appropriate dress movement to obtain normal interval.
- The Platoon Commander on his/her own command of execution “**MARCH**” will step to the left in marching. He/she marches parallel to the platoon maintaining a distance of 6 paces from the platoon. When approximately on the center of the platoon at normal interval the platoon commander halts and faces the platoon. The platoon commander then adjusts to the center of the platoon by taking small steps left, right, forward or back.

Column of Files from the Right (Left) and Reform

The purpose of this movement is to diminish the platoon of either two, three, or four squads into one column. The command is **“column of files from the right (left), MARCH”** and may be executed when the platoon is halted at Attention and at normal or close interval. To reform the platoon, the command is **“column of twos (threes or fours) to the right (left), MARCH.”** To avoid inverting the platoon, if the column of files were taken from the right, the column of twos (threes or fours) must be taken to the left and then vice versa.

When forming a column of files –

- The Platoon Sergeant gives the command **“right, FACE”** to form the platoon into columns. Once the Guide has taken their position, the Platoon Sergeant then gives the command.
- On the preparatory command **“column of files to the right,”** the base (right) Squad Leader gives the command **“FORWARD.”** The rest of the Squad Leaders simultaneously turn their head and eyes to the right and give the command **“STAND FAST.”**
- On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** the base (right) squad, led by the Guide, marches forward. On the command of its Squad Leader, the next squad executes a column half right and a column half left to follow the base squad. If there are three or more squads, the remaining squads execute the same movements of the command of their Squad Leader.
- The commands and directions are the opposite when performing a Column of Files from the Left. The Guide will always position themselves in front of the base element.



To Reform –

- The platoon begins in the single column as formed from the movements described above. The command is **“column of twos (threes or fours) to the left, MARCH.”**
- On the preparatory command, Squad Leaders, in sequence, give the following supplementary commands: the third Squad Leader turns their head and eyes to the left and commands **“STAND FAST;”** the second and first Squad Leaders simultaneously give the commands **“column half left, column half right.”**
- On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** the squads will execute the commands simultaneously. Once the Squad Leaders have aligned to the base squad, they give the command **“squad, HALT.”**

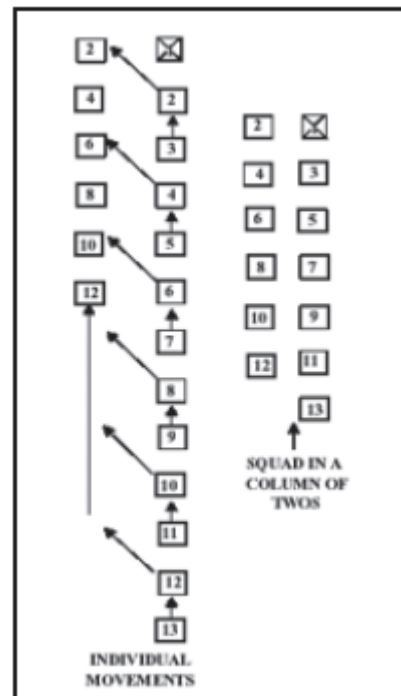
Video: Column of Files: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldUxoeYnXcY>

Column of Twos from the Right (Left) and Reform

The purpose of this movement is to diminish a platoon of either three or four squads into two columns. The command is **“column of twos from the right (left), MARCH”** and may be executed when the platoon is halted at Attention and at normal or close interval. To reform the platoon, the command is **“column of threes (or fours) to the right (left), MARCH.”** To avoid inverting the platoon, if the column of twos were taken from the right, the column of threes (or fours) must be taken to the left and then vice versa.

When in a column of threes, to form a column of twos –

- The Platoon Sergeant gives the command **“right, FACE”** to form the platoon into columns. Once the Guide has taken their position, the Platoon Sergeant will then give the command.
 - On the preparatory command **“column of twos from the right,”** the right two Squad Leaders turn their head and eyes to the right and give the command **“FORWARD.”** The left Squad Leader turns their head and eyes to the left and gives the command **“column of twos to the left.”**
 - On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** the two right squads march forward. On the command of its Squad Leader, the left squad forms a column of twos to the left. Then the squad executes a column half right and a column half left to follow the two leading squads at normal distance in column.
- Squad members must know if they are even or odd numbers for this movement. On the command of execution “MARCH,” the Squad Leader stands fast. Even-numbered members face half left in marching, take two steps, face half right in marching, and march forward to halt beside and at normal interval from the odd-numbered squad member who was originally in front of them.
 - Odd-numbered members, except the Squad Leader, march forward and halt as they attain the normal interval from the odd-numbered squad member in front of them.
 - All these movements occur simultaneously.
 - The commands and directions are the opposite when performing a column of twos from the left. The Guide will always position themselves in front of the base element.



To Reform –

- The platoon begins in the two columns as formed from the movements described above. The command is **“column of threes to the left, MARCH.”**

- On the preparatory command, the two lead Squad Leaders turn their head and eyes to the right and give the supplementary command “**STAND FAST.**” The remaining Squad Leader then turns their head and eyes to the left and commands “**column files from the right**” and “**column half left.**”
- The squad members step off by twos (two and three; four and five; six and seven; etc.) in the left oblique.
- The even-numbered members of the squad take one step in the left oblique and pivot back to the original direction of march, following the Squad Leader.
- The odd-numbered members of the squad take three steps in the left oblique and pivot back to the original direction of march, following the Squad Leader.

On the command of execution “**MARCH,**” the squads will execute the commands simultaneously. Once the Squad Leader has aligned to the squads, they will give the command “**squad, HALT.**”

Form for Physical Training

The purpose of the movement is to form the platoon for physical exercise. It may be executed when the platoon is halted at attention and in a column of threes or fours at normal interval.

The sequence of commands are: **“From Front to Rear, Count, OFF;”** **“Take Interval to the Left, MARCH;”** **“Arms, DOWN;”** and **“Even Numbers, To the Right, MOVE.”**

To reform to a column the commands are **“Assemble, MARCH”** and **“COVER.”**

- The command **“From Front to Rear, Count, OFF”** is given by the platoon commander in order to designate odd and even ranks. It is executed as prescribed for counting off in column.
- The next command is **“Take Interval to the Left, MARCH.”** This movement is different from the movement described in paragraph 13, which is executed when the platoon is in line formation. With the platoon in column, the extended interval is set by designating the number of steps the members of each squad take to the left.
 - On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** all members of the squad on the right flank (third squad if it is a three squad platoon, fourth squad if it is a four squad platoon) and the guide, will cover in file, stand fast and each member extends both arms side ways at shoulder height, palms down with fingers extended and joined. This squad forms the base of the movement.
 - At the same time, the members of each squad to the left of the base squad will face to the left as in marching and take two, four, or six (if it is a four squad platoon) 30-inch steps respectively. Upon completing their designated number of steps, they will halt, execute a right face, will cover in file, stand fast, and extend their arms to the side at shoulder height in the same manner as the right file. If armed with rifles the rifles are carried at trail arms during movement and then raised in the same manner as the right file.
 - At the command **“Arms, DOWN,”** the arms are lowered smartly to the side and if armed with rifles the position of order arms is assumed.
- On the command **“Even Numbers to the Right, MOVE,”** all even numbered individuals and the guide will move to their right to the middle of the interval between files. Swinging the right leg to the right and springing off the left foot will do this. The movement should be completed in one hop. If armed with rifles the weapon is brought to trail arms and held against the right leg during movement. Once in position, even numbered members cover and assume the position of attention. Odd numbered members do not move. From this position physical drill may be executed without the danger of collisions between individuals.
- Upon the completion of physical drill, the command **“Assemble, MARCH”** is given. On the command of execution, the odd numbered members of the base squad stand fast. Even numbered members of the base squad step left in marching and double time to their positions covered on the odd numbered members of the base squad and the guide will return to a position in front of the base squad leader. At the same time, all other members

will face right as in marching and, at a double time cadence, reassemble in column at normal interval and stand fast. The platoon commander would then give the command of **“COVER”** in order for the platoon to quickly pick up its alignment and cover.

- The platoon commander, once the platoon is in column, gives all commands from position 6 paces in front of, centered on, and facing the column. He/she makes those movements necessary to maintain this position during the execution of the movement(s).

Battalion Drill

Close order drill on a Battalion level is performed using many repeated commands called “commands to subordinate leaders”. It also uses “supplementary commands” when an element of a larger unit is acting or about to act separately. Drill as we know it is used to instill discipline through precision and automatic response to orders. It also increases a leader’s confidence through the exercise of command by the giving of proper commands and control of drilling troops.

Words of Command

Commands to subordinate leaders take two forms in a Battalion formation.

- When issuing a command to the entire Battalion, such as “attention”, your preparatory command will be **“battalion”**. The Platoon Sergeants will respond with **“company”**. You would then continue with your command of execution, **“ATTENTION”**. Remember to pause after your preparatory command to allow the Platoon Sergeants to give their appropriate command to their units.
- When you are in Battalion formation and you want to pass information to just the Platoon Sergeants for example, the command would be **“platoon sergeants, center, MARCH”**.

Supplementary commands are initiated by the individual unit while in Battalion formation.

- While marching in Battalion formation, the command **“column left”** is given. The first Platoon performs the move on the command of execution **“MARCH”**. The Platoon Sergeant of the second Platoon, upon hearing the preparatory command, sounds off with **“continue to march”**. This tells his/her element not to execute the column left but to continue to march forward until he/she gives the command to execute the column left.
- The Platoon Sergeant will give the appropriate preparatory command and the command of execution so as to have the Platoon execute the movement at approximately the same location as the element before it.

Receive reports during a Battalion formation

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. The Battalion is formed, at attention, and you are in position (a point in front of and centered on the battalion formation).

- Sound off with the command **“REPORT”**.
- You will receive the reports from each Platoon Sergeant. An example of a report from a Platoon Sergeant would be **“Alpha Platoon, all present and or accounted for”**.
- Always receive reports from Platoons starting from your left.
- Remember to receive reports from the position of attention. Do not look at the Platoon Sergeant as they give their report.

Successfully pass information to subordinate leaders in a Battalion formation

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. The Battalion is formed, and at attention. You want to pass on some information or orders only to your Platoon Sergeants.

- The command would be **“Platoon Sergeants, center, MARCH”**. The preparatory command is **“platoon sergeants, center”** allow the Platoon Sergeants to face inboard before giving the command of execution, **“MARCH”**. The Platoon Sergeants will march toward the center of the formation halting at a point that will allow them to maintain their interval.
- Once they have halted, the Young Marine nearest the center and on the right of the formation as it faces the front will give the command **“Ready, FACE”**. Upon the command of execution **“FACE”**, the Platoon Sergeants will face to the front. The same Platoon Sergeant will give the command **“forward, MARCH”**, halting the squad approximately three (3) paces from and centered on you.
- After you have given your info to the Platoon Sergeants, you will give the command **“POST”**. Platoon Sergeants execute an “about face”. The same Platoon Sergeant will give the command **“forward, MARCH”** and halt the Platoon Sergeants at approximately the same location in front of the formation. He will then give the command **“ready, FACE”**. The Platoon Sergeants will face in the direction of their platoons. He will then give the command, **“POST”**.
- Platoon Sergeants will march to a point in front of and centered on their respective platoon, halt, then execute the appropriate facing movement so that they are facing to the front. They will then assume the appropriate position that the rest of the formation is in.

Successfully command the drill movements of a Battalion

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. You are to assemble the Battalion. Take your place where you will be centered on the battalion when the units fall-in.

- On your command **“Battalion, Fall, IN”**, the Battalion will fall-in on you as if they were a Platoon and you were their Platoon Sergeant.
- The Battalion is formed and at attention. You wish to perform Dress Right, Dress. You give the preparatory command **“dress right”**, then the command of execution **“DRESS”**. Upon your command of execution **“DRESS”**, the entire Battalion will perform the maneuver.
- The Battalion is formed at the position of parade rest. You wish to bring them to attention. You give the preparatory command **“battalion”**, then the command of execution **“ATTENTION”**. Upon your command of execution **“ATTENTION”**, the entire Battalion will perform the maneuver.
- The battalion is formed and at attention. You wish to face them to the left. You give the preparatory command **“left”**, followed by the command of execution **“FACE”**. Upon your command of execution **“FACE”**, the entire Battalion will perform the maneuver.

Perform a “Troop” of the ranks of a Battalion formation

(Also called “Troop the Line”)

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. You wish to perform a Troop of the Ranks. A Troop of the Ranks is an overall observation of the Battalion performed as you slowly walk from one Platoon to the next (from left to right) in front of each Platoon.

- You have already formed the battalion, performed dress right, dress, and had the Platoon Sergeants report.
- From your position, you execute a “half, left” and march to the first Platoon Guide, ensuring that you remain no closer to the Platoon than the Platoon Sergeant.
- Upon reaching this point, you would execute a “right, face” and begin to slowly march along in front of each Platoon and their respective Platoon Sergeants. You should look at the Platoon as you march along. Your objective is to observe the Battalion in formation.
- Do not stop to make any corrections or ask any questions. Make mental notes of anything that stands out, such as haircuts, unserviceable uniforms, etc. Save these comments for the Platoon Sergeants following formation.

Upon completion of your “Troop”, smartly return to your position in front of the Battalion and carry-on with the plan of the day.

Video: Parade Rest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NISA8iXIrBU>

Video: At Ease: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3VYa7u5Z-c>

Video: Rest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utL-xL9Us2k>

Video: Right Face: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3Rf0tT9jnc>

Video: Left Face: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jviqRZ2XPwA>

Video: Abut Face: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UN4_8V2KMs

Video: Dress Right, Dress: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bujYdwHzeX4>

Video: Dress Right, Dress (At Close Interval):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT9dfu8E-s>

Video: Basic Marching Terminology:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Vj0w_d9_cw&t=3s

Video: Half Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcmbB7iq3w4>

Video: Halt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyf-EmryH6U>

Video: Route Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k33B42gLFTY>

Video: Change Step: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exPY2TdJ_GQ

Video: Side Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmL7IHRwys8>

Video: Back Step: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnDhfGLsKFA&t=108s>

Video: Controlling the Guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DWyqgXQr2E>

Video: Align the Platoon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJ8tFPydhBA>

Video: Fall Out/Dismissed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJaoDMADWHA&t=3s>

Video: Column Movements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emt8dzkU0l4>

Video: Column Half Movements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhGLrZDhAfA>

Video: Column Left (Halted): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czmJ0kSkfd8>

Video: Column Left (Right): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPnXCXNkoKc&t=4s>

Video: Flanking Movements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMcGgHB-PVE>

Video: Obliques: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEZ4ffb3VG0&t=13s>

Video: March to the Rear: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvzNiYAyFHI>

Video: Column of Files: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldUxoeYnXcY>

Chapter 7

National and Organizational Flags

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Chapter 7

National and Organizational Flags

1. General

a. When flown from ships or crafts of the Navy or from a flagstaff at commands ashore, the national flag will be displayed per the provisions of reference (h). The national flag is also called the "national ensign" or "ensign."

b. Marine organizations are equipped with a national flag and an organizational flag. The organizational flag is an official flag that is authorized to be displayed by an organization of the U.S. Marine Corps.

c. When mounted on a staff (pike) and carried by an individual on foot, or displayed or cased in a fixed location, the national flag is called the "national colors" and the organizational flag is called the "organizational colors." The term "colors" means either or both the national colors and the organizational colors.

(1) The use of the plural form of the word color (colors) to designate a single flag, ensign, standard, or pennant comes from the ancient tradition of referring to the multiple colors found on these types of standards. This tradition is carried on today when we refer to the national colors; red, white, and blue and the Marine Corps colors; scarlet and gold. The plural form is also used when referring to the types of movements, ceremonies or musical accompaniment involving the colors, (i.e., carry colors, morning colors, "To the Colors," etc.).

(2) When designating personnel or units as part of color details then the appropriate singular or plural form of the word will be used, (i.e., color guard, color company, etc.).

d. When mounted on a vehicle, the national flag is called the "national standard" and the organizational flag is called the "organizational standard." The term "standard" means the national standard only. The term "standards" means both the national standard and the organizational standard.

e. In garrison or on board ship, the colors of an organization, when not in use, are kept by the commanding officer. Whenever practicable, colors should be kept uncased and displayed in the office of the commanding officer, or other appropriate place. They may be cased, however, by placing them within a protective covering. Colors that are kept cased and not used often should be unfurled and aired frequently. The colors (standards) may be carried in any formation in which two or more companies participate, and in escorts and honor guards when ordered. Separate companies and detachments, who are authorized organizational colors, may carry colors when two or more platoons participate. Unless otherwise directed for special ceremonies, the national colors will always be carried when the organizational colors are carried, but the national colors may be carried alone.

f. In battalion formations, the colors will be posted with a designated color company and in regimental formations with a designated

color battalion. The color company (battalion) is posted in the formation so that the color guard is in the approximate center of the formation (right or forward of center if this is impossible).

g. In most regimental formations, only the colors of the regiment will be carried. When two or more separate battalions are formed as a regiment, only the colors of one battalion will be carried for the regiment. When authorized by the commander, however, the organizational colors of subordinate organizations may be carried in ranks (massed color guard) arranged behind the parent organization's color guard.

h. When the organizational colors are draped in mourning, the mourning streamer shall consist of a black crepe streamer seven feet long and about 12 inches wide. A bowknot, the loops of which are six inches long, is tied in the center. This knot attaches the streamer to the upper ferrule, just below the spearhead. If a streamer attachment set is used, the bowknot will be tied on the upper ferrule below the streamer attachment set in a manner so as not to disturb the natural hang of the unit's battle streamers.

i. Uncased colors will be treated with dignity and formality. When moved while outdoors, they will be marched by a color guard. Whenever possible, they will be escorted by a color company (battalion) from the organizational headquarters to the place of the ceremony. If it becomes necessary to case or uncase the colors outdoors, it will be accomplished with proper ceremony as described in section 3, paragraph 6 of this chapter.

j. Whenever the colors are brought forward of the line of troops (e.g., trooping the colors, for retirements, awards, etc.) the command must present arms. If a band or bugler is present and the colors are uncased, the appropriate music, (e.g., "National Anthem," "To the Colors," or "Retreat") will also be played.

k. During training and rehearsals (except full dress rehearsals), colors will be cased.

l. Colors (standards) are never allowed to touch the deck.

m. Color guards do not fix bayonets.

n. The standard weapon used for the color guard is the service rifle.

o. Those units, whose table of organization and equipment (T/O) ceremonial weapons are the M1 or M14 rifle, should refer to appendixes A and B for the manual of arms.

p. The use of gold fringe on the U.S. Flag is expressly forbidden for Marine Corps organizations.

q. The U.S. Flag, when displayed or carried on a staff (pike) is adorned with a red, white, and blue rope and tassel. The organizational colors are adorned with a scarlet and gold rope and tassel. However, once a unit has been awarded a streamer, the rope and tassel is removed from the organizational colors and a streamer attachment set added between the upper ferrule and the spearhead. Ropes and tassels are affixed to the top of the staff between the two ribs of the upper ferrule using a girth hitch knot. (See figure 7-5.)

r. The national and organizational colors are only destroyed when; they have become soiled beyond cleaning, torn beyond repair and to keep them from falling into enemy hands.

s. Flags that may have a historical significance are disposed of per the instructions contained in reference (g).

t. National and organizational colors will only be carried on wooden 9 ½-foot flagstaffs. The use of metal flagstaffs is only authorized for Marine Barracks Washington, DC.

u. For further information concerning flags, streamers and guidons refer to reference (g).

2. Color Salutes

a. By the National Colors (Standard). The national colors (standard) renders no salute, except as specified in paragraph 1263.1 of reference (i).

b. By the Organizational Colors. In military ceremonies, the organizational colors salutes while the "*National Anthem*," "*To the Colors*," "*Retreat*," or "*Hail to the Chief*" is being played, and when rendering honors to the organizational commander, individual of higher rank, or the dead, but in no other case. (See section 1, paragraph 5 of this chapter.)

c. By the Organizational Standard. The organizational standard renders no salutes as it is mounted on a vehicle.

3. Hoisting, Lowering, and Folding the National Ensign

a. General

(1) The ceremonial hoisting and lowering of the national ensign at 0800 and sunset, respectively, shall be accomplished ashore per the provisions of reference (h) and this paragraph.

(2) A detail consisting of a noncommissioned officer and two enlisted members of the guard will hoist and lower the ensign. This detail will be armed with side arms, if the special equipment of the guard includes side arms; otherwise, the pistol belt only will be worn.

(3) The commander of the guard ashore will see that the proper ensign is flown at the appropriate time and under all weather conditions. For different types of ensigns. (See figure 7-1.) Any member of the guard who observes any hazard to the ensign, such as loosened halyards, fouling, etc., will immediately report them to the commander of the guard.

b. Positions of the Ensign. The ensign is flown from the peak or truck of the mast, except when directed to be flown at half-mast. The ensign at half-mast is flown, when possible, with the middle point of its hoist opposite the middle point of the mast. The middle point of a guyed mast is midway between the peak of the mast and the point of attachment of the guys. The middle point of a mast with a yardarm is midway between the peak of the mast and the yardarm. Technically, an ensign at any position other than at the peak of the mast is half-mast. Local conditions may require other positions. To half-mast the ensign, it is first hoisted to

the peak and then lowered to the half-mast position.

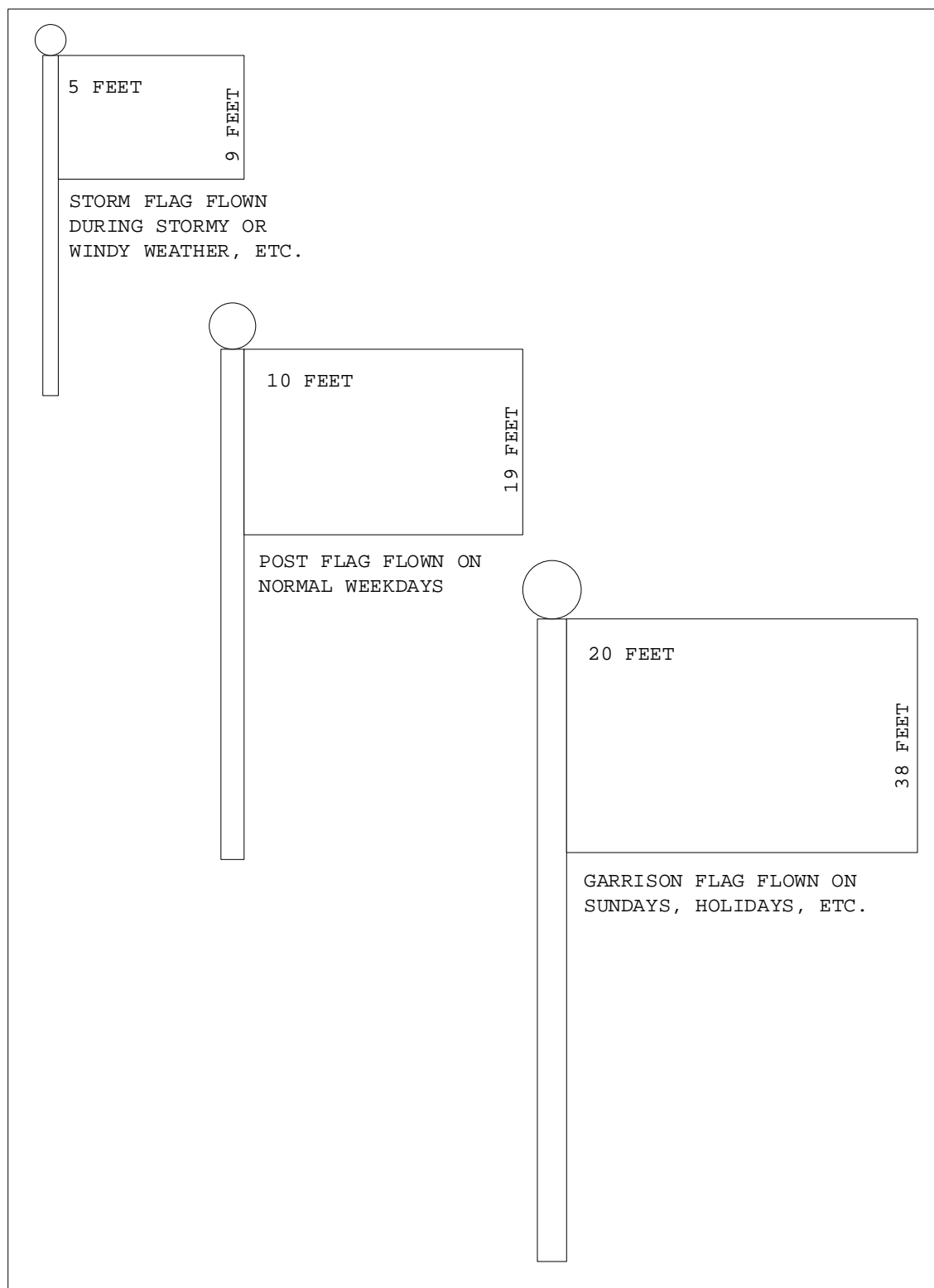


Figure 7-1.--Different Types and Nomenclature of Ensigns.

c. Hoisting the Ensign. The detail assigned to hoist the ensign is formed in line at the guardhouse with the noncommissioned officer carrying the folded ensign in the center. The detail is then marched to the flagstaff, halted, and the ensign attached to the halyards. The halyards are manned by the two enlisted members, who take positions on opposite sides of the staff, facing it, so they will be able to hoist the ensign without fouling it. The flag should be clearly marked so that the blue field is raised first. Additionally, the ensign should be pulled sufficiently, prior to the beginning of colors, to ensure the blue field is hoisted first. This action precludes the embarrassment of hoisting the ensign upside down. The noncommissioned officer continues to hold the ensign until it is hoisted clear of his grasp to prevent it from touching the deck. When the ensign is clear, the noncommissioned officer executes a hand salute. After the ensign is hoisted, the other members of the detail grasp the halyard in their left hand and execute a hand salute. On the last note of the "*National Anthem*" or "*To the Colors*," all members of the detail terminate their hand salutes. If the ensign is to be flown at half-mast, it is then lowered slowly to that position. (See figure 7-2.) The halyards are then secured to the cleat of the mast. The detail is again formed, marched to the guardhouse, and dismissed.

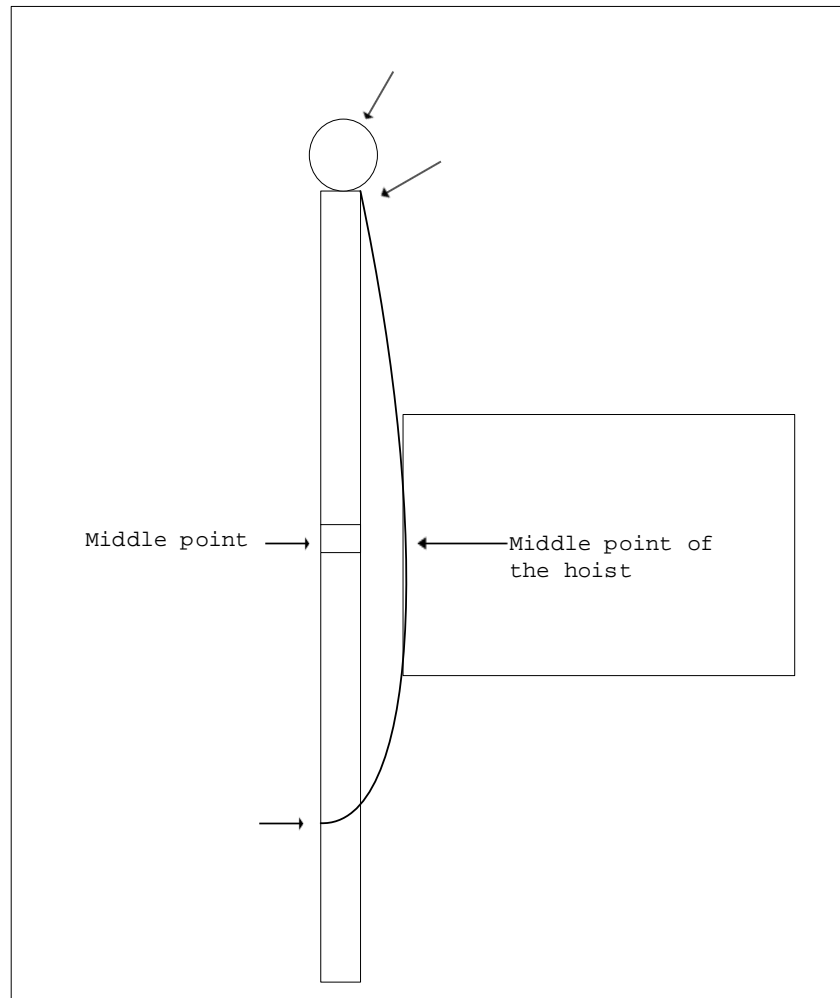


Figure 7-2.--Position of National Ensign at Half-Mast.

d. Lowering the Ensign. The detail is formed at the guardhouse, marched to the flagstaff, and the halyards manned in the same manner as for hoisting the ensign. On the first note of the "*National Anthem*" or "*Retreat*," the ensign is slowly lowered. If at half-mast, it is first hoisted smartly to the peak on the first note of the music, and then slowly lowered. The noncommissioned officer catches it at the last note of the music. The ensign is detached from the halyards and folded as prescribed below. The halyards are secured to the mast; the detail is formed and marched to the guardhouse, where the ensign is turned over to the commander of the guard.

e. Replacing an Ensign Already Hoisted. There may be times when it is necessary to replace the ensign after morning colors but prior to evening colors. Some examples are, changing to a storm flag due to inclement weather; the ensign becomes fouled in the halyards; the ensign is raised upside down; etc.

(1) If the flagstaff is double rigged, (i.e., has two sets of halyards), the new ensign is hoisted to the peak or truck and then the ensign being replaced is slowly lowered, folded and returned to the guardhouse.

(2) If the flagstaff has only one halyard, two color details are used to replace the ensign. The first color detail slowly lowers the ensign, and then quickly moves from the flagstaff to fold the old ensign. The second color detail, with the replacement ensign, then moves to the flagstaff and hoists the new ensign to the peak or truck. Both details salute as the replacement ensign is hoisted. Both color details then return to the guardhouse.

f. Folding the Ensign. The ensign is folded in half the long way so the crease parallels the red and white stripes. It is folded in half again so the new crease also parallels the red and white stripes with the blue field on the outside of the fold. The lower corner of the fly end (away from the blue field) is folded up to the top so the single (folded) edge lays perpendicular across the stripes. By repeatedly folding along the inboard edge of the triangle, the ensign is folded into the shape of a cocked hat. (See figure 7-3.)

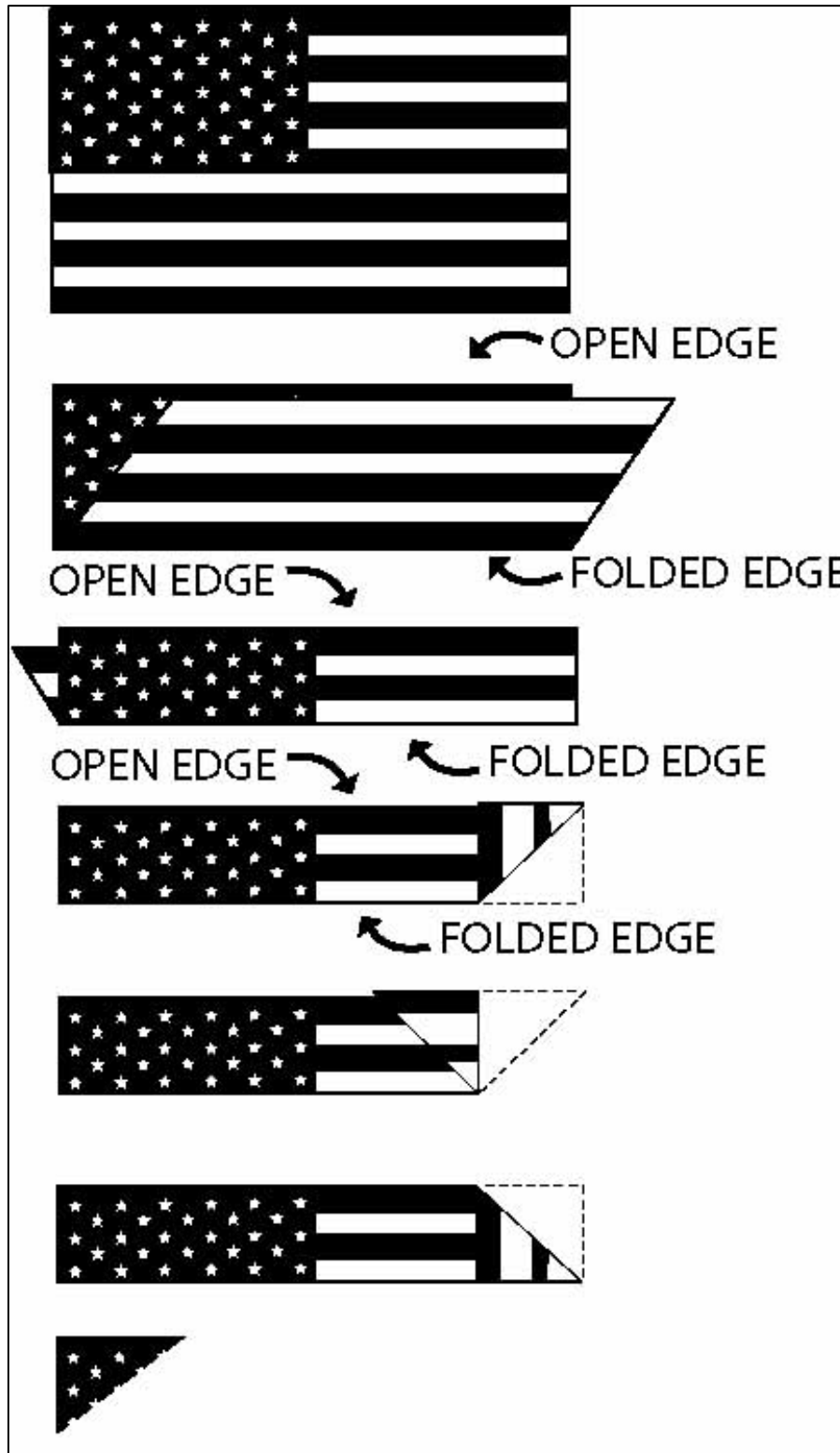


Figure 7-3.--Folding the Ensign.

4. Salutes and Honors to the National Flag

a. General. Salutes to the national flag are rendered per reference (i).

b. By Individuals. Individuals in the Navy/Marine Corps, when in uniform and covered will render the appropriate salute (hand, rifle, etc.) as indicated below. Persons not in uniform will stand at attention, face the flag and place the right hand over the heart. Gentlemen, if covered, remove their headdress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, so that the right hand is over the heart. When in full uniform indoors and uncovered, individuals will stand at attention.

(1) During morning colors and evening colors, individuals stop and face the flagstaff, or in the direction of the music, when "Attention" is sounded. Salutes are rendered by individuals on the first note of the "National Anthem," "To the Colors," or "Retreat," and terminated on the last note. Individuals would remain at attention facing the flagstaff/music until "Carry On" is sounded, and then continue about their duties.

(2) When being passed by or passing the national colors (standard) uncased.

(3) Small flags carried by individuals and flags flying from flagstaffs, either stands alone or affixed to a building, (except during morning and evening colors) are not saluted.

(4) A folded flag being carried to morning colors, or from evening colors, by a color detail is considered cased and not saluted.

c. By Persons in Formation

(1) During morning colors and evening colors, the formation commander stops the formation and causes it to face the flagstaff, or in the direction of the music, when "Attention" is sounded. The formation commander salutes for the formation on the first note of the "National Anthem," "To the Colors," or "Retreat," and terminate the salute on the last note. The formation is kept at attention facing the flagstaff/music until "Carry On" is sounded at which time the formation commander would move the formation to its destination or dismiss the formation.

(2) When being passed by or passing the national colors (standard) uncased, persons in formation are brought to attention and order arms if halted, or attention if marching. The formation commander shall render the salute for his unit, facing the colors if the formation is halted. Persons in formation participating in a ceremony shall, on command, follow the procedure prescribed for the ceremony.

(3) Small flags carried by individuals and flags flying from flagstaffs, either stands alone or affixed to a building, (except during morning and evening colors) are not saluted.

(4) A folded flag being carried to morning colors, or from evening colors, by a color detail is considered cased and not saluted.

d. By Occupants of Vehicles. During morning colors or evening colors or when being passed by or passing an uncased national colors, all vehicles

in motion will be brought to a halt. Persons riding in such vehicles shall remain seated at attention until colors are over or the colors has passed.

5. Composition of the Color Guard

a. The standard Marine Corps color guard consists of four individuals of approximately equal height. Two noncommissioned officers are the color bearers and two other members, junior to the color bearers, are the color guards. The senior color bearer carries the national colors and commands the color guard. The junior color bearer carries the organizational colors, which is always on the left of the national colors. (See figure 7-4a.) If a female is part of the color guard she wears trousers, and not a skirt, for uniformity. When designating the uniform for the color guard, consideration should be given to the effect that the color bearers' slings may have on ribbons and badges. Slings are adjusted so that the colors are the same height when at the carry or, if this isn't possible, the national colors are slightly higher than the organizational colors. If necessary, have the senior color bearer slightly taller than the organizational color bearer. All members of the color guard wear the pistol belt (white belt if in blues); the color bearers wear the pistol belt over the sling to keep the sling firmly in place. If the color guard is wearing the service or dress cover, then they use two chin-straps. One is worn normally and the second one is worn under the chin. When only the national colors is carried, the color guard will include only one color bearer.

b. Color guards carrying the Navy and Marine Corps service colors will consist of five members, three Marines and two Navy members. The national color bearer and commander of the color guard will be a Marine. (See figure 7-4b.)

c. A Joint Armed Forces Color Guard will consist of eight members; three Army, two Marine, one Navy, one Air Force, and one Coast Guard. The national color bearer and commander of a joint color guard will be a Soldier. The respective service colors are aligned to the left of the national colors as depicted in figure 7-4c. For color guards involving service academies, reserve or National Guard colors, refer to enclosure 2, chapter 3, for the proper precedence.

d. Massed colors is when a regimental or larger unit commander desires to have all of that command's subordinate colors in the color guard. The first rank of massed colors consists of the two riflemen, the national colors and the colors of the senior unit present. This is the senior color guard. The remainder of the organizational colors form ranks of four behind the first rank, by seniority, from the color guards right to left. (See figure 7-4e.) Odd numbered colors are placed by seniority, and are filled in from right to left. (See figure 7-4d.) During parades and ceremonies when the colors are brought forward, only the first rank, senior color guard, marches forward. If colors are to be trooped, the senior color guard only is trooped. The remainder of the massed colors marches on with the unit to their position in the line of troops, leaving space for the senior color guard.

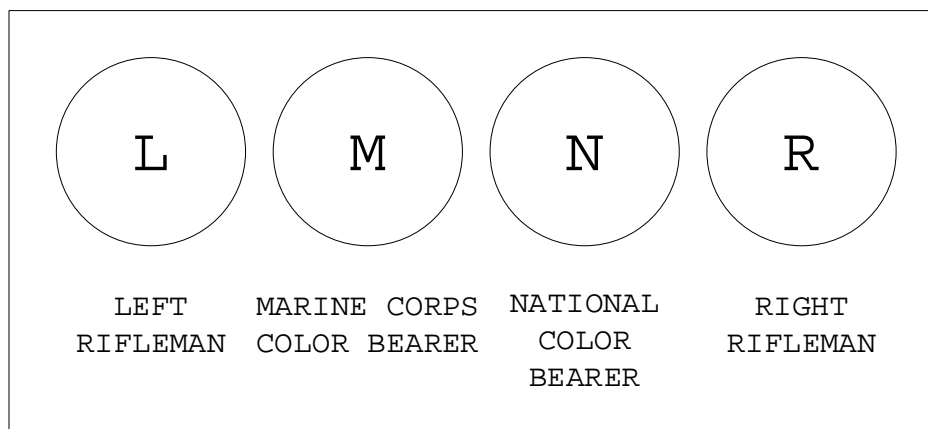
e. The national colors of foreign countries will not normally be carried by the same color guard carrying the United States colors. When necessary, refer to reference (j).

f. The flags or banners of non-U.S. military organizations (e.g., Boy Scouts, Kawanas Club, etc.) are not carried in the color guard.

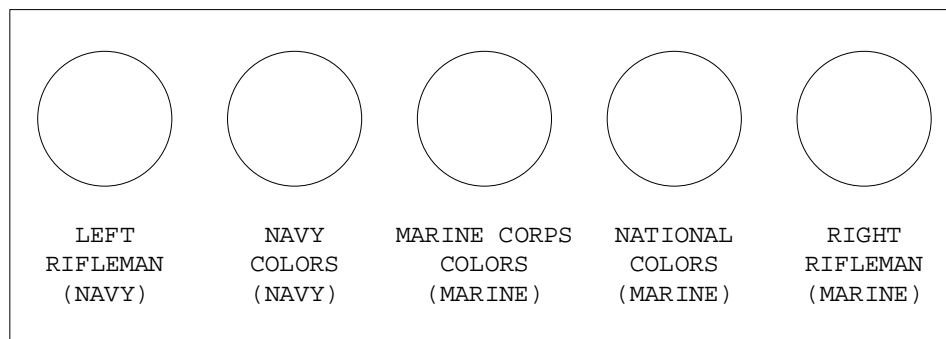
g. Color guards armed with rifles will be trained to execute a modified rifle manual. This involves pauses on the part of one or the other rifle so that the rifles move to and from the right and left shoulders at the same time, as described in section 1, paragraph 6 of this chapter.

h. The color guard is formed and marches in one rank at close interval with the color bearers in the center. While marching, members of the color guard do not swing their free arms. The color guard does not execute to the rear march, about face, flanking movements or fix bayonets. When the unit to which the color guard is attached executes any such commands, the senior color bearer orders a movement appropriate for the color guard.

i. The color bearers are unarmed, but the color guards carry either pistols or rifles (except when inside a chapel). Only color guards mounted on horseback carry the noncommissioned officer's sword vice a rifle or pistol. When participating in a ceremony inside a chapel, the color guard will be unarmed and uncovered.

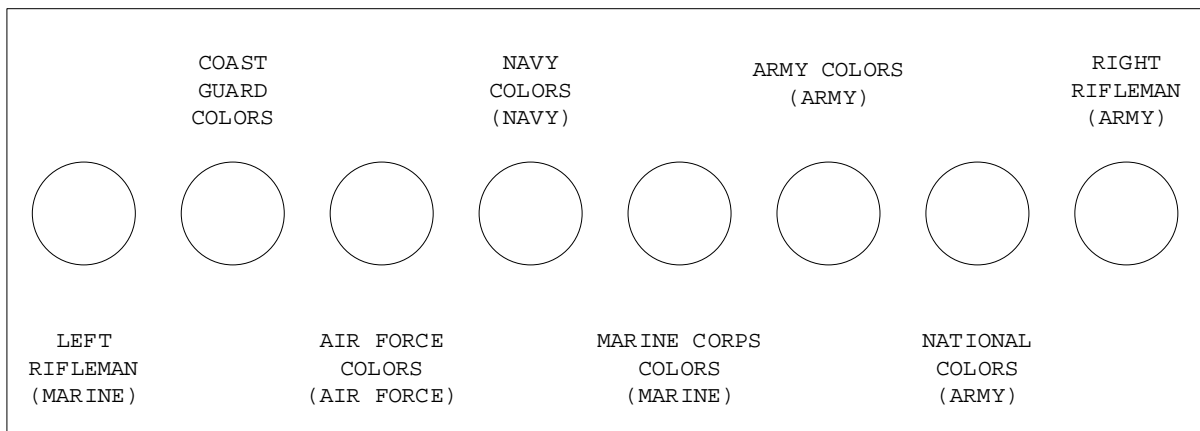


a. Marine Corps Color Guard.

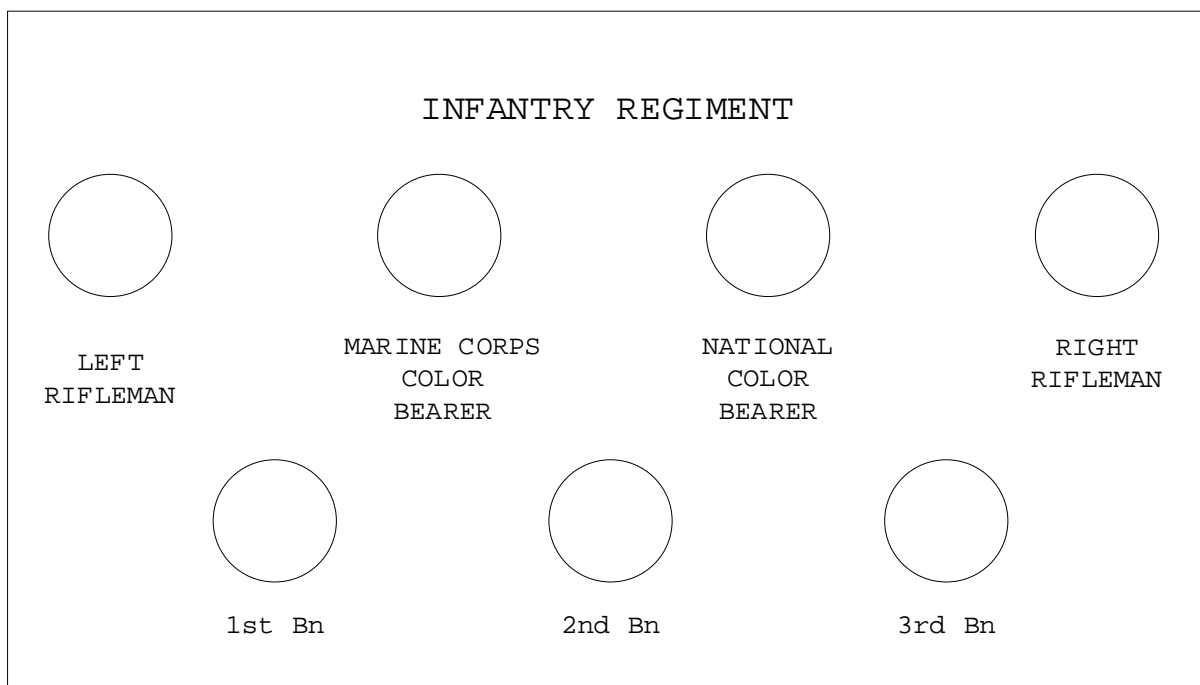


b. Navy and Marine Corps Color Guard.

Figure 7-4.--Color Guard Composition.

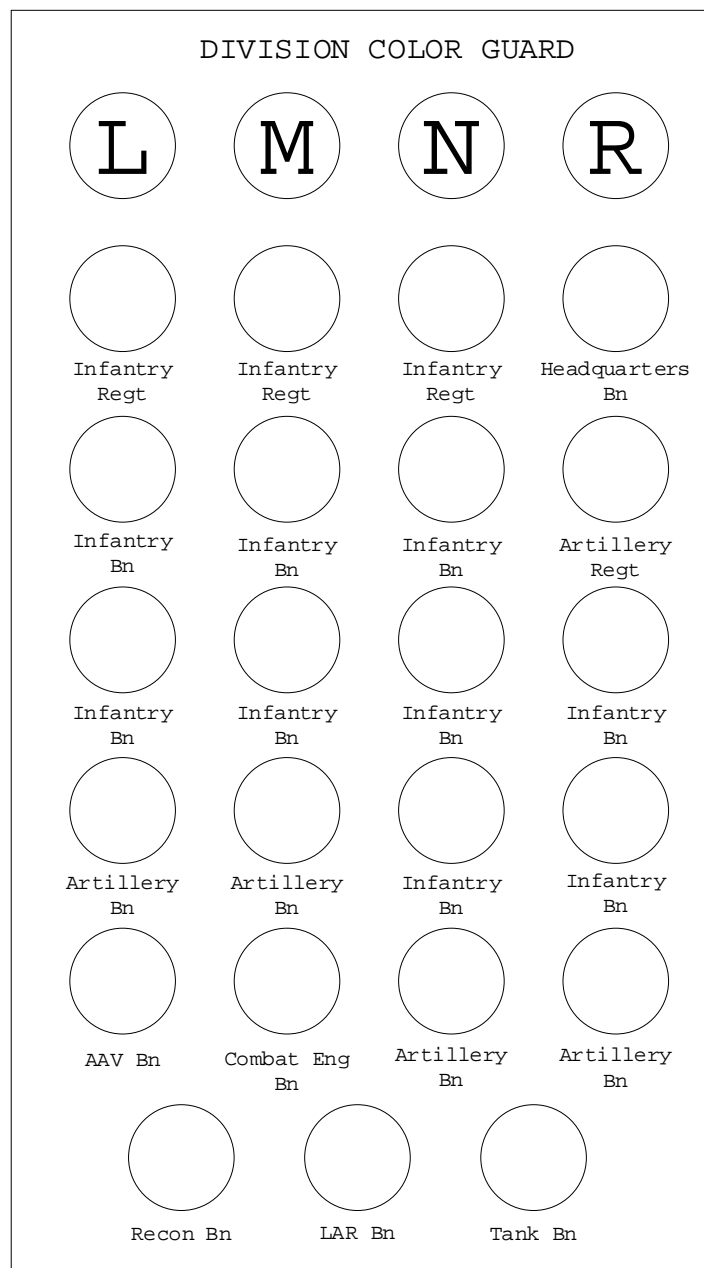


c. Joint Armed Services Color Guard.



d. Placement of Odd Numbered Colors in a Massed Color Guard.
(Using a Marine Regiment as an example)

Figure 7-4.--Color Guard Composition--Continued.



e. Massed Colors. (Using a Marine Division as an example)

Figure 7-4.--Color Guard Composition--Continued.

j. All colors carried by the color guard are attached to staffs of equal height. The standard color staff consists of a 9 ½-foot, hardwood pole capped at each end by metal ferrules. The use of the all-metal staff is only authorized for Marine Barracks, Washington, DC. A metal spearhead screws into the top of the staff and a streamer attachment device may also be affixed to display an organization's award streamers. (See figure 7-5.) Streamers are placed with the senior streamer at the front of the staff. Subsequent streamers are then placed clockwise, around the staff, as symmetrically as possible.

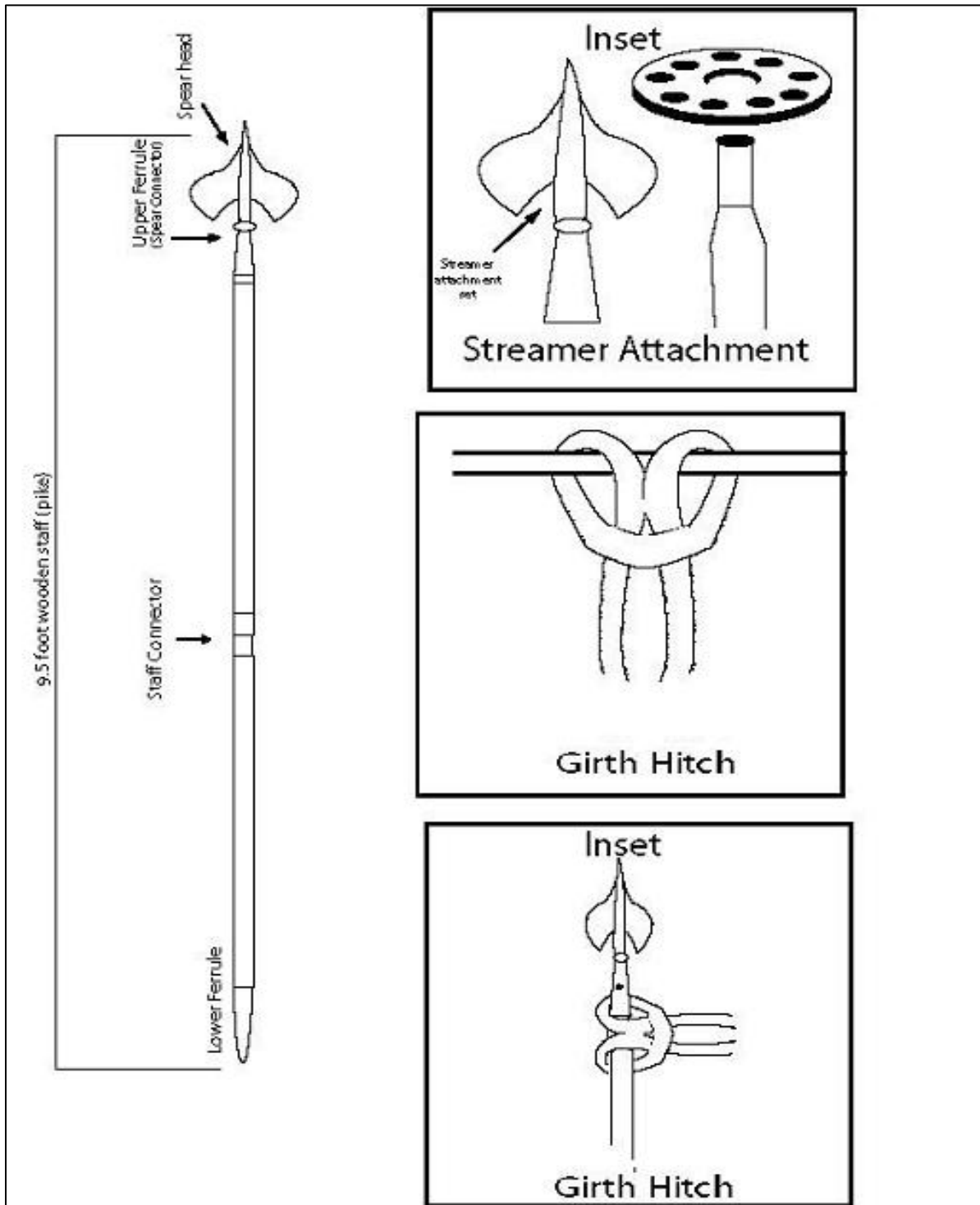


Figure 7-5.--The Colors Staff.

6. Synchronizing the Manual of Arms for the Color Guards Armed with Rifles

a. The manual of arms for color guards armed with rifles must be synchronized so that the rifles move (e.g., off of or to the shoulder) at the same time. Since the left rifleman is at left shoulder arms and the right rifleman is at right shoulder arms, moving to and from the right/left shoulder to the order, present or back the shoulder often involves different "counts" in the movement for each rifleman. To get the rifles moving together one or the other of the riflemen will have to do an occasional pause in the manual of arms so the other rifleman may catch up. When executing the rifle manual, both riflemen will wait for the senior color bearer's command of **"Ready, CUT"** before executing the final count of the movement.

(1) Order Colors to Carry Colors. The command is **"Carry, COLORS."** This is a four-count movement for both rifles. The right rifleman goes to right shoulder arms and the left rifleman goes to the left shoulder arms.

(2) Carry Colors to Order Colors. The command is **"Order, COLORS."** This is a four-count movement for the right rifleman and a five-count movement for the left rifleman. In order to have the rifles move to the order together, the "counts" are modified as follows: (See figure 7-6.)



a. Start.



b. Count One.

Right Rifleman Stands Fast.
Left Rifleman Re-grasps the
Small of the Stock.

Figure 7-6.--Carry Colors to Order Colors.



c. Count Two.
Both Rifles Moved from the Shoulder.



d. Count Three.
Both Riflemen Re-grasp the Barrel.



e. Count Four.
Both Rifles Moved to the Right Side.



f. Count Five.
Ready Cut.

Figure 7-6.--Carry Colors to Order Colors--Continued.

(3) Order Colors to Present Colors. The command is **"Present, COLORS."** This is a two-count movement for both riflemen, with both executing present arms with the rifle.

(4) Present Colors to Order Colors. The command is **"Order, COLORS."** This is a three-count movement for both riflemen, with both executing order arms with the rifle.

(5) Carry Colors to Present Colors. The command is **"Present, COLORS."** This is a three-count movement for both riflemen; however, it becomes a four-count movement to synchronize the rifles being brought from the left and right shoulder to present arms. (See figure 7-7.)



a. Start.



b. Count One.
Right Rifleman Stands Fast.
Left Rifleman Re-grasps the
Small of the Stock.

Figure 7-7.--Carry Colors to Present Colors.



c. Count Two.
Both Rifles Moved from the Shoulder.



d. Count Three.
Right Rifleman Re-grasps the Small
of the Stock.
Left Rifleman Stands Fast.



e. Count Four.
Both Rifles Rotated to Present Arms.

Figure 7-7.--Carry Colors to Present Colors--Continued.

(6) Present Colors to Carry Colors. The command may be **"Carry, COLORS"** or **"Shoulder, ARMS."** This is a three-count movement for the left rifleman and a four-count movement for the right rifleman to return the weapons to the left and right shoulder from present arms. (See figure 7-8.)



a. Start.



b. Count One
Both Rifles Rotated to Port Arms.



c. Count Two.
Right Rifleman Grasps the Butt
of the Rifle.
Left Rifleman Stands Fast.



d. Count Three.
Both Rifles Moved to the Shoulder.

Figure 7-8.--Present Colors to Carry Colors.



e. Count Four.
Ready Cut.

Figure 7-8.--Present Colors to Carry Colors--Continued.

Chapter 7

National and Organizational Flags

Section 1: Manual of the Colors

1. Order Colors

a. At order colors, the lower ferrule rests on the deck touching the outside edge of the right shoe. The staff is gripped in a strong grip with the thumb wrapped around the front of the staff with the fingers wrapped to the rear. The right elbow is held close to the side so the forearm will help support the staff. The upper staff rests in the hollow of the right shoulder. The staff is vertical with the flat side of the spearhead facing front. The color bearer is at attention. (See figure 7-9.)

b. Color guards armed with rifles are at order arms when the colors are at the order.



Figure 7-9.--Order Colors.

2. Carry Colors from Order Colors

a. When changing from order colors to carry colors, the command is **"Carry, COLORS."**

b. At the Command **"Carry,"** change the grip on the staff to the "V" grip so as to grip it from the rear between the thumb and fingers of the right hand with the fingers around the staff.

c. At the command **"COLORS,"** raise the staff smartly with the right hand to a point where the lower ferrule is just above the sling socket. While raising it, keep the staff vertical. Grasp the staff at the lower ferrule with the left hand to steady it and align it with the sling socket. Do not look down. (See figure 7-10a.)

NOTE: All organizational colors will be raised to the carry with the national colors.

d. Color guards armed with rifles execute right and left shoulder arms at the command **"COLORS"** so that the rifles are on the outboard shoulders as described in section 1, paragraph 6 of this chapter.

e. All members of the color guard will halt their movements before executing the last count. (See figure 7-10b.) On the senior color bearer's command **"Ready, Cut,"** all members will move their free hands smartly to their sides, and the color bearers will seat the lower ferrule in the sling socket. As the ferrule is seated, permit the right hand to slide down the staff to position directly in front of the color bearer's chin. (See figure 7-10c.) If the color staffs need additional support due to high winds, the color bearers will grip the staff with their left hands just below their right.



a. Raising Staff.

Figure 7-10.--Carry Colors from Order Colors.



b. Last Count.



c. Carry Colors.

Figure 7-10.--Carry Colors from Order Colors--Continued.

3. Order Colors from Carry Colors

a. When changing from carry colors to order colors, the command is **"Order, COLORS (ARMS)."** Execution is begun on the preparatory command.

b. At the command **"Order,"** grip the staff with the left hand above the ferrule and remove the staff from the sling socket. The staff remains centered on the body with the ferrule just forward of the sling socket. (See figure 7-11a.)

c. At the command **"COLORS,"** lower the staff to a point approximately 2 inches above the deck along the outside edge of the right shoe; release the staff with the left hand and re-grip it above the right hand. (See figures 7-11a and 7-11b.)

d. Relax both hands so the staff will slide down until the ferrule rests on the deck. Then trim or strip the colors by maintaining a grip on the staff with the left hand and raising the right hand to lightly grasp the fabric of the colors. Pull it down along the staff (do not attempt to throw or tuck it) and re-grip the staff with the right hand, with the fabric under the right arm. (See figures 7-11c and d.) Then change the position of the right hand to that described for order colors.

e. Color guards armed with rifles will execute order arms from right and left shoulder as described in section 1, paragraph 6.a.(1) of this chapter. All members of the color guard will halt their movements before executing the last count. The senior color bearer will then command **"Ready, CUT,"** at which time all members of the color guard will return their left hands smartly to their sides and color guards will assume order arms. (See figure 7-11e.)



a. Removing the Ferrule.

Figure 7-11.--Order Colors from Carry Colors.



b. Lowering the Staff.



c. Trimming the Colors.

Figure 7-11.--Order Colors from Carry Colors--Continued.



d. All Movement Halted.



e. Movement Complete.

Figure 7-11.--Order Colors from Carry Colors--Continued.

4. Present Colors from Order Colors

- a. To change from order colors to present colors the command is **"Present, COLORS (ARMS)."** Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- b. At the command **"Present,"** change the grip on the staff in the same manner as for carry colors. **The national color bearer executes the movement to carry colors.** (See figure 7-12.)
- c. At the command **"COLORS,"** organizational color bearer executes the movement to carry colors. The color guards execute present arms.
- d. On the senior color bearer's command **"Ready, CUT,"** only the color bearers will move their left hands smartly to their sides.



Figure 7-12.--Present Colors from Order Colors.

5. Salutes by the Organizational Colors

a. Once the color guard is at present colors, and when appropriate, the organizational color bearer will render a salute with the organizational colors by straightening the right arm and lowering the staff naturally to the front. The staff will rotate naturally as it goes forward causing the sharp edge of the spearhead to face down. (See figure 7-13.)

b. Salutes by the organizational colors are not automatic when presenting colors. They will be rendered only during honors to national colors, to the commander of the organization represented by the colors or to an individual senior in rank to the organizational commander; (e.g., during a parade or review when the adjutant presents the command to the commander of troops. The organizational colors does not salute, unless the commander of troops is the organizational commander or of higher rank.)

c. When musical honors are played, the organizational colors will salute on the first note of music. The colors will be returned to the vertical position following the last note of music or the last volley of a gun salute. If no music is to be played and a color salute is appropriate, the organizational colors will salute immediately after the color guard has gone to present colors.

d. When marching, the salute is rendered when 6 paces from the reviewing stand or person to be saluted. Carry colors is resumed when 6 paces beyond the reviewing stand or person to be saluted.



Figure 7-13.--Salutes by the Organizational Colors.

6. Order Colors from Present Colors

a. When changing from present colors to order colors, the command is **"Order, COLORS (ARMS)."**

b. Before the command "Order", the organizational colors will raise the colors to a vertical position with the flat side of the spearhead facing the front. At the command **"Order,"** color bearers then grip the staff with the left hand above the ferrule and remove the staff from the sling socket. The staff remains centered on the body with the ferrule just forward of the sling socket.

c. At the command **"COLORS,"** all colors are brought to the position of order colors. Color guards execute order arms from the shoulder as described in paragraph 6.a.(1) (before section 1) of this chapter. Colors are trimmed, if necessary, and the command **"Ready, CUT"** is given in the same manner as for order colors from carry colors.

7. Present Colors from Carry Colors

a. To change from carry colors to present colors, the command is **"Present, COLORS (ARMS)."**

b. At the command of execution **"COLORS,"** the color guards execute present from the shoulder as described in section 1, paragraph 6.a.(4) of this chapter.

c. The national color bearer remains at carry colors.

d. The organizational color will salute if appropriate.

8. Carry Colors from Present Colors

a. To change from present colors to carry colors, the command is **"Carry, COLORS."**

b. At the command **"Carry,"** if the organizational colors are saluting, it will be brought back to the vertical position with the flat side of the spearhead facing the front.

c. At the command **"COLORS,"** color guards return to the shoulder as described in section 1, paragraph 6.a.(6) of this chapter. Before executing the last count, the color guards will await the senior color bearers command **"Ready, CUT."**

9. Rests with the Colors

a. The color guard assumes the parade rest position in lieu of at ease or rest. At ease or rest are not used by the color guard when carrying uncased colors. Only the senior color bearer or person in charge of a formation with which colors are posted gives the command from the position of order color. It is executed in one count.

b. At the command **"Parade, REST;" "AT EASE;"** or **"REST,"** all members of the color guard execute parade rest. The color staff will remain along the color bearer's side and will not be thrust forward as with a guidon staff. (See figure 7-14.) The national and organizational color bearers

will grasp the sling socket with their left hand.



a. Front View.



b. Rear View.

Figure 7-14.--Color Guard at Parade Rest.

10. Eyes Right (Left) from Carry or Order Colors

a. The command is **"Eyes, RIGHT (LEFT)."** It will be given only when marching at carry colors or while halted at order colors.

b. When marching at carry color, at the command **"RIGHT,"** all members of the color guard except the national color bearer and the individual on the right turn their head and look 45 degrees to the right. When the reviewing officer of a parade is entitled to a salute by the organizational colors, the salute is executed at the command **"RIGHT."** (See figure 7-15b.)

c. When marching at carry color, at the command **"LEFT,"** all members of the color guard except the national color bearer and the individual on the extreme left turn their head and look 45 degrees to the left. When the reviewing officer of a parade is entitled to a salute by the organizational colors, the salute is executed at the command **"LEFT."**

d. When halted at order colors, at the command **"RIGHT,"** all members of the color guard except the national color bearer turn their head and look 45 degrees to the right. (See figure 7-15a.) The organizational colors cannot salute from order color.

e. When halted at order color, at the command **"LEFT,"** all members of the color guard except the national color bearer turn their head and look 45 degrees to the left. The organizational colors cannot salute from order colors.



Figure 7-15a.--Eyes Right, Halted.



Figure 7-15b.--Eyes Right, Marching.

11. Carry or Order Colors from Eyes Right (Left)

a. The command is **"Ready, FRONT."**

b. When marching at carry colors, at the senior color bearer's command **"Ready,"** if the organizational colors saluted, it resumes to the carry. At the command **"FRONT,"** all members of the color guard who executed eyes right (left) will return their head and eyes smartly to the front.

c. When at order colors during a review when the reviewing officer troops the line, ready front will not be given after eyes right. During such a ceremony, members of the color guard who executed eyes right, will follow the reviewing officer with their eyes, turning their heads back toward the front as he passes by. Once the reviewing officer is directly in front of them, all movement of the head and eyes is halted.

12. Trail Arms with the Colors

a. When performing indoor ceremonies in a location that the doors, ceilings, etc. are not high enough to carry colors in the normal manner, the colors would be carried at the trail.

b. Trail arms is assumed without command on any command that will cause the color guard to move. (e.g., **"Forward, MARCH;" "Right Turn, MARCH;"** etc.)

c. Color bearers, on the preparatory command, raise the staff six inches off the deck. Color guards assume trail arms. (See figure 7-16.)

d. On the command of execution, step off and move a short distance until given the command to halt.

NOTE: If necessary to lower the colors to clear a doorway reach across the body with the left hand and grasp the colors. Left forearm is straight and parallel to the deck, with the palm to the rear. All colors are tilted forward sufficiently to clear the door or ceiling spearhead flat to the front.

e. When the command to halt is given, the color bearers return the colors to the order and move the left arm back to the left side. Color guards armed with rifles return to the order.



Figure 7-16.--Marching at Trail Colors.

Chapter 7

National and Organizational Flags

Section 2: Movements of the Color Guard

1. Face the Color Guard to the Right (Left)

a. The command is **"Right (Left) Turn, MARCH."** It may be executed while halted, marking time, or marching.

b. On the command **"MARCH,"** with the right (left) flank color guard acting as a stationary pivot, the color guard turns to the right (left) while half stepping until they face the new direction. When making the turn, all members of the color guard face the same direction maintaining their alignment. (See figure 7-17.) Upon completion of the turn, the color guard will be marking time. The senior color bearer must immediately give the next appropriate command, such as **"Forward, MARCH"** or **"Colors, HALT."**

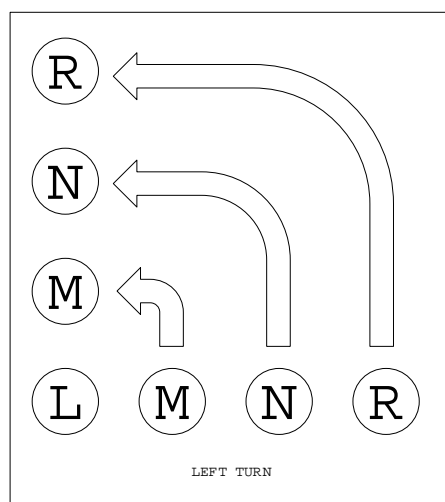
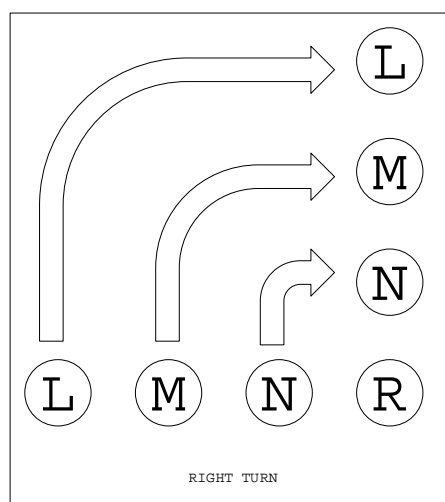


Figure 7-17.--Right (Left) Turn.

2. Face the Color Guard to the Rear

a. The command is **"Countermarch, MARCH."** It may be executed while halted, marking time, or marching. When marking time or marching, the command of execution **"MARCH"** is given as the left foot strikes the deck. When this command is given while marking time or marching, the color guard will take one more 2-inch vertical step in place or one more 30-inch step forward with the right foot before starting the half steps for this movement. If executed from the halt, the color guard will immediately begin the designated steps starting with the left foot. (See figure 7- 18.)

b. The national color bearer pivots to the left, moving into the position formerly occupied by the organizational color bearer, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time.

c. The organizational color bearer takes one half step forward, pivots to the right outside the national color bearer, moving into the position formerly occupied by the national color bearer, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time.

d. The right color guard takes two half-steps forward, pivots to the left, outside the organizational color bearer, moving into the position formerly occupied by the left color guard, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time.

e. The left color guard takes three half-steps forward, pivots to the right outside the right color guard, moving into the position formerly occupied by the right color guard, facing the new direction of march and begins marking time.

f. Upon completion of this movement, the entire color guard marks time until it is halted or until it receives the command **"Forward, MARCH"** or **"Colors, HALT."**

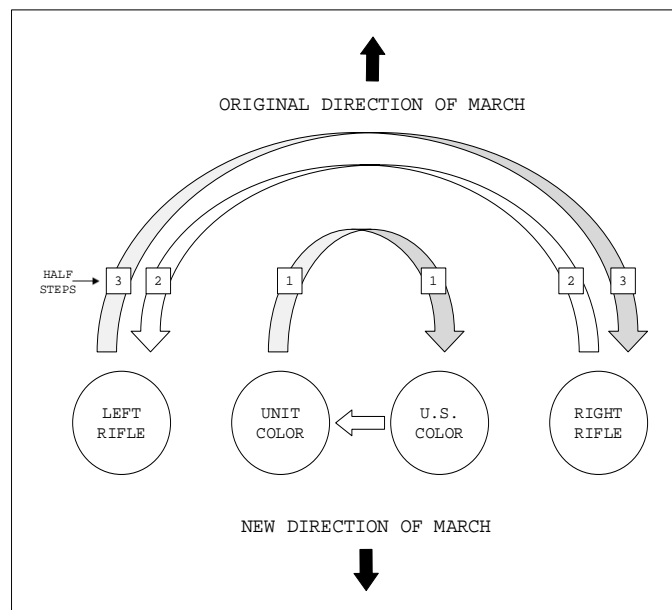


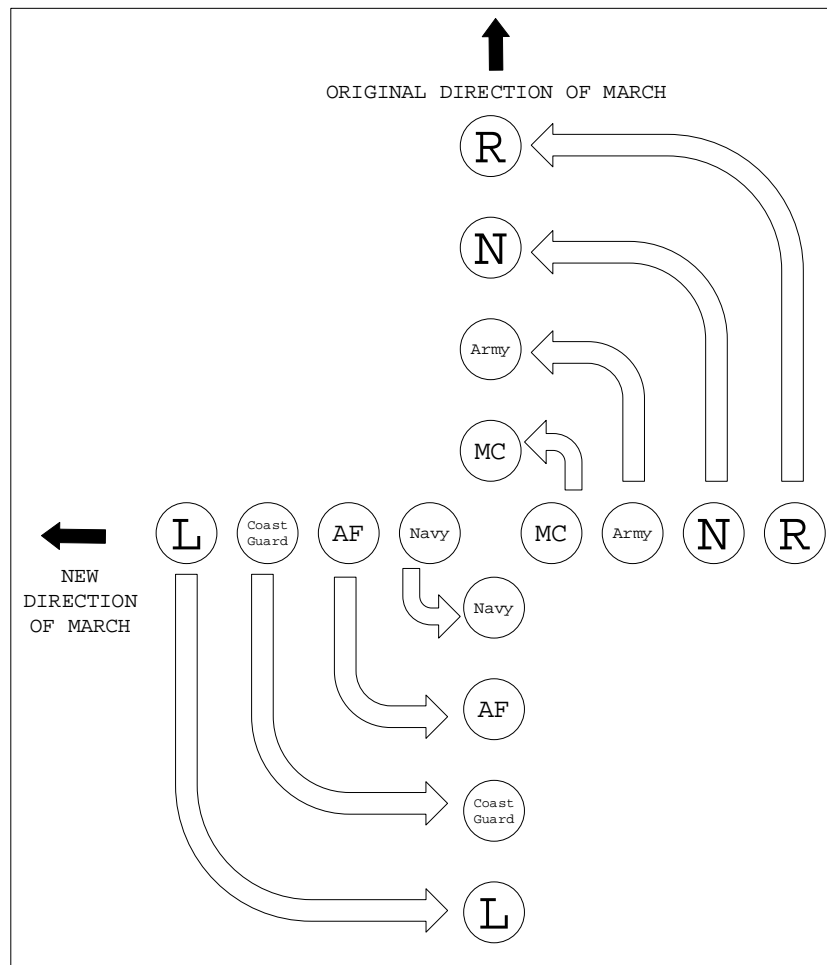
Figure 7-18.--Countermarch.

3. Movements Utilized by Joint Color Guards (JCG). JCGs use two basic movements to turn the color guard 90 or 180 degrees. These are the **"Right (Left) Wheel, MARCH"** and the **"Left About, MARCH."**

4. Right (Left) Wheel. This movement is used to turn the JCG 90 degrees right or left and may be executed either from the halt, mark time, or quick time. In JCGs with an even number of members, the pivot point will be between the two, center color bearers. In JCGs with an odd number of members, the pivot point will be the spot occupied by the center color bearer. (See figures 7-19a and b.)

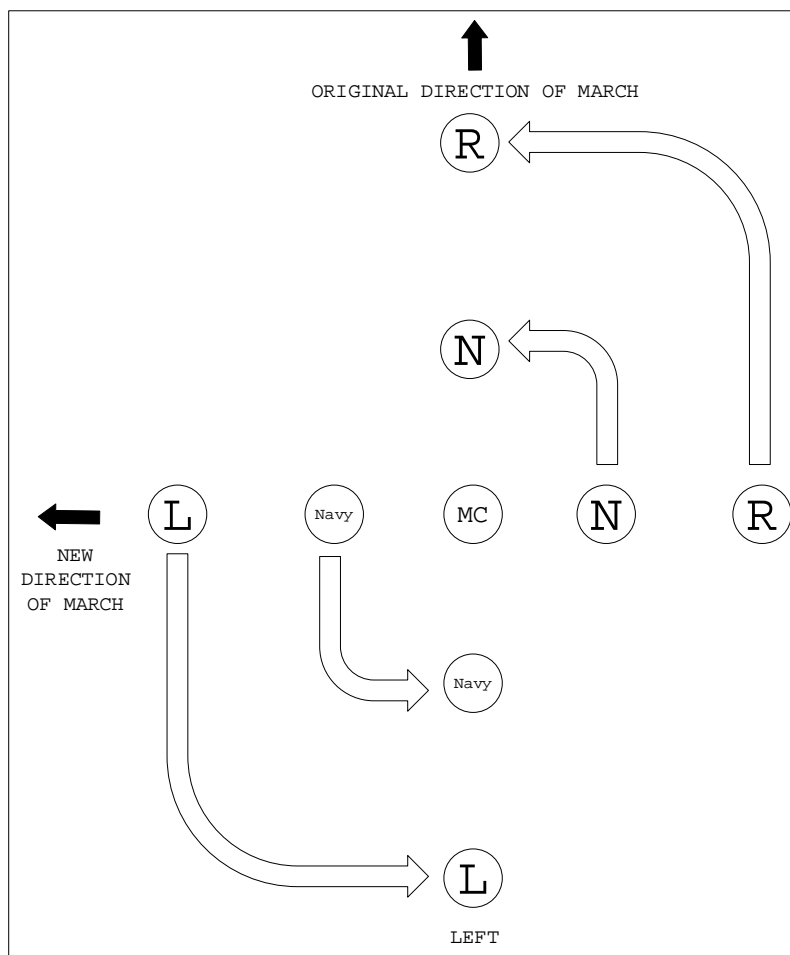
a. On the command of execution **"MARCH,"** the JCG will start marking time. At the same time, they will begin to turn slowly to the right/left while maintaining their alignment. For **"Right Wheel,"** those to right of the pivot back step and those to the left half step until facing the new direction. This procedure is reversed for **"Left Wheel."**

b. Once facing the new direction of march (90 degrees), the JCG will either halt or step off in the new direction, depending on commands by the senior color bearer.



a. Pivot with Even Number.

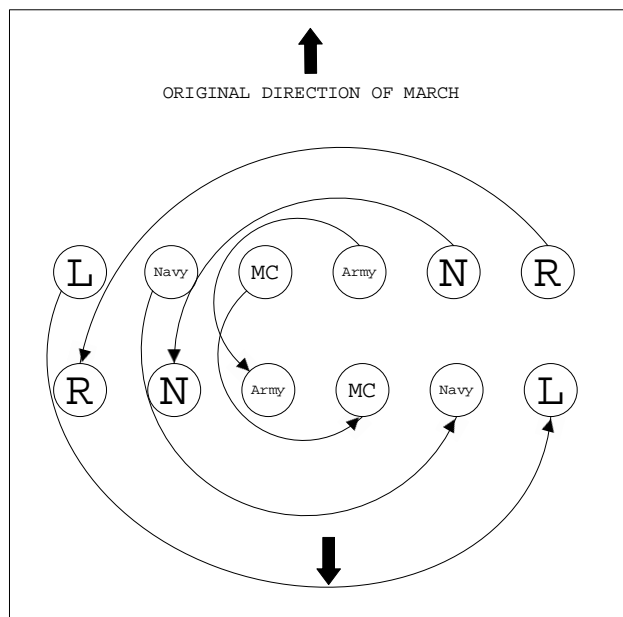
Figure 7-19.--Right (Left) Wheel About.



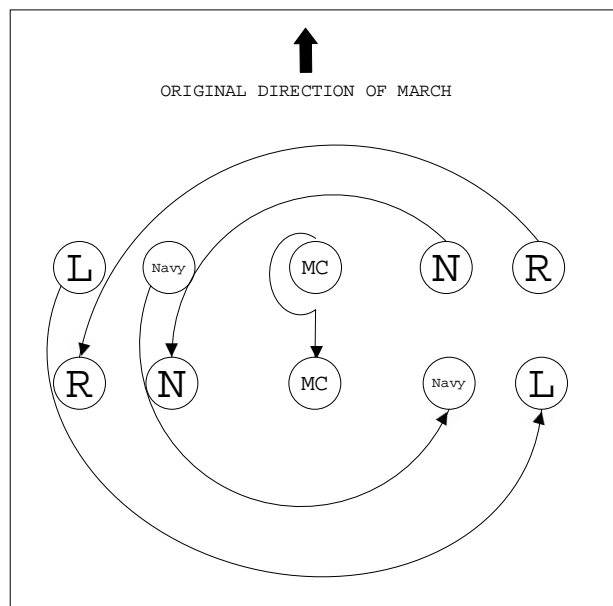
b. Pivot with Odd Number.

Figure 7-19.--Right (Left) Wheel About--Continued.

5. Left About. This movement is used to turn the JCG 180 degrees, and it may also be executed while halted, marking time, or quick time. On the command of execution "**MARCH**" it is executed in the same manner as above. The only exceptions are the pivot point; the degree of turn and it is only executed to the left. (See figure 7-20.)



a. Pivot with even numbers.



b. New Direction of March.

Figure 7-20.--Left About.

Chapter 7

National and Organizational Flags

Section 3: Color Guard Protocol

1. General. The primary mission of the color guard is to ensure that the national colors is handled and displayed with the utmost care and respect. Upon receiving or uncasing the national colors, the color guard assumes a ceremonial posture; meaning that all movement will be by marching at attention and the most relaxed halted position will be parade rest.

2. Receiving the Colors by the Color Guard. The color guard will use the following procedure in receiving the colors: (See figure 7-21.)

a. The color guard forms and marches to the place designated for receiving the colors.

b. The color guard is halted three paces from the adjutant and sergeant major that have taken appropriate positions for the delivery of the colors to the guard.

c. The senior color bearer commands the color guard to **"Order, ARMS."**

d. When the adjutant is ready to deliver the colors, the senior color bearer orders **"Present, ARMS."** At this command, the color bearers execute a hand salute, the color guards present arms.

e. The adjutant steps to the left oblique and transfers the national colors to the senior color bearer, who terminates salute in time to receive it at the position of carry colors. The adjutant then steps back and salutes.

f. Upon the adjutant's salute, the sergeant major, steps to the right oblique and transfers the organizational colors to the junior color bearer, who terminates salute in time to receive it at the position of carry colors. The senior enlisted then steps back and salutes.

g. When the senior enlisted salutes, the senior color bearer commands **"Order, ARMS."** The adjutant and senior enlisted terminate their salutes and at the command of **"ARMS,"** march off.

h. The senior color bearer then marches the color guard to the color company (battalion).

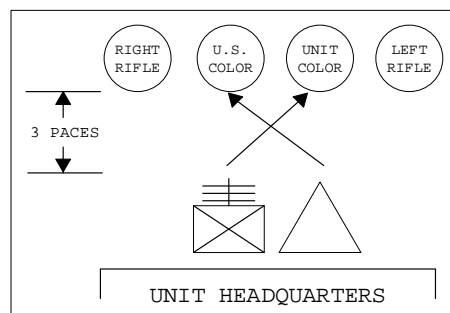


Figure 7-21.--Receiving/Returning the Colors by the Color Guard.

3. Receiving the Colors by the Color Company (Battalion). Prior to forming for a ceremony in which the colors are to participate, the colors are received by the color company (battalion) by means of the following ceremony: (See figure 7-22.)

- a. The company (battalion) is formed with its commander facing front.
- b. The color guard approaches and halts 10 paces in front of and facing the company (battalion) commander remaining at the carry.
- c. The company (battalion) commander faces about, towards the unit, and orders **"Present, ARMS."** The color guard executes present arms on the company (battalion) commander's command. The organizational colors salutes, if appropriate. The company (battalion) commander faces about again and salutes the colors.
- d. The company (battalion) commander terminates salute, faces about, and commands **"Order, ARMS."** The color guard returns to the carry.
- e. The company (battalion) commander faces about and orders the color guard to **"POST THE COLORS."** When the color company (battalion) is in line or mass, the post of the guard is six paces to the left of the company (battalion). When the company (battalion) is in column, the post of the guard is six paces behind.
- f. When the color company (battalion) joins the formation, the color guard takes its appropriate post centered in the formation.
- g. When in formation, the color guard executes parade rest when the color company (battalion) executes at ease or rest. The color guard will respond to all commands from the commander of troops or the commander of the color company (battalion) except when required by its unique movements to act independently.

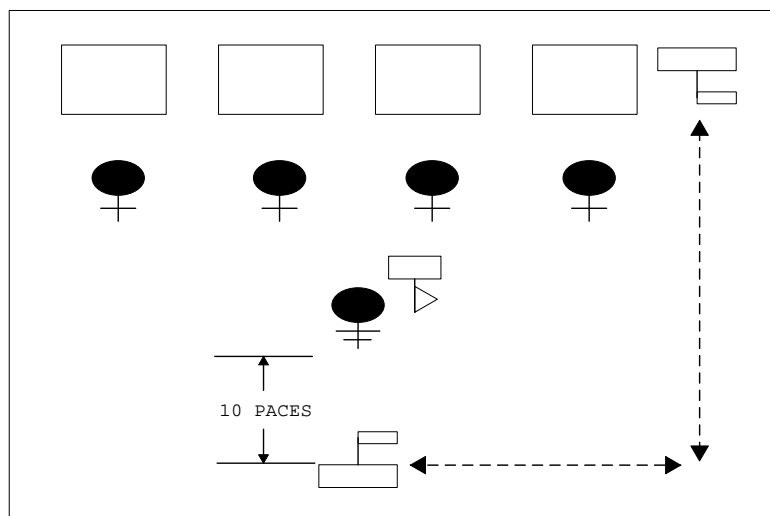


Figure 7-22.--Receiving/Returning the Colors by the Color Company.

4. Dismissing the Color Guard. In dismissing the color guard at the conclusion of a drill or ceremony, the procedure is as follows: (See figure 7-22.)

a. The guard marches from its post and halts 10 paces in front of and facing the company (battalion) commander, halts and remains at the carry.

b. The company (battalion) then executes present arms in the same manner described for receiving the colors, after which the color guard marches the colors to the quarters or office of the organizational commander.

c. The color guard is received by and dismissed from organizations smaller than a company (e.g., funeral escort) in a similar manner.

5. Returning the Colors by the Color Guard. The color guard will use the following procedure when parting with the colors: (See figure 7-21.)

a. The senior color bearer halts the guard three paces in front of the adjutant and senior enlisted who have taken positions near the office or quarters of the organization in time to receive the colors. The guard remains at carry colors.

b. When the color guard halts, the adjutant and senior enlisted salute. The Senior Enlisted, then terminates the salute and steps to the right oblique, receives the organizational colors from the junior color bearer, and then steps back.

c. The adjutant then terminates the salute and steps to the left oblique, receives the national colors from the senior color bearer, and then steps back.

d. The senior color bearer then commands "**Present, ARMS.**" The color guards execute present arms, the color bearers hand salute. The adjutant faces about and the senior enlisted passes behind him to a position on the left. They then march into the office or quarters of the commanding officer where the colors are placed without further ceremony.

e. When the colors are out of sight or six paces away, the senior color bearer commands "**Order, ARMS,**" and dismisses the guard or marches them back to their unit.

6. Casing and Uncasing the Colors

a. While it is not a precision movement, casing and uncasing the colors should be accomplished with appropriate dignity and ceremony.

b. To uncase the colors, the color guard will be formed at carry colors. The supernumerary or other designated individual(s) will center on the color guard. First, the national color bearer and then the organizational color bearer will lower their staffs so that the cases may be removed. The individual(s) removing the cases will then step back and salute the national colors before retiring. (See figure 7-23a.)

c. To case the colors, the color guard will be formed at carry colors. The individual(s) with the cases will center on the color guard and salute the national colors. The organizational color bearer followed by the national color bearer will lower their staffs so that their colors may be furled and cased. Rather than wrapping the colors around the staff, the colors should be folded on top of the staffs and held until the cases are slipped on. The rope

and tassel and streamers, if any, are kept clear until the colors are folded onto the staff, and then are placed as flat as possible, on the colors. This may require two persons to accomplish. (See figure 7-23b.) Care should be taken to ensure that color cases fit easily over the colors. Cases constructed with too narrow of a diameter cause undue wrinkling and may even damage the colors.



a. Uncasing Colors.



b. Casing Colors.

Figure 7-23.--Uncasing and Casing Colors.

7. Trooping the Colors

a. When it is desired to highlight the unit colors and have them formally received by the entire battalion (or regiment) while forming for a review, parade, or any other ceremony, the ceremony for trooping the colors may be conducted. It is particularly appropriate to include trooping the colors as a part of ceremonies conducted to coincide with an important event in the unit's history. However, if the colors are to be brought forward for a retirement, promotion, awards or other similar type ceremony, the colors should not, but may, be trooped since this would cause the command to present arms to the colors twice. (Once when the colors are trooped and once when they are brought forward for the awards or other ceremony.)

b. Procedures for Trooping the Colors

(1) After forming at "Assembly," the color guard receives the battalion (regimental) colors as prescribed in paragraph 2 of this section. The color company may also receive the color guard per paragraph 3 of this section, or the color guard may take its position on the battalion (regimental) parade deck independently. In the former case, coincidental with "Adjutant's Call," the color guard initially marches on with the color company then breaks out of formation so as to take post on the left flank of the line of troops. In the latter case, the color guard marches independently on the parade ground and takes post on the left flank of the line of troops at "Adjutant's Call," or prior to "Adjutant's Call," as appropriate. (See figure 7-24.) Regardless, after taking post on the left flank, the color guard goes to order colors.

(2) The troops form at "Adjutant's Call" according to the commands and procedures prescribed for forming a battalion (regiment) for ceremonies, up to the point where the units complete dressing to the right, the guides are posted (if units marched on), and bayonets are fixed (if so prescribed). Then, the adjutant facing the command and posted midway between the line of company (battalion) commanders and the battalion (regimental) commander, commands "**MARCH ON THE COLORS.**" The band plays appropriate music while the color guard, coming to the carry, marches from its position on the left flank, across the front of the battalion (regiment) along a line parallel to the line of troops and midway between the adjutant and line of company (battalion) commanders. Company (battalion) commanders and the company guide (battalion staff) salute the colors as they pass their front. Those company (battalion) commanders who are not passed by the colors will not salute. On reaching a point in front of the adjutant, the color guard executes a left turn to face the adjutant and halts, remaining at the carry. The adjutant then commands "**Present, ARMS**" and salutes the colors. The unit presents arms. The color guard executes present arms from the carry. The band plays either "To the Colors" or the "National Anthem." The battalion (regimental) commander and staff to salute on the first note of the music and terminate the salute on the last note. After completion of the music, the adjutant commands "**Order, ARMS.**" The color guard returns to carry color on the command "**Order, ARMS.**" The adjutant then commands "**POST THE COLORS.**" The color guard countermarches, moves to the line of troops on the left of the color company (battalion), countermarches to face the front, halts, and goes to order colors.

(3) After the color guard is in position on the left of the color company (battalion), the parade or ceremony would proceed as prescribed in

the appropriate chapter of this Manual.

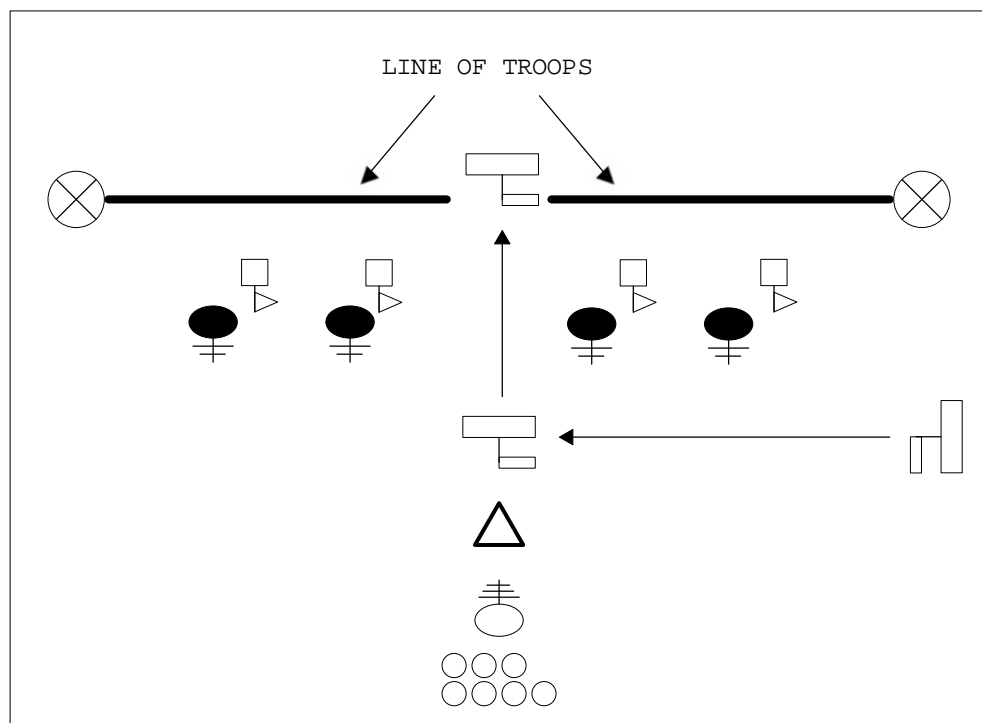


Figure 7-24.--Trooping the Colors.

8. Indoor Ceremonies Involving Color Guards

a. On occasion, color guards will be required for indoor ceremonies, military or civilian. Normally an indoor ceremony consists of marching on the colors, the "National Anthem," (or pledge of allegiance), posting the colors and retiring the colors. Close coordination with the master of ceremonies, and an on-site rehearsal (if possible) are needed to preclude confusion and misunderstandings during the ceremony.

b. The Normal Sequence of Events Should be as Follow

(1) The master of ceremonies asks the guests to please rise for the march on the colors and to remain standing for the "National Anthem" and the posting of the colors.

(2) The color guard marches in from the designated entry and moves to its position, and does a right (left) turn or countermarch to face the audience and remains at the carry. The senior color bearer then gives the command **"Present, COLORS."** The color guard executes. After the "National Anthem" is played the senior color bearer gives the command **"Carry, COLORS."** The senior color bearer would then give the commands necessary to move the color guard to three paces in front of where the colors are to be posted, halts and gives the command to **"Order, COLORS."** Once the color guard is at the order, the organizational color bearer then steps to the right oblique and places the organizational colors in the stand. Once the organizational color bearer is back in position the national color bearer steps to the left oblique and places the national colors into the stand. (See figure 7-25.) When the national color bearer is back in position, the senior color bearer

commands **"Present, ARMS."** The riflemen execute present arms and the color bearers execute a hand salute. The senior color bearer then commands **"Order, ARMS;" "Shoulder, ARMS;"** and then using whatever commands necessary, marches the color guard from the auditorium.

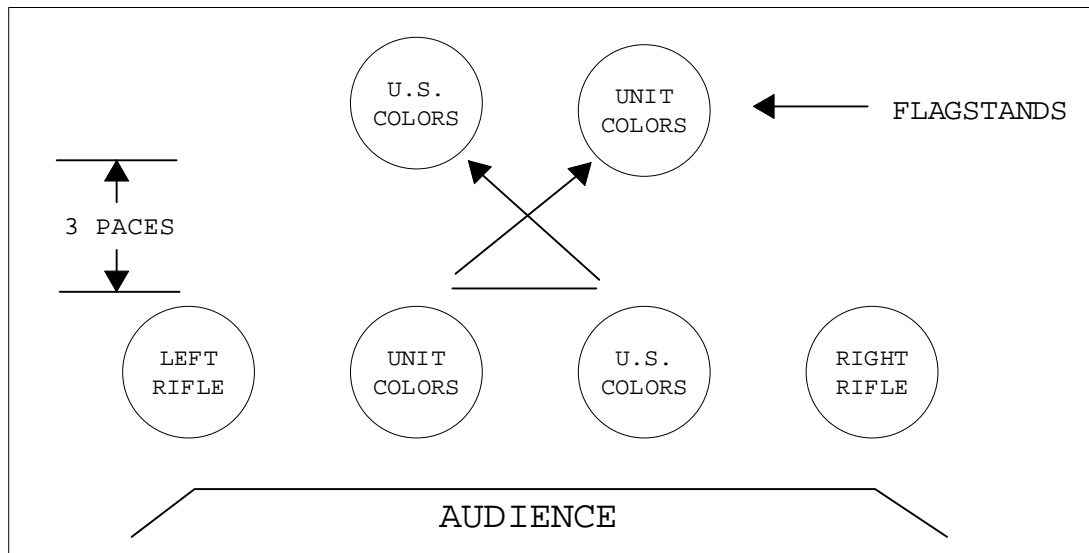


Figure 7-25.--Posting and Retrieving the Colors Indoors.

c. When it is time to retire the colors, the color guard assumes its position to re-enter the auditorium for that part of the ceremony.

(1) The master of ceremonies would then ask for the guests to rise for the entering of the colorguard.

(2) The color guard marches to a position three paces in front of where the colors are posted, halts and goes to the order. (See figure 7-25.) The senior color bearer then commands **"Present, ARMS,"** the riflemen execute present arms and the color bearers execute a hand salute. The senior color bearer then commands **"Order, ARMS."** The color guard goes to the order. The national color bearer then steps to the left oblique and retrieves the national colors. When the national color bearer is back in position, the organizational color bearer steps to the right oblique and retrieves the organizational colors. When the organizational color bearer is back in position, the senior color bearer commands, **"Carry, COLORS"** and then, using whatever commands necessary, marches the color guard from the auditorium.

d. When performing an indoor ceremony, oddities will be encountered that will necessitate some adjustments by the color guard. Some examples are:

(1) If performing in a house of worship, covers are not worn and weapons are not carried. Those portions of the ceremony requiring present arms are deleted and the riflemen may be omitted.

(2) The ceiling may be too low to carry colors; march in at the trail.

(3) The aisles may be too narrow for a color guard to march in normal formation. The color guard would then march in by two's or in column of

ones. (See figures 7-26 and 7-27.) If marching in by twos, the color bearers lead and the riflemen follow. Upon reaching the spot for presenting the colors, the riflemen would step into their normal position. If marching in a column of ones, the order of march is **ALWAYS**, right color guard, national color bearer, organizational color bearer, left color guard. When reaching their spot the color guard would reform. Make sure the colors do not reform inverted.

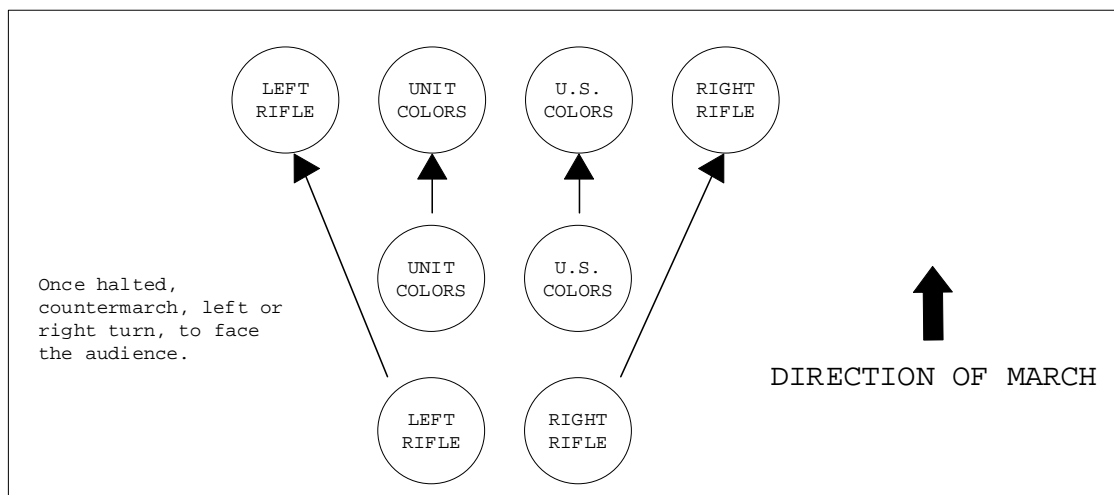


Figure 7-26.--Marching in Column of Twos and Reform.

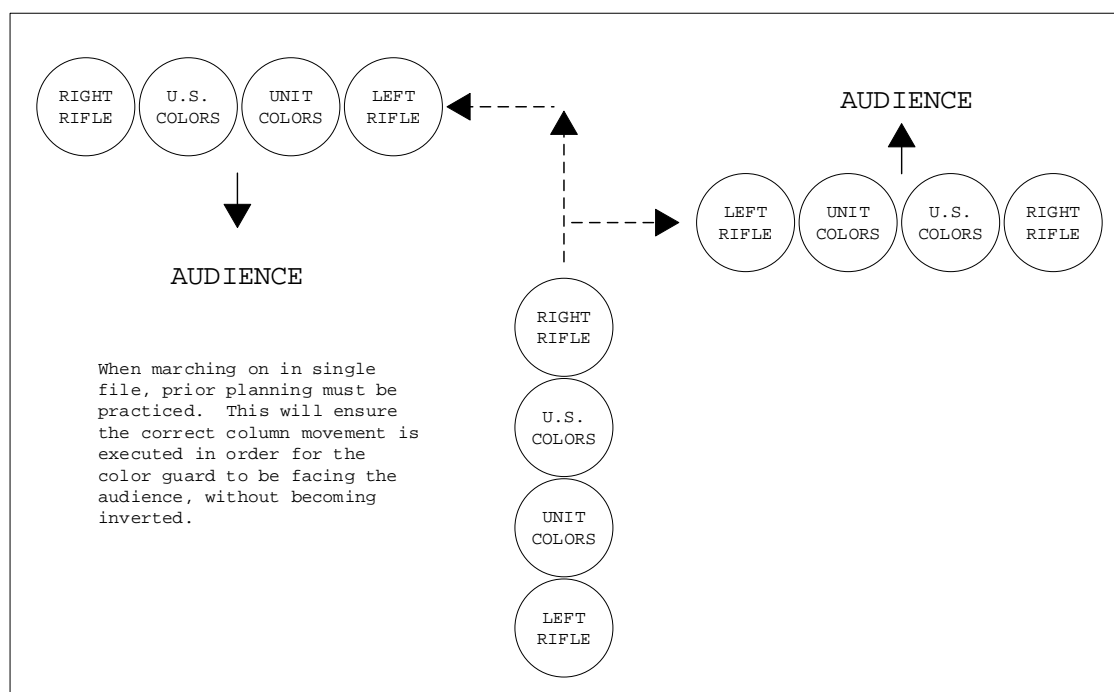


Figure 7-27.--March in Column of Ones and Reform.

(4) The flag stands you will be posting the colors into may be on different sides of the stage. If this occurs, the recommended sequence is:

(a) Execute the ceremony as discussed earlier.

(b) After the "National Anthem", the colors counter-march and halt facing the new direction. The senior color bearer would command post the colors. The national color bearer and right rifleman step off to the left oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time. The right rifleman positions him/herself so as to be outboard of the national colors. After the national color bearer and right rifleman have cleared, the organizational color bearer and left rifleman step off in the right oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time. The left rifleman positions him/herself so as to be outboard of the organizational colors. (See figure 7-28.) Once both colors are in position, the senior color bearer commands "Colors, HALT," and "Order, COLORS." The organizational colors is placed in the flag stand, then the national colors is placed in the flag stand. The senior color bearer then commands "Present, ARMS." The riflemen execute present arms and the color bearers execute a hand salute. The senior color bearer then commands "Order, ARMS;" "Center, FACE;" and "Forward, MARCH." The riflemen march at trail arms. The color guard moves to the center of the stage and marks time, slowly turning left or right towards the audience. The senior color bearer then commands, "Colors, Halt;" "Shoulder, ARMS;" and then marches the color guard from the auditorium.

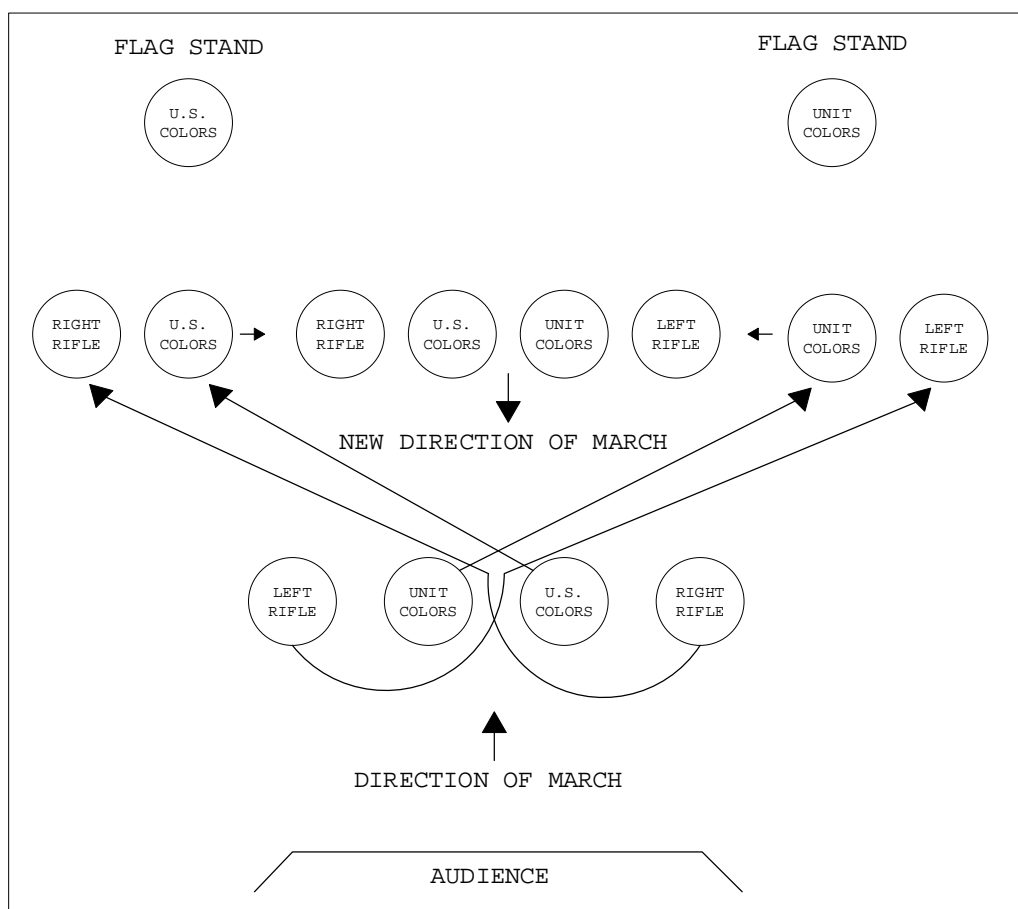


Figure 7-28.--Posting and Retrieving the Colors Indoors
(Flag Stands Separated).

(c) To retire the colors from separated flagpoles, the detail is marched into position facing the colors and halts. The senior color bearer then commands **"Present, ARMS."** The color guard riflemen execute present arms and the color bearers execute a hand salute. The senior color bearer then commands **"Shoulder, ARMS."** The riflemen return to the shoulder. The national color bearer and right rifleman then step off to the left oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time. The right rifleman positions him/herself so as to be outboard of the national colors. After the national color bearer and right rifleman have cleared, the organizational color bearer and left rifleman step off in the right oblique and move to the flag stand and mark time. The left rifleman positions him/herself so as to be outboard of the organizational colors. (See figure 7-25.) Once all are in position, the senior color bearer commands **"Colors, HALT,"** and **"Order, ARMS."** The senior color bearer then retrieves the national colors. The organizational color bearer then retrieves the organizational colors. The senior color bearer then commands **"Center, FACE,"** and **"Forward, MARCH."** The color guard, at trail arms, moves to the center of the stage and marks time, slowly turning left or right towards the audience. The senior color bearer then commands **"Colors, HALT"** **"Carry, COLORS"** and then marches the color guard from the auditorium.

(5) The general rule for all unusual situations not covered by this manual is to perform in a military manner. However, never do something that would embarrass the Corps.

9. Ordering Colors, Staffs and Other Ceremonial Garrison Property

a. Instructions for ordering flags, streamers, guidons and other heraldic items is found in reference (g), section G. The list in appendix C contains the description, and National Stock Numbers of flags, staffs and other color guard equipment. The unit supply officer should be able to assist in finding the current prices and ordering the equipment.

b. Table 1, section E of reference (g) is used to determine which type of organizational color a unit rates.

Chapter 6

Guidon Manual

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Chapter 6

Guidon Manual

1. General

a. The guidon is a company or battery identification flag. It is carried on a 6-foot staff at ceremonies and at other times prescribed by the commander. (See figure 6-1.) Reference (g) provides detailed specifications for unit guidons.

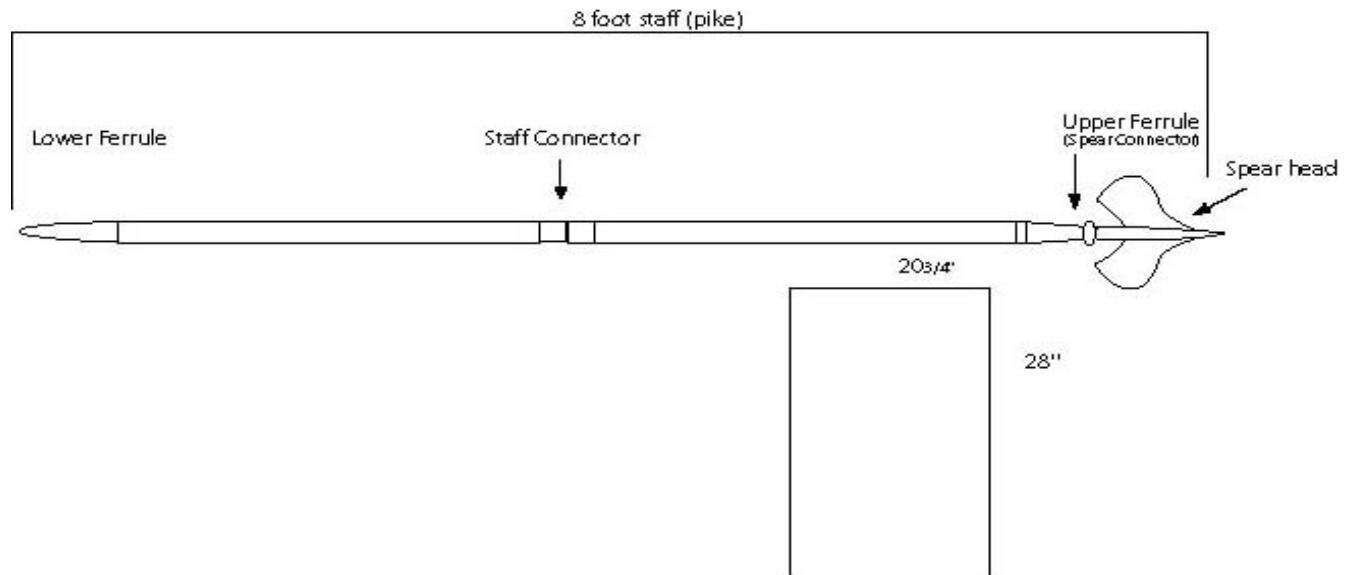


Figure 6-1.--Guidon and Staff.

b. In garrison, the guidon may be displayed at company headquarters between morning and evening colors, except during inclement weather and when carried in formation.

c. In selecting a guidon bearer, the company commander should choose an individual who is outstanding in bearing, appearance, and ability.

d. When acting as guidon bearer, the individual is considered under arms and does not have to carry a weapon. If a weapon is carried, it will be slung or holstered.

e. The guidon is brought to present guidon, parade rest, and order guidon with the company.

f. When at route step or at ease march, the guidon may be carried in either hand. When at order guidon, bring the guidon to carry on the preparatory command for marching in quick time.

g. When at order guidon, the guidon is brought to carry on the preparatory command for any facing or marching movement.

h. The guidon staff should be marked with two thumbtacks. The first tack marks the position of the guidon bearer's right thumb position at order guidon. The second thumbtack is placed six inches above the first tack to mark the guidon bearer's right thumb position at carry guidon.

i. The two grasps of the guidon are identified as the "V" grip and the strong grip. The staff is placed in the "V" formed by the thumb and fingers of the right hand. Thumb along the trouser seam with the fingers extended and joined. The strong grip is when the thumb is wrapped around the front of the staff with the fingers wrapped to the rear. (See figure 1-4.)

(1) The "V" grip is used at the order and when executing "Present Guidon" and during "Eyes Right/Left" and "Officers Center."

(2) The strong grip is used while on the march and facing movements.

2. Order Guidon. At order guidon, the ferrule rests on the deck touching the outside edge of the right shoe close to the little toe. The staff is grasped in the "V" grip with the right elbow close to the side so that the forearm helps to support the staff. The upper staff rests in the hollow of the right shoulder. The staff is vertical with the flat side of the spearhead facing front. The rest of the body is at attention. (See figure 6-2.)



Figure 6-2.--Order Guidon.

3. Carry Guidon. This is the normal position of the guidon while marching at quick time. It is carried using the strong grip with the ferrule six inches above the deck and the flat side of the spearhead facing front. (See figure 6-3.)



Figure 6-3.--Carry Guidon.

4. Double Time with the Guidon. For marching at double time, on the preparatory command, bring the staff across the body with the spearhead to the left. The right hand grasps the same spot as at carry. The right forearm is level with the deck and the elbow against the body. Grip the staff with the left hand in front of the point where the neck and left shoulder join. The flat side of the spearhead should face front. (See figure 6-4.)



Figure 6-4.--Guidon Carry at the Double Time.

5. Carry Guidon from Order Guidon. This movement is executed on the preparatory command for any movement that will require the guidon bearer's feet to be moved. Execution is begun on a preparatory command such as **"Forward," "About,"** etc.

- a. On the preparatory command, reach across the body and grasp the staff with the left hand 2 inches above the right.
- b. Change the grasp grip to the strong grip, while raising the staff with the left hand until the ferrule is six inches above the deck. Hold the staff vertical with the right hand.
- c. Move the left hand smartly back to the side.

6. Order Guidon from Carry Guidon. This movement is executed without command at the completion of any movement that required the guidon bearer to come to carry guidon. If there are a series of movements, executed immediately one after the other, order guidon will not be executed until after the final one. Order guidon is executed in one count by allowing the staff to slip through the right hand until the lower ferrule rests on the deck, and change the grasp to the "V" grip.

7. Present Guidon from Order or Carry Guidon. From order or carry guidon, this movement is executed on command. During officers center, the movement is executed after halting, from the carry and without command. Since the right hand is six inches lower on the staff at carry than at order, the ferrule will extend farther to the rear when at present guidon from order than it will at present guidon from the carry.

a. From order guidon, the command is **"Present, ARMS."** It is executed in one count.

b. On **"ARMS,"** lower the guidon straight to the front. The right arm is extended until the lower portion of the staff rests in the pit of the right arm and the entire staff is horizontal to the deck. As the staff is lowered, rotate the staff to the right so that the sharp edge of the spearhead faces down. Hold the right elbow firmly against the body. (See figure 6-5.)



Figure 6-5.--Present Guidon.

c. From carry guidon the command is **"Eyes, RIGHT (LEFT)."** It is executed in the same manner as from order guidon except that the head and eyes are turned right (left) 45 degrees as the guidon is lowered. (See figure 6-6.)



Figure 6-6.--Eyes Right with the Guidon.

8. Order Guidon and Carry Guidon from Present Guidon

a. To return to order guidon, the command is **"Order, ARMS."**

b. On the preparatory command **"Order,"** grasp the staff smartly and audibly with the left hand, palm up, at a point just forward of the right hand. (See figure 6-7.) On **"ARMS,"** with the left hand, pull the guidon staff up and back to the vertical position of carry guidon, pivoting it on the right hand as it is lowered back to the right side. Then let the staff slide straight downward through the right hand until the lower ferrule rests on the deck, the left hand steadies the staff as it slides downward. Cut the left hand smartly back to its normal position at the left side. The flat side of the spearhead is back facing to the front.



Figure 6-7.--Movements to Carry Guidon from Present Guidon.

c. To return to carry guidon the command is **"Ready, FRONT."**

d. On the preparatory command **"Ready,"** grasp the staff smartly and audibly with the left hand, palm up, at a point just forward of the right hand. On **"FRONT,"** with the left hand, pull the guidon staff up and back to the vertical position of carry guidon, pivoting it on the right hand as it is lowered back to the right side. The flat side of the spearhead facing to the front. Cut the left hand back to the left side and turn the head and eyes smartly to the front.

9. Present Guidon from Carry Guidon at Officers Center. This movement is executed without command, upon halting at officers center during a parade. It is executed in one count as explained in paragraph 7.b. of this chapter. The movement will be executed on the fourth count after the command **"Officers, HALT."** For details on executing officers halt refer to enclosure 2, chapter 5, paragraphs 7.i. through 7.n.

10. Carry Guidon from Present Guidon at Officers Center

a. The command is **"Carry, SWORD."** **"Ready, TWO"** if the officers are not armed with swords.

b. On the preparatory command **"Carry (Ready),"** grasp the staff with the left hand and on the command of execution **"SWORDS (TWO)"** bring the

staff back to the carry guidon position as described in paragraph 3 of this chapter.

11. Ready Guidon from Order or Carry Guidon. This movement is used as a signal for aiding troops in the execution of commands where hearing verbal commands is difficult. When directed by the unit commander, the guidon is brought to ready guidon on specified preparatory commands. Ready guidon may be used as a signal for the execution of any command except present arms and eyes right (left), at which times the guidon must render honors.

a. On the specified preparatory command, bring the left hand across the body to grasp the staff above right hand. Change the grasp of the right hand so that the staff is gripped from the rear. Then raise the right hand to shoulder height, causing the guidon to be raised approximately three feet. At the same time, change the grasp of the left hand from above the right hand to just above the lower ferrule. This is the position of ready guidon. (See figure 6-8.)

b. On the command of execution, smartly lower the right hand and staff to the position of carry guidon. At the same time, return the left hand to a position above the right hand and steady the staff as the grasp of the right hand is changed. Return the left hand to the position of attention.

c. Ready guidon may also be executed without command during formation of a unit prior to march on for a review of parade. The guide executes it after the unit has been brought to attention (right shoulder arms if so armed) after the adjutant has commanded, "**Sound, ATTENTION.**" Ready guidon is used to signal the adjutant that the unit is ready for his next command.



Figure 6-8.--Ready Guidon

12. Guidon Salute from Carry or Order Guidon

a. The command is **"Guidon (Rifle), SALUTE."** This movement may be executed on command, when in formation, or individually if the guidon bearer is in route to or from a formation. It is executed in two counts

b. On **"SALUTE,"** move the left hand, palm down, smartly to a position above the right hand with the left arm parallel to the deck. Keep the thumb and fingers straight and together. Touch the staff with the first joint of the forefinger. Turn the head and eyes toward the person being saluted. (See figure 6-9.)



Figure 6-9.--Guidon Salute from Carry or Order Guidon.

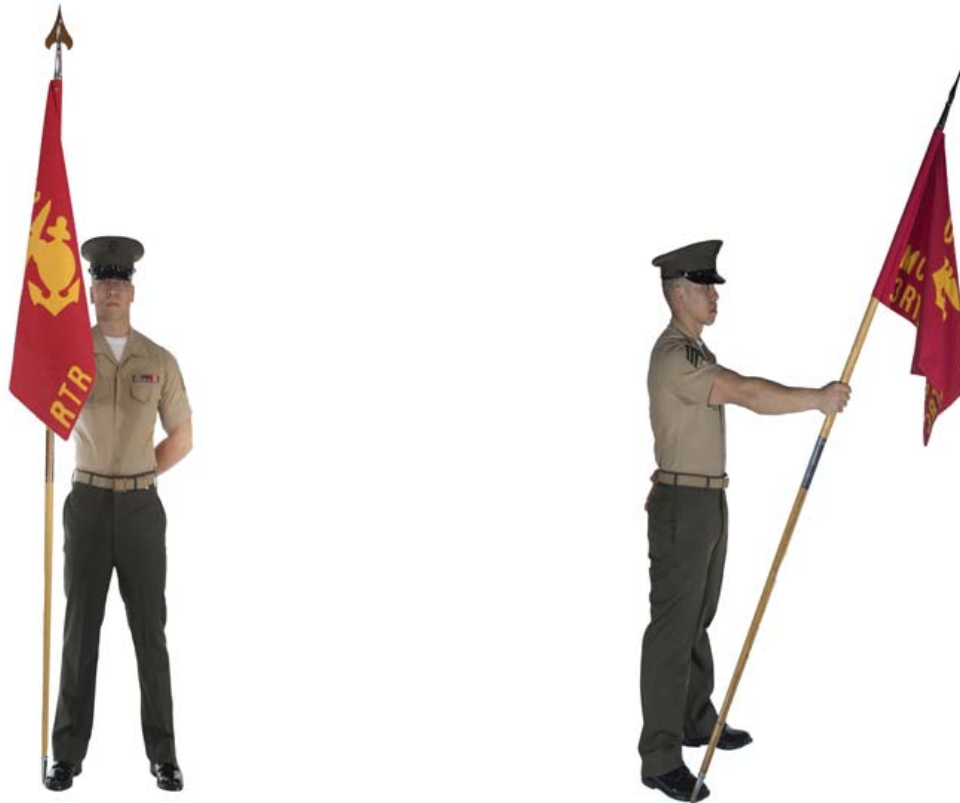
c. After the salute is returned, or the command **"Order (Ready), ARMS (TWO)"** is given, move the left hand smartly back to the left side and look to the front.

13. Rests With the Guidon

a. Parade Rest from Order Guidon

(1) The command is **"Parade, REST."** It is executed in one count. It may be given only when halted at attention.

(2) On the command of execution **"REST,"** slide the right hand up the staff to shoulder height. The staff remains in place and vertical. Without loss of motion, straighten the right arm so the staff of the guidon tilts forward at 30 degrees. The fingers and thumb of the right hand are wrapped around the staff. The ferrule remains in the same position as at order guidon. The flat side of the spearhead remains facing front. Place the left hand behind the back, just below the belt. Keep the fingers straight and touching. The palm is flat and facing the rear. At the same time, move the left foot smartly 12 inches to the left of the right foot. (See figure 6-10.)



a. Front.

b. Side.

Figure 6-10.--Parade Rest with the Guidon.

b. At Ease from Any Position of the Guidon

(1) The command is **"AT EASE."** It is executed in two counts. It may be given only when halted at attention.

(2) On the command, and for count one, execute parade rest as described in paragraph 13.a.(2) of this chapter.

(3) On the second count, you may relax and, except for your right foot and ferrule, move about. Do not talk.

c. Rest from Any Position of the Guidon. The command is **"REST."** It is

executed in the same manner as at ease the only exceptions being that you may talk and hold the staff in either hand.

d. Fall Out from Order Guidon. The command is "**FALL OUT.**" It may be given only from order guidon. Upon the command, leave your position in ranks but remain nearby.

e. Order Guidon from Rest Positions

(1) From parade rest, at ease, and rest, the command is "**Platoon (Company or Battalion), ATTENTION.**" On the preparatory command, go to parade rest, if not already in that position. At the command "**ATTENTION,**" go smartly to order guidon.

(2) From fall out, the command is "**FALL IN.**" Upon the command, go back to your position in formation and stand at attention at order guidon.