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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

TRI31-plc  
28 Aug 1980

FOREWORD

1. PURPOSE

This publication, NAVMC 2691, Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual, furnishes information and describes procedures for close order drill and military ceremonies within the Marine Corps.

2. SCOPE

This Manual encompasses detailed procedures for all drill and ceremonies executed by troop elements ranging in size from the individual to the regiment.

3. SUPERSESION

None

4. CHANGES

Recommendations for improving this Manual are invited from commands as well as directly from individuals. The attached User Suggestion Form should be utilized by individuals and forwarded to Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TRI), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380.

5. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. A. Sardo", is written over a circular stamp.

A. A. SARDO  
Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps  
Director of Training

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USER SUGGESTION FORM

From:

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TRI), Headquarters  
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Subj: NAVMC 2691 , Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual;  
recommendation(s) concerning

1. In accordance with the Foreword to NAVMC 2691, which invites individuals to submit suggestions concerning this NAVMC directly to the above addressee, the following unclassified recommendation(s) is(are) forwarded:

a. ITEM #1 (May be handwritten; if more space is required, use additional sheets and envelope.)

(1) Portion of Manual: (Cite by paragraph and/or page number.)

(2) Comment: (Explain in sufficient detail to identify the points of the suggestion.)

(3) Recommendation: (State the exact wording desired to be inserted into the manual.)

b. ITEM #2

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## MARINE CORPS DRILL AND CEREMONIES MANUAL

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PART I

DRILL

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO DRILL

1-1. GENERAL

a. Purpose. A commander uses drill to:

- (1) Move his unit from one place to another in a standard, orderly manner.
- (2) Provide simple formations from which combat formations may be readily assumed.
- (3) Teach discipline by instilling habits of precision and automatic response to orders.
- (4) Increase the confidence of his junior officers and of his noncommissioned officers through the exercise of command, by the giving of proper commands, and by the control of drilling troops.
- (5) Give troops an opportunity to handle individual weapons.

b. Scope. This manual prescribes drill for general use. Diagrams shown must be adapted to the strength of the unit and available drill space.

c. Definitions.

- (1) Element. An individual, squad, section, platoon, company, or other unit which is part of a larger unit.
- (2) Formation. Arrangement of elements of a unit in line, in column, or in any other prescribed manner.
- (3) Line. A formation in which the elements are side by side or abreast of each other. A section or platoon is in line when its squads are in line and one behind the other.
- (4) Rank. A line of Marines or vehicles placed side by side.
- (5) Column. A formation in which elements are placed one behind the other. A section or platoon is in column when members of each squad are one behind the other with the squads abreast of each other.
- (6) File. A single column of Marines or vehicles one behind the other.
- (7) Flank. The right or left extremity of a unit, either in line or in column. The element on the extreme right or left of the line. A direction at a right angle to the direction an element or a formation is facing.

- (8) Depth. The space from head to rear of an element or a formation (see fig. 1-1). The depth of a man is considered to be 12 inches.

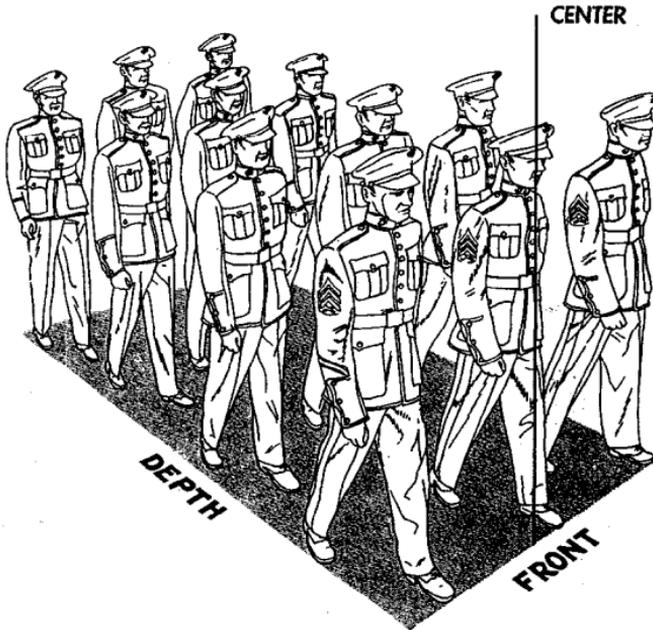


Figure 1-1.--Center, Depth, and Front.

- (9) Front. The space occupied by an element or a formation, measured from one flank to the other (see fig. 1-1). The front of a man is considered to be 22 inches.
- (10) Distance. Space between elements in the direction of depth. Between individuals, the space between your chest and the person to your front. Between vehicles, the space between the front end of a vehicle and the rear of the vehicle to its front. Between troops in formation (either on foot, mounted, or in vehicles), the space from the front of the rear unit to the rear of the unit in front. Platoon commanders, guides, and others whose positions in a formation are 40 inches from a rank are, themselves, considered a rank. Otherwise, commanders and those with them are not considered in measuring distance between units. The color guard is not considered in measuring distance between subdivisions of the unit with which it is posted. In troop formations, the distance between ranks is 40 inches (see fig. 1-2).

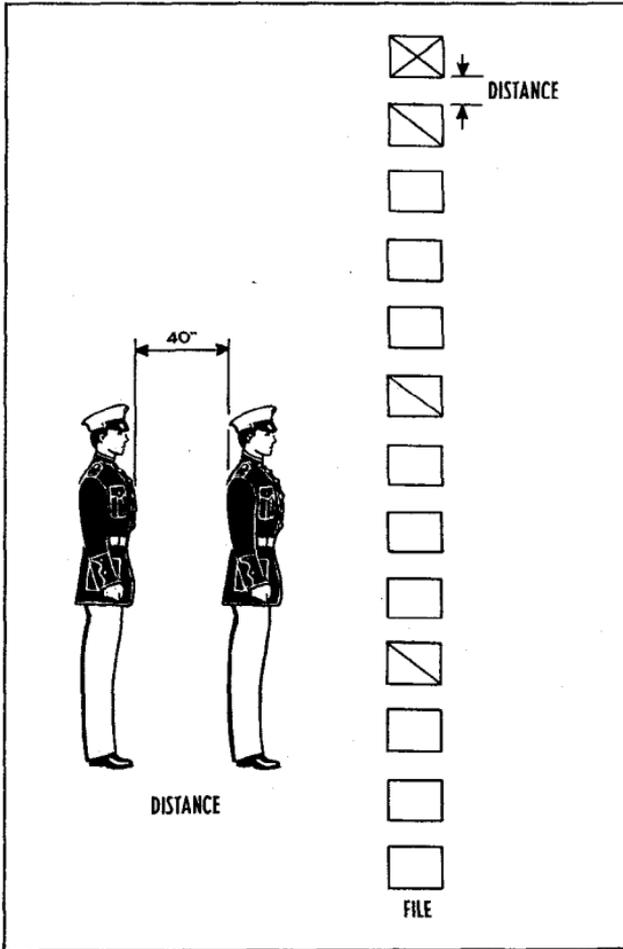


Figure 1-2.--Distance and File.

- (11) Interval. The lateral space between elements on the same line (see fig. 1-3). Interval is measured between individuals from shoulder to shoulder and between vehicles from hub to hub or track to track. It is measured between elements other than individuals and between formations from flank to flank. Unit commanders and those with them are not considered in measuring interval between elements of the unit. Normal interval between individuals is one arm's length. Close interval is the horizontal distance between shoulder and elbow when the left hand is placed on the left hip.

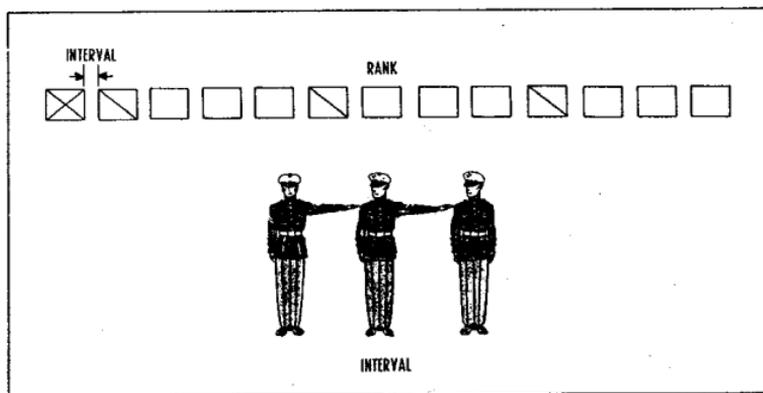


Figure 1-3.--Interval and Rank.

- (12) Alignment. The dressing of several elements on a straight line.
- (13) Base. The element on which a movement is regulated.
- (14) Guide. The individual (base) upon whom a formation, or other elements thereof, regulates its march. To guide: to regulate interval, direction, or alignment; to regulate cadence on a base file (right, left, or center).
- (15) Point of Rest. The point toward which all elements of a unit establish their dress or alignment.
- (16) Center. The middle element of a formation with an odd number of elements or the left center element of a formation with an even number of elements (see fig. 1-1).
- (17) Head. The leading element of a column.
- (18) Pace. The length of a full step in quick time, 30 inches.
- (19) Step. The distance from heel to heel between the feet of a marching man. The half step and back step are 15 inches. The right and left steps are 12 inches. The steps in quick and double time are 30 and 36 inches, respectively.
- (20) Cadence. A rhythmic rate of march at a uniform step.
- (21) Quick Time. Cadence at 120 steps (12, 15, or 30 inches in length) per minute. It is the normal cadence for drills and ceremonies.
- (22) Double Time. Cadence at 180 steps (36 inches in length) per minute.
- (23) Slow Time. Cadence at 60 steps per minute. Used for funerals only.
- (24) Left (Right). Extreme left (right) element or edge of a body of troops.
- (25) Mass Formation. The formation of a company or larger unit in which the major elements are in column at close interval and abreast at close interval.
- (26) Extended Mass Formation. The formation of a company or larger unit in which the major elements are in column at close or normal interval and abreast at a specified interval greater than normal interval.
- (27) Piece. An individual firearm such as a rifle.
- (28) Snap. In commands or signals, the quality that inspires immediate response. In drill, the immediate and smart execution of a movement.

## 1-2. DRILL INSTRUCTORS

Training personnel in drill is an important duty. From the beginning of his career, each officer and noncommissioned officer should take pride in being considered an efficient drill instructor. If he knows the drill regulations and how to instruct, he will gain the respect and confidence of those he commands.

a. In addition, a good drill instructor must:

- (1) Follow regulations strictly, as an example to the Marines under instruction.
- (2) Have energy, patience, and spirit.
- (3) Have military neatness and bearing.
- (4) Watch his Marines constantly, immediately correcting any mistakes noted.

b. When the instructor corrects a movement, the individual or unit should immediately be required to repeat the movement properly. Troops should be reprimanded only as a last resort. Officers and noncommissioned officers should not be reprimanded in the presence of subordinates.

c. Before a drill period, an instructor should thoroughly study the movements to be executed.

d. The instructor's post is that of the commander. The instructor may place himself wherever he can best control the troops, make corrections, and ensure proper performance.

e. The instructor briefly explains and demonstrates each new movement prior to its execution by the troops. The troops should take proper positions unassisted. The instructor touches them only when absolutely necessary. Each position or movement must be thoroughly understood before another is attempted.

f. Drill periods should be short but frequent. Snap should be required in every movement.

## 1-3. INSTRUCTION GROUPS

a. The basic instruction group is the squad. Its size facilitates individual instruction (see chapter 7).

b. Marines who learn slowly should be placed in special squads. Such squads should be drilled by the best instructors available. These Marines should not be ridiculed.

## 1-4. COMMANDS AND THE COMMAND VOICE

a. There are two types of commands. The first, the preparatory command--such as FORWARD--indicates a movement is to be made. The second, the command of execution--such as MARCH--causes the desired movement to be made. In some commands, such as FALL IN, AT EASE, and REST, the preparatory command and the command of execution are combined.

b. In this manual, preparatory commands are shown in CAPITAL LETTERS and commands of execution in UNDERLINED CAPITAL LETTERS. When movements by the numbers are discussed, the count in parentheses precedes the discussion.

c. When giving commands, the commander faces the troops. For company formations or larger, when commanding marching troops from the head of a column or massed formations, the commander marches backward while giving commands. When commanding a unit which is part of a larger unit, the leader turns his head to give commands, but does not face about except when the unit is halted and the smaller units are in line. In this case, the leader faces about to give all commands except to repeat preparatory commands, for which he only turns his head.

d. Commanders of platoons and larger units, when drilling as a part of a still larger unit, repeat all preparatory commands or give the proper new command or warning. There are two exceptions to this. The first is that no repetition is necessary for such commands as FALL IN or FALL OUT, REST, AT EASE, or any other command in which preparation and execution are combined. The second is that no repetition of command is necessary when a unit is in mass formation, except commands which cause the component units to act individually. An example of such a command is COLUMN OF THREES FROM THE RIGHT, MARCH. Squad leaders repeat preparatory commands or give the proper new command or warning only when squads act individually. When all squads in a platoon are to act together, such as in RIGHT, FACE, squad leaders do not repeat preparatory commands.

e. If at a halt, the commands for movements which involve marching at quick time in a direction other than to the direct front, such as COLUMN RIGHT, MARCH, are not prefaced by the preparatory command, FORWARD.

f. The only commands which use unit designations, such as COMPANY, as preparatory commands are ATTENTION and HALT. Such commands shall have no further designation added (e.g., FIRST BATTALION, ATTENTION). Commands shall be given only as stated herein. Troops should know their leaders' voices; therefore, additional designation is unnecessary.

g. A command must be given loud enough to be heard by all Marines in the unit.

- (1) Good posture, proper breathing, and the correct use of throat and mouth muscles help develop a commander's voice. If commands are properly given, they will carry to all Marines in the unit. If a commander tries too hard, his neck muscles might tighten. This will result in squeaky, jumbled, and indistinct commands, and will later be the cause of hoarseness and sore throat.
- (2) Projecting the voice enables one to be heard at maximum range without undue strain. To project a command, a commander must focus his voice on the most distant Marine. Good exercises for voice projection are:
  - (a) Yawning to get the feel of the open mouth and throat.
  - (b) Counting and saying the vowel sounds "oh" and "ah" in a full, firm voice.
  - (c) Giving commands at a uniform cadence, prolonging each syllable.
  - (d) When practicing, stand erect, breathe properly, keep the mouth open wide, and relax the throat.
- (3) The diaphragm is the most important muscle in breathing. It is the large horizontal muscle which separates the chest from the abdomen. It automatically controls normal breathing, but must be developed to give commands properly. Deep breathing exercises are one good method of developing the diaphragm. Another is to take a deep breath, hold it, open the mouth, relax the throat muscles, and snap out a series of fast "hats" or "huts." These sounds should be made by expelling short puffs of air from the lungs. If properly done, you can feel the stomach muscles tighten as the sounds are made.

- (4) The throat, mouth, and nose act as amplifiers. They give fullness to and help project the voice. In giving commands, the throat should be relaxed. The lower jaw and lips should be loose. The mouth should be open wide and the vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) should be prolonged. Consonants (letters other than vowels) and word endings should be curt and sharply cut off.
- (5) The position of attention is the proper posture for giving commands (see fig. 1-4). A commander's posture will be noticed by his Marines. If it is unmilitary, his men are likely to copy it. Raising the hand to the mouth to aid in projecting commands is not proper.

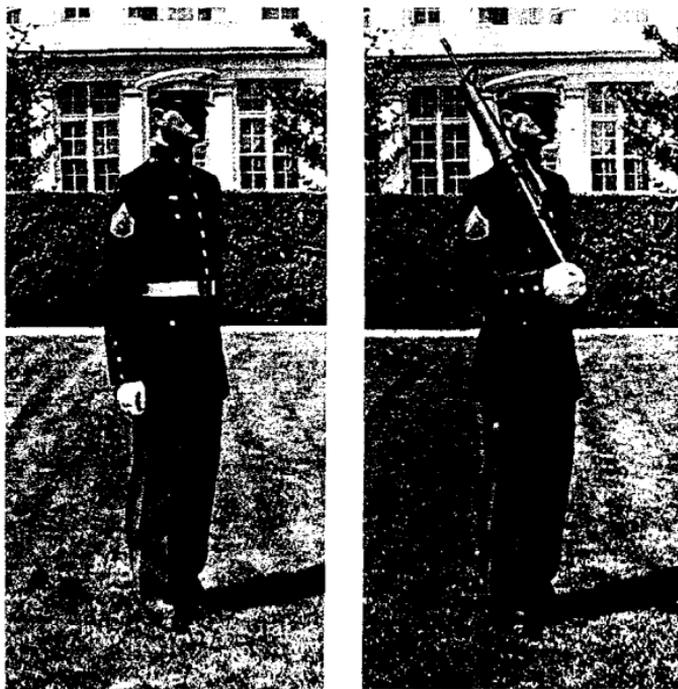


Figure 1-4.--Correct Posture for Giving Commands.

- (6) Distinct commands inspire troops. Indistinct commands confuse them. All commands can be given correctly without loss of effect or cadence. To give distinct commands, you must emphasize enunciation; make full use of the tongue, lips, and lower jaw; practice giving commands slowly, carefully, and in cadence; and then increase the rate of delivery until the proper rhythm (120 beats per minute) is reached and each syllable is distinct.

(7) Inflection is the rise and fall in pitch, the tone changes of the voice.

- (a) Preparatory commands should be delivered with a rising inflection, having begun near the level of the natural talking voice.
- (b) A command of execution is given in a sharper and higher pitch than the tone of the preparatory command's last syllable. A good command of execution has no inflection. It must have snap. It should be delivered with sharp emphasis, ending like the crack of a whip. If properly given, Marines will react to it in the same manner.
- (c) Commands such as FALL IN, in which the preparatory command and the command of execution are combined, are delivered without inflection. They are given in the uniform high pitch and loudness of a command of execution.

#### 1-5. GENERAL RULES FOR DRILL

a. Certain drill movements may be made toward either flank. This manual explains such movements in one direction only. To move to the other direction, it is necessary to substitute the word "left" for "right" as shown in parentheses.

b. The command AS YOU WERE cancels a movement or order started but not completed. At this command, troops should resume their former positions.

c. While marching, guide is always maintained toward the right, except:

- (1) Upon command GUIDE LEFT, or GUIDE CENTER, in which case guide is maintained toward the left, or center, until the command GUIDE RIGHT is given.
- (2) Regardless of the direction in which alignment is established, at the command of execution for a drill movement involving marching, the direction toward which alignment is obtained is the flank toward which the movement is made. Upon completion of the drill movement, alignment will be in the direction established prior to commencing the movement.
- (3) In a column of platoons, the guide of the leading platoon controls direction and distance, and maintains the cadence counted by the commander. Guides of the following platoons control distances and follow the direction and cadence set by the leading guide.

d. Slight changes in direction are made by:

- (1) Adding "HALF" to the preparatory command for turning or column movements; for example, COLUMN HALF RIGHT (LEFT), MARCH changes direction 45 degrees.
- (2) At the command INCLINE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT), the guide changes his direction of march slightly to the right (left).

e. Platoons in a company and Marines in a squad are numbered from right to left in line, as the troops face, and from front to rear in column. Squads in a platoon are numbered from front to rear in line and from left to right in column.

f. Posts of officers, noncommissioned officers, guidon bearers, and special units are shown in figures or explained later in the text.

- (1) Changes of post are made by the most direct route, except where others are prescribed. The movement is made as soon as possible after the command of execution. Persons who have duties in connection with the movement take their new posts after those duties have been performed. Military bearing must be maintained by individuals moving from one post to another or aligning units. All necessary facings and changes of direction must be made as if drilling.
- (2) After the initial formation, guidon bearers and special units maintain their positions with respect to the flank or end of the organization with which they were originally posted.
- (3) All officers or noncommissioned officers commanding armed troops will be armed. When giving commands, drilling troops, or making reports, the rifle will be carried at right shoulder arms, the sword will be carried at the carry sword position, and the pistol will be carried in the holster (see fig. 1-4). Facing movements by commanders of armed troops may be executed while at right shoulder arms.

g. Whenever drill movements are executed while troops are marching, the command of execution MARCH is given as the left foot strikes the deck if the movement is to the left, and as the right foot strikes the deck if the movement is to the right.

h. The cadence of commands should be that of quick time, even though no marching is involved. Giving commands in unison while marching at quick time is a good exercise for teaching proper command cadence to troops. The pause between preparatory commands and those of execution should be adapted to the size and formation of the unit.

- (1) The best pause to allow for a squad or platoon is one step between the two commands. For example:

ONE	TWO	THREE
COLUMN LEFT	(Step)	<u>MARCH</u>

- (a) To develop the proper cadence for commands at a halt, count ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR in quick time. Then give commands (RIGHT, FACE) without interrupting the cadence:

ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR
RIGHT,		<u>FACE</u>	

- (b) Longer commands, such as BY THE RIGHT FLANK, MARCH, must be started so the preparatory command will end as the foot in the desired direction of movement strikes the deck. There is then a full count before the command of execution, which is given on the same foot. For example:

LEFT	RIGHT	LEFT	RIGHT
BY THE RIGHT FLANK,			<u>MARCH</u>

- (2) For a company or larger unit, the intervals must be longer. This is necessary for leaders of component units to repeat preparatory commands or give warning or supplementary commands. The following example shows the proper cadence for the command RIGHT, FACE to a company:

ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR
(Company	(Platoon		(Company
Commander)	Commander)		Commander)
RIGHT	RIGHT		<u>FACE</u>

## 1-6. DRILL, BY THE NUMBERS

Drill movements may be divided into individual motions for instruction. When drills are executed by the numbers, the first motion is made on the command of execution. Subsequent motions are made in proper order on the commands TWO, THREE, FOUR, the number of counts depending upon the number of motions in the movement. To use this method, the command BY THE NUMBERS precedes the preparatory command. All movements are then executed by the numbers until the command WITHOUT NUMBERS is given.

## 1-7. MASS COMMANDS AND INDIVIDUAL COMMANDS FROM RANKS

a. Mass Commands. The use of mass commands in drill develops confidence and team spirit. It also teaches Marines to give and execute commands properly.

- (1) The initial command is AT YOUR COMMAND. The instructor then gives a preparatory command which describes the movement he wants performed, for example, AT YOUR COMMAND, FACE THE PLATOON TO THE RIGHT, COMMAND. After this, all members of the platoon command RIGHT, FACE together and execute it. Another mass command example is AT YOUR COMMAND, CALL THE PLATOON TO ATTENTION, COMMAND. The troops command PLATOON, ATTENTION.
- (2) Marching movements may be conducted in a similar manner as follows: ALL MOVEMENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE WILL BE AT YOUR COMMAND.
  - (a) INSTRUCTOR: CALL THE PLATOON TO ATTENTION, COMMAND.  
TROOPS: PLATOON, ATTENTION.
  - (b) INSTRUCTOR: FORWARD, COMMAND.  
TROOPS: FORWARD, MARCH.
  - (c) INSTRUCTOR: BY THE RIGHT FLANK, COMMAND.  
TROOPS: BY THE RIGHT FLANK, MARCH.
- (3) Only simple movements with short preparatory commands are used to mass commands. Preparatory commands which require repetition by subordinate leaders are not used.
- (4) When he wishes to return to normal drill methods, the instructor orders AT MY COMMAND.

b. Individual Commands From Ranks. As an aid in training Marines to give commands properly, Marines in ranks may be designated to give individual commands. This should be done only after a unit has learned to execute commands and give mass commands. The instructor designates the Marine who is to give the command by name or place in ranks. He may be designated while the unit is marching or halted. The instructor describes the movement to be made, as in mass commands, but does not add command. The designated Marine remains in his position and gives the appropriate command. He must execute the command with the unit. After the Marine has given several commands, the instructor should ask for comments about the performance.

c. Counting Cadence. Counting cadence by Marines in ranks teaches them group coordination and rhythm. The command is COUNT CADENCE, COUNT, the command of execution being given as the left foot hits the deck. All Marines then count cadence for 8 steps, starting when the left foot next strikes the deck. They should be required to do so in a firm, vigorous manner.

#### 1-8. CADENCE DRILL

Cadence drill is an advanced form of drill. It is used only with Marines who have learned basic drill as prescribed in this manual. It provides variety for well trained troops. In cadence drill, the commander abbreviates preparatory commands and deletes the pause between the preparatory command and the command of execution. Each time a commander uses this form of drill, he must explain that he is departing from prescribed drill. Cadence drill is suitable only for platoons and smaller units. An example of cadence drill follows:

Count: ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR

Step: LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT

Command: REAR, LEFT FLANK, RIGHT FLANK, MARCH

#### 1-9. TRICK DRILL

Trick drill may be used with troops who have thoroughly learned all prescribed drill and cadence drill. It is extremely complex and requires extensive training. Trick drills are not described in this manual. They are limited only by the imagination of the drill instructor.

## CHAPTER 2

### INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT ARMS

#### 2-1. POSITIONS

a. Attention. The position of attention (see fig. 2-1) is the basic military position. This position indicates that you are alert and ready for instructions. Come to attention with smartness and snap at the commands FALL IN or ATTENTION. Thereafter, you move only as ordered until given AT EASE, REST, FALL OUT, or you are dismissed. To come to attention:

- (1) Bring your left heel against the right.
- (2) Turn your feet out equally to form an angle of 45 degrees. Keep your heels on the same line and touching.
- (3) Your legs should be straight but not stiff at the knees.
- (4) Keep your hips and shoulders level and your chest lifted.
- (5) Your arms should hang naturally, thumbs along the trouser seams, palms facing inward toward your legs, and fingers joined in their natural curl.
- (6) Keep your head and body erect. Look straight ahead. Keep your mouth closed and your chin pulled in slightly.
- (7) Stand still and do not talk.

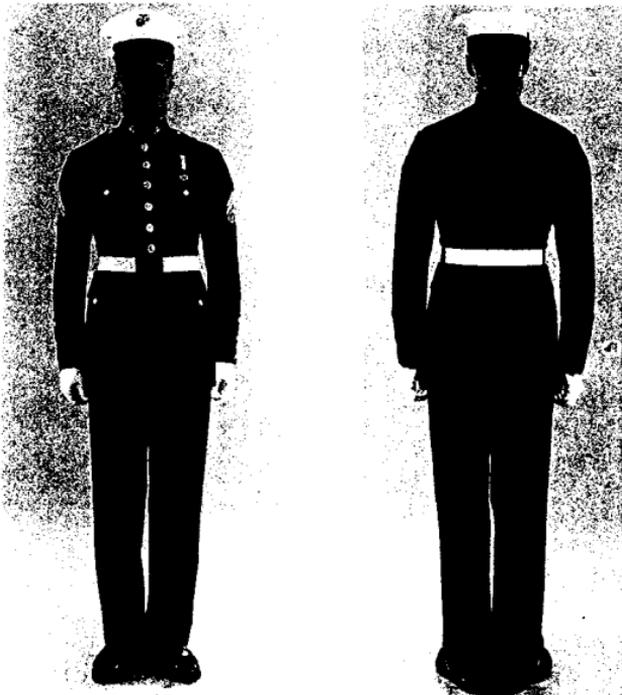


Figure 2-1.--Position of Attention.

b. Rests. There are four rests for halted troops. They are parade rest, at ease, rest, and fall out. All are executed from the position of attention.

- (1) Parade Rest. (See fig. 2-2.) The command is PARADE, REST. It is executed in one count. At the command REST, move your left foot smartly 12 inches to the left. Both legs should be straight so your weight rests equally on each foot. At the same time, join hands behind your back with your right hand inside your left, palms to the rear just below the belt. The right hand loosely holds the left thumb. Fingers are extended and joined. Do not move and do not talk. Hold your head and eyes in the same position as you would if at attention.

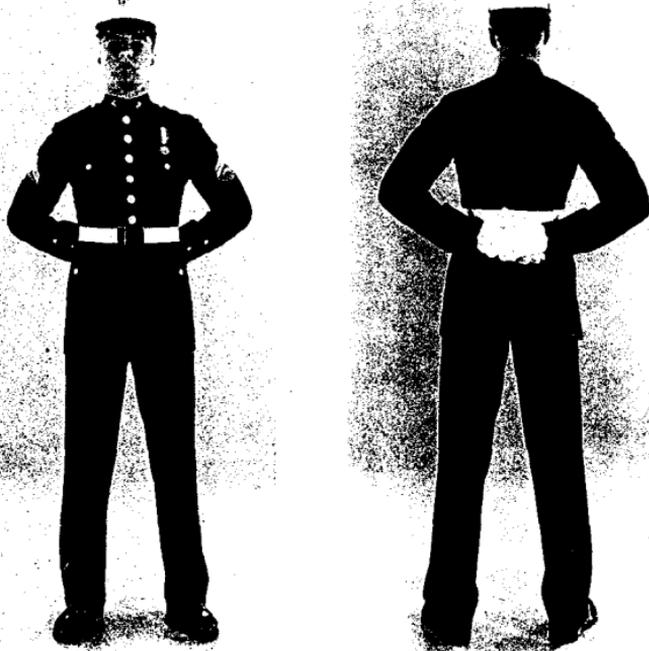


Figure 2-2.--Position of Parade Rest.

- (2) At Ease. The command is AT EASE. It is executed in one count. At the command, keep your right foot in place. You may move about but must not talk. You may also be given this command when not in ranks. In this case, it means cease talking but continue whatever you were doing before the command.
- (3) Rest. The command is REST. It is executed in one count. At the command, you may move and talk; however, keep your right foot in place.
- (4) Fall Out. The command is FALL OUT. At the command, leave your position in ranks but remain nearby. When FALL IN is given, go back to your place in ranks and come to attention.
- (5) Attention. SQUAD (PLATOON), ATTENTION may be given when you are halted, at parade rest, at ease, or rest. It may also be given when you are marching at route step or at ease.
  - (a) When given at parade rest, come to attention.
  - (b) When halted at ease or rest, take position of parade rest on the command SQUAD. When ATTENTION is given, come to that position.
  - (c) When marching at route step or at ease, get in step as soon as possible and continue marching at attention.

c Eyes Right (Left).

- (1) The command is EYES, RIGHT (LEFT). It may be given at a halt or while marching. The command to turn your head back to the position of attention is READY, FRONT.
- (2) When RIGHT (LEFT) is given, turn your head smartly and look 45 degrees to the right (left).
- (3) On the command FRONT, turn your head and eyes back smartly to the front. During reviews at which the reviewing officer troops the line, ready front will not be given after eyes right. At such ceremonies, turn your head and eyes smartly toward the reviewing officer upon the command RIGHT. As he passes to the left, follow the reviewing officer with your head and eyes until you are looking directly to the front.
- (4) When marching, give the command, EYES, RIGHT on the right foot and the command EYES, LEFT on the left foot. Give the command READY, FRONT from eyes right on the left foot and the command READY, FRONT from eyes left on the right foot. For example:

<u>LEFT</u>	<u>RIGHT</u>	<u>LEFT</u>	<u>RIGHT</u>
	EYES		RIGHT
READY		FRONT	
EYES		LEFT	
	READY		FRONT

d. Facings.

- (1) Facings are executed in the cadence of quick time. While facing, your arms should not swing out from your sides, but remain at the position of attention.
- (2) RIGHT, FACE is a two-count movement (see fig. 2-3).
  - (a) On count one, (fig. 2-3b) at the command FACE, raise your left heel and right toe slightly. Turn to the right on your right heel and left toe. Keep your left leg straight but not stiff.
  - (b) On count two (fig. 2-3c), place the left foot smartly beside the right and stand at attention.
- (3) LEFT, FACE is executed in the same manner described in subparagraph (2) above, substituting "left" for "right" and "right" for "left" (see fig. 2-4).



a. START.

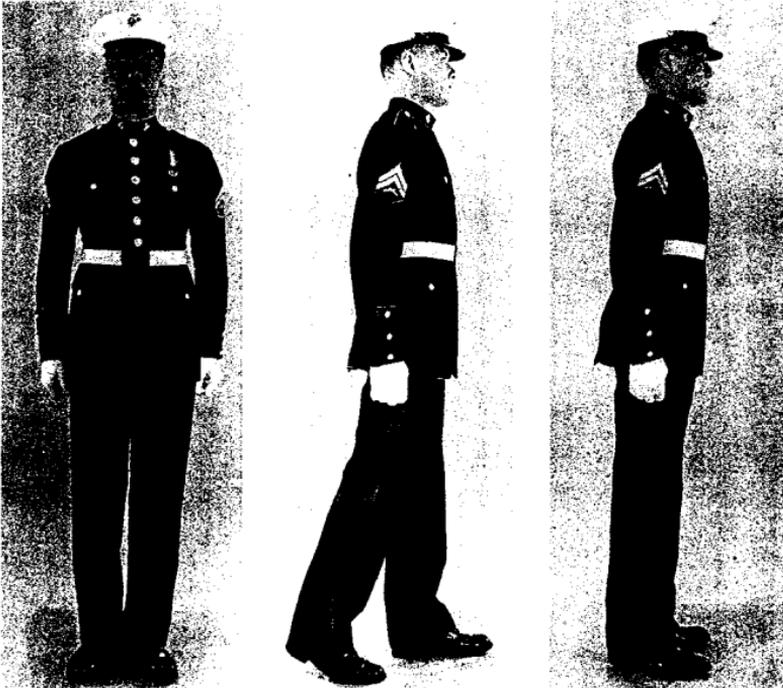


b. COUNT ONE.



c. COUNT TWO.

Figure 2-3.--Right Face.



a. START

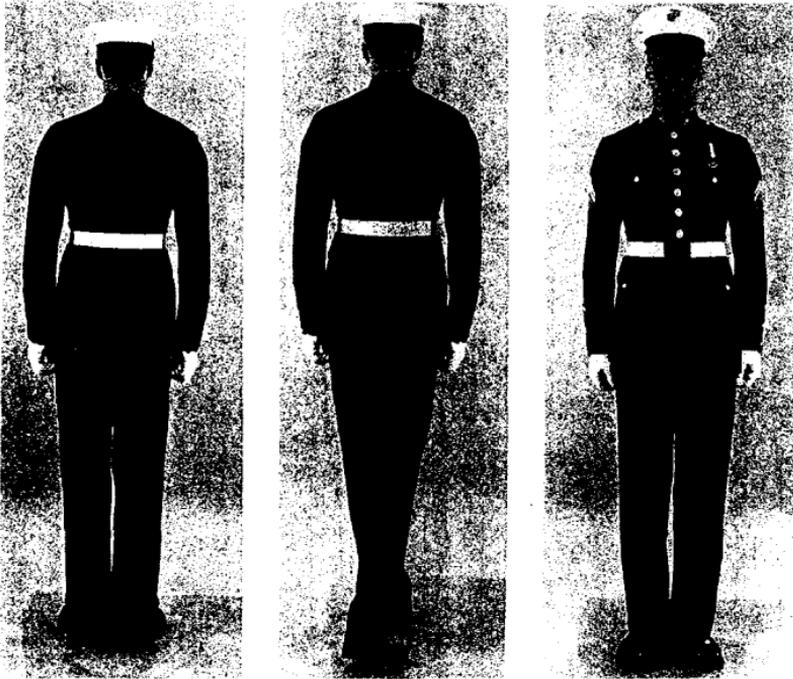
b. COUNT ONE.

c. COUNT TWO.

Figure 2-4.--Left Face.

(4) ABOUT, FACE is a two-count movement (see fig. 2-5).

- (a) At the command ABOUT, shift your weight to your left leg without noticeable movement (fig. 2-5a).
- (b) On count one (fig. 2-5b) at the command FACE, place your right toe half a foot length behind and slightly to the left of your heel. Do not change the position of your left foot. Rest most of your weight on the left heel.
- (c) On count two (fig. 2-5c), turn smartly to the right until facing rear. The turn is made on the left heel and ball of the right foot. Your feet will be at attention when the turn is completed if your right toe was placed properly in the beginning.



a. START.

b. COUNT ONE.

c. COUNT TWO.

Figure 2-5.--About Face.

e. Hand Salute.

(1) The command is HAND, SALUTE; TWO. (See fig. 2-6.)

- (a) When SALUTE is given, raise your right hand smartly in the most direct manner until the tip of your forefinger touches the lower part of the headdress above and slightly right of your right eye. Your thumb and fingers should be straight and touch each other. You should be able to see your entire palm when looking straight ahead. Your upper arm should be level with the deck and your forearm at a 45-degree angle. Your wrist and hand should be straight, a continuation of the line made by your forearm. At the same time, if not in ranks, turn your head and eyes toward the person or colors you are saluting.



Figure 2-6.--Hand Salute.

- (b) At the command TWO, return to attention. Move your hand smartly in the most direct manner back to its normal position by your side.
  - (c) To ensure simultaneous execution of the second movement of the hand salute when troops are in formation, the preparatory command READY will be used prior to the command of execution, TWO.
- (2) You may salute without command from attention, while walking, or while seated in a vehicle. When walking, it is not necessary to halt to salute. Keep walking, but at attention. The salute is rendered when the person or color to be saluted is 6 paces distant, or at the nearest point of approach if it is apparent that the person or color is not going to approach within 6 paces. The salute will not be rendered if the person (color) to be saluted does not approach within 30 paces. Hold the first position of the salute until the person (color) saluted has passed or the salute is returned, then execute the second movement of the hand salute.

- (3) When the command PRESENT, ARMS is given, if not armed, you execute the hand salute on the command ARMS. Stay at that position until the command ARMS or ORDER, ARMS is given.

## 2-2. STEPS AND MARCHING

### a. General.

- (1) With the exception of right step, all steps and marchings beginning from a halt start with the left foot.
- (2) The instructor indicates the proper rhythm by counting cadence. He should do so only when necessary.
- (3) To change direction on the march, both the preparatory command and the command of execution are given as the foot in the desired direction of the turn strikes the deck.

### b. Quick Time.

- (1) If at a halt, the command to march forward at quick time is FORWARD, MARCH.
- (2) On FORWARD, shift your weight to the right leg without noticeable movement.
- (3) On MARCH, step off smartly, left foot first, and walk straight ahead with 30-inch steps. Swing your arms easily in their natural arcs, 6 inches straight to the front and 3 inches to the rear. Do not overdo movements and do not march stiffly.

### c. Double Time.

- (1) DOUBLE TIME, MARCH may be given at a halt, while marching at quick time, or while marching in place. MARCH may be given as either foot hits the deck.
- (2) When halted:
  - (a) At the command DOUBLE TIME, shift your weight to your right leg without noticeable movement.
  - (b) On MARCH, raise your forearms until level with the deck and make fists with the knuckles out. At the same time step off on the left foot and begin an easy run, taking 180 36-inch steps per minute.
- (3) When marching at quick time:
  - (a) When the command MARCH is given, take one more 30-inch step.
  - (b) Step off in double time.
- (4) To resume quick time, the command is QUICK TIME, MARCH.
  - (a) On MARCH, take one more double time step.
  - (b) Lower your arms and slow to quick time.
- (5) When marching in place:
  - (a) Take one more step in mark time (or double time in place).
  - (b) Step off forward in double time.

d. Halt.

- (1) The command is SQUAD (PLATOON, COMPANY, DETAIL), HALT. It is a two-count movement from quick time and three counts from double time. For quick time, double time, mark time, half step, or back step, the command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.
- (2) While marching at quick time or half step:
  - (a) Take one more step after HALT.
  - (b) Bring the rear heel forward against the other.
- (3) While marching at double time:
  - (a) Take one more double time step after HALT.
  - (b) Take another at quick time.
  - (c) Bring the rear heel forward against the other.
- (4) When doing right (left) step:
  - (a) The command HALT is given when heels are together.
  - (b) Take one more step after HALT.
  - (c) Bring your heels together.
- (5) When marking time:
  - (a) Take one more step after the command HALT.
  - (b) Bring your heels together.
- (6) When doing the back step:
  - (a) Take one more back step after HALT.
  - (b) Bring the forward heel back against the other.

e. Mark Time.

- (1) To march in place at quick time, the command is MARK TIME, MARCH. The command may be given from the halt, marching at quick time, half step, or double time in place. It may be given as either foot strikes the deck.
- (2) When halted:
  - (a) On the command MARK TIME, shift your weight to your right leg slightly without noticeable movement.
  - (b) On the command MARCH, beginning with your left foot, then alternating, raise each foot so that the ball of the foot is approximately 2 inches and the heel approximately 4 inches from the deck at a cadence of 120 steps per minute. At the same time, swing your arms naturally as in marching.
- (3) When marching at quick time:
  - (a) On the command MARCH, take one more 30-inch step as if coming to a halt.
  - (b) Bring your heels together. Begin marking time without loss of cadence with the opposite foot.

(4) To resume the march at quick time, the command is FORWARD, MARCH.

(a) On the command MARCH, take one more step in place.

(b) Step off with a 30-inch step.

(5) When marching at double time in place:

(a) On the command MARCH, take one more step in place at double time.

(b) Commence marking time.

f. Double Time in Place.

(1) The command is IN PLACE DOUBLE TIME, MARCH. It may be given while halted, while marching at double time, or while marking time.

(2) When halted:

(a) On the preparatory command, shift your weight to your right leg without noticeable movement.

(b) On the command MARCH, raise your arms for double time. Starting with the left foot, alternating and in place, raise your feet 6 inches above the deck at 180 steps per minute.

(3) When marching at double time:

(a) After MARCH, take two more double time steps.

(b) Bring your feet together and begin double timing in place without loss of cadence.

(4) The command DOUBLE TIME, MARCH resumes the march at double time.

(a) At MARCH, take two more steps in place.

(b) Step off with 180, 36-inch steps per minute.

(5) When marking time:

(a) On the command MARCH, take one more step in mark time.

(b) Commence marching at double time in place.

(6) The halt from in place double time is done the same as from double time.

g. Half Step.

(1) To march with 15-inch steps, the command is HALF STEP, MARCH. It may be commanded at the halt or when either foot strikes the deck while marching at quick time.

(2) At the halt:

(a) On the preparatory command, shift your weight to your right leg without noticeable movement.

(b) On the command MARCH, step off forward in quick time cadence with 15-inch steps. The balls of your feet should strike the deck before your heels. At the same time begin swinging your arms 6 inches to the front and 3 inches to the rear.

(3) Marching in quick time:

- (a) On the command MARCH, take one more 30-inch step.
  - (b) Begin the 15-inch steps as explained above (para 2-2 g (2)).
- (4) To resume quick time from half step, the command is FORWARD, MARCH. It may be given as either foot strikes the deck.
- (a) On MARCH, take one more half step.
  - (b) Step off at quick time.

h. Side Step.

- (1) The command RIGHT (LEFT) STEP, MARCH is given only when you are at a halt.
- (2) At the command MARCH, move your right foot 12 inches to the right, then place your left foot beside your right. Repeat this movement at the rate of 120 steps a minute. Keep your legs straight, but not stiff. Hold your arms at attention.

i. Back Step.

- (1) The command BACKWARD, MARCH is given only when you are at a halt.
- (2) At the command MARCH, step off to the rear with your left foot and take 15-inch steps at a rate of 120 steps a minute. Swing your arms naturally.

j. To Face in Marching.

- (1) This is an important part of the following movements: column right (left), by the right (left) flank, close, take interval, and extend. For instructional purposes, the command is BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, MARCH.
- (2) From a halt:
  - (a) On MARCH, turn to the right (left) on the ball of the right foot.
  - (b) Step off with your left foot in the new direction with a 30-inch step.
- (3) While marching, the command of execution is given as the foot of the desired direction of movement hits the deck.
  - (a) On MARCH, without losing cadence, take one more step.
  - (b) Pivot to the right (left) and step off in the new direction. If commanded and executed properly, the pivot will be on the foot away from the desired direction of movement, and the first step in the new direction will be with the other foot. The pivot and step are done together in one count.

k. To About Face While Marching.

- (1) The command is TO THE REAR, MARCH. It is given when the right foot strikes the deck. It may be commanded while marching at either quick time or double time.

(2) When at quick time:

- (a) On the command MARCH, take one more step.
- (b) Turn about to the right on the balls of both feet and immediately step off to the rear with your left foot. This is done without loss of cadence. When turning, the feet should be about 30 inches apart.

(3) When at double time:

- (a) On MARCH, take two more steps and then turn about to the right. This turn requires 4 steps in place at double time cadence.
- (b) Then double time to the rear.

(4) To march to the rear from a halt:

- (a) The command is TO THE REAR, MARCH.
- (b) On MARCH, step off with the left foot.
- (c) Turn about to the right on the balls of both feet and immediately step out to the rear with the left foot.

1. To March by the Flank.

(1) The command is BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, MARCH. It is given only when marching, except when used for instructional purposes as in paragraph 2-2j, and as the foot in the direction of the movement strikes the deck.

(2) While at quick time:

- (a) On MARCH, take one more step.
- (b) Turn to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot. At the same time, step off in the new direction with the right (left) foot.

(3) While double timing:

- (a) On MARCH, take two steps and then turn to the right (left). This turn requires 2 steps in place at double time cadence.
- (b) Double time in the new direction.

m. To Change Step.

(1) 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.

(2) While marching at quick time or double time:

- (a) On MARCH, take one more step, 30 or 36 inches, as appropriate.
- (b) 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.

(3) While marking quick time:

- (a) On MARCH, lift and lower the left foot twice in succession.

- (b) The second time it touches the deck, raise the right foot and continue marking time.
- (4) While double timing in place:
  - (a) On MARCH, hop twice on the left foot.
  - (b) Continue double timing in place.
- n. To March at Ease.
  - (1) The command is AT EASE, MARCH. It is given as either foot strikes the deck and only while marching at quick time.
  - (2) After MARCH, you are no longer required to march in cadence, but must keep interval and distance. Do not talk.
- o. To March at Route Step.
  - (1) The command is ROUTE STEP, MARCH. It is commanded as either foot strikes the deck and only while marching at quick time.
  - (2) After MARCH, you are no longer required to march in cadence, but must keep interval and distance. You may talk, but in a low voice.
- p. To Resume Marching at Quick Time From Route Step or at Ease.
  - (1) The command is SQUAD (PLATOON, COMPANY, DETAIL), ATTENTION.
  - (2) After commanding ATTENTION, the commander or instructor will count cadence until all troops are in step. Pick up the step as soon as possible and continue marching at attention.
- q. To Give Commands While Marching at Ease or at Route Step.
  - (1) Commands which involve precision in execution will not be given until the command to resume marching at quick time has been given.
  - (2) When moving a unit from one place to another under circumstances which would render their execution in a precise manner inappropriate, commands may be given by arm-and-hand signals.

## CHAPTER 3

### MANUAL OF ARMS WITH THE M16 RIFLE

#### Section I. MANUAL OF ARMS WITH SLING DRAWN TIGHT

##### 3-1. GENERAL

a. All movements of the manual of arms are executed smartly and with snap.

b. Execute FALL IN with the rifle at order arms.

c. Facings, alignments, and short distance marching movements are executed at order arms. Side step, back step, open and close ranks, and close and extend are short-distance movements. Forward march may be given from order arms to march units forward for a short distance. When these movements are commanded while at order arms, it is necessary to come automatically to trail arms and step off on the command of execution for the movement. The rifle is returned to order arms upon halting.

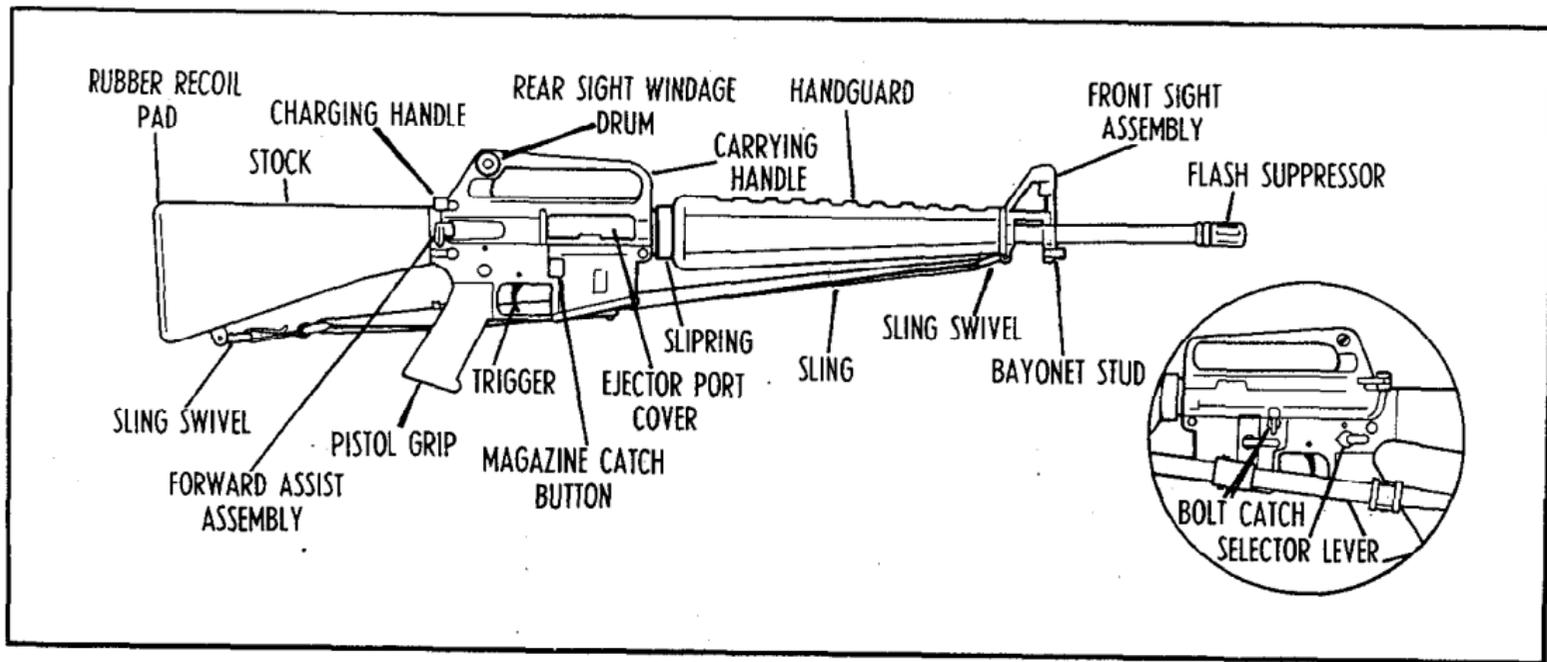
d. Before a command for any marching movement (other than the executions stated in paragraph 3-1c) is given to armed troops, they are faced in the direction of march and their weapons brought to right (left) shoulder, port, or sling arms by the appropriate command. After a marching movement has been completed and it is desired to execute a facing movement, the command to order or unsling arms is given, followed by the command for the facing movement.

e. When at a position other than sling arms, the troops must come to port arms for double time. When the troops are in formation, the commander gives the appropriate commands.

f. Generally, the M16 rifle should be carried at sling arms except for ceremonies and drill periods.

g. Prior to commencement of the manual of arms, the magazine is removed, and the sling is drawn tight and positioned on the left side of the rifle. This configuration facilitates execution of the manual of arms. Figure 3-1 identifies the drill nomenclature for the M16 rifle.

Figure 3-1.--Drill Nomenclature of the U.S. Rifle, 5.56mm, M16.



3-2. ORDER ARMS

a. Order arms is the position of the individual at attention with the rifle. It is assumed on the command ATTENTION from any of the rest positions except fall out. Order arms is assumed on the command FALL IN and on the command ORDER, ARMS from any position in the manual except inspection arms and sling arms.

b. The basic position of the rifle manual is order arms (see fig. 3-2). Properly executed, the butt of the rifle rests on the deck, and the stock rests along the outer edge of the right shoe. The pistol grip is to the front and the barrel is in a near vertical position. The rifle is grasped by the right hand at the junction of the front sight assembly and the barrel. The barrel rests in the "V" formed by the thumb and forefinger. The fingers are extended and joined and placed on line with the barrel. The thumb is placed along the trouser seam and the entire right arm is behind the rifle. This may cause a slight bend to the right arm of shorter troops. Those persons who are too tall to accomplish this may slide their hand up the barrel so that their posture remains erect.



Figure 3-2.--Order Arms.

### 3-3. REST POSITIONS

Rest positions with the rifle are commanded and executed as without arms, with the following exceptions and additions:

a. On the command PARADE, REST, the left foot is moved 12 inches to the left. The rifle butt is kept against the right foot. The grasp of the right hand is moved up the barrel to just below the flash suppressor with the fingers joined and curled with the forefinger touching the thumb. The right arm is straightened directly to the front so that the muzzle points forward and up (see fig. 3-3a). At the same time the left foot is moved, the left hand is placed behind the back just below the belt line with fingers and thumb extended and joined and the palm facing the rear (see fig. 3-3b).



a. Side View.



b. Rear View.

Figure 3-3.--Parade Rest.

b. On the command AT EASE or REST, the right foot remains in place and the rifle is held as in parade rest with the right arm relaxed slightly.

### 3-4. TRAIL ARMS

a. When at order arms and a command is given to move a unit a short distance, to face the unit, or to align the unit, trail arms is executed automatically on the command of execution for the movement. The rifle is returned to order arms gently and without command upon completion of the movement.

b. For training purposes, trail arms may be executed while halted at order arms. The command is TRAIL ARMS. At the command of execution ARMS, the rifle is raised vertically 3 inches off the deck. The wrist is kept straight with the thumb along the seam of the trousers (see fig. 3-4).



Figure 3-4.--Trail Arms.

c. At the command ORDER ARMS, the rifle is gently and quietly lowered vertically to the position of order arms.

3-5. PORT ARMS FROM ORDER ARMS

- a. The command is PORT, ARMS.
- b. This is a two-count movement from order arms.

- (1) At the command of execution and for the count of one, slide the right hand up and grasp the barrel near the flash suppressor. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the barrel with the thumb wrapped around the inboard portion. Without loss of motion, raise and carry the rifle diagonally across the front of the body until the right hand is level with and slightly to the left of the face. The right wrist is on the outboard portion of the front sight assembly. The elbow is held down without strain and nearly touches the handguard. The barrel is up and bisecting the angle formed by the neck and left shoulder. The pistol grip is to the left. The butt is in front of the right hip. At the same time, smartly grasp the handguard with your left hand just above the slinging. The sling is included in the grasp. The fingers are joined and grasping the rifle. The little finger is in line with the slinging with the thumb on the inboard side of the handguard. The left wrist and forearm are straight. The elbow is held in against the body (see fig. 3-5a).
- (2) On the second count, release the grasp of the right hand and smartly regrasp the small of the stock. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the small of the stock with the thumb wrapped around the inboard portion. The right wrist and forearm are straight and parallel to the deck. The elbow is held into the side and the upper arm is in line with the back. The rifle is about 4 inches from the body (see fig. 3-5b).



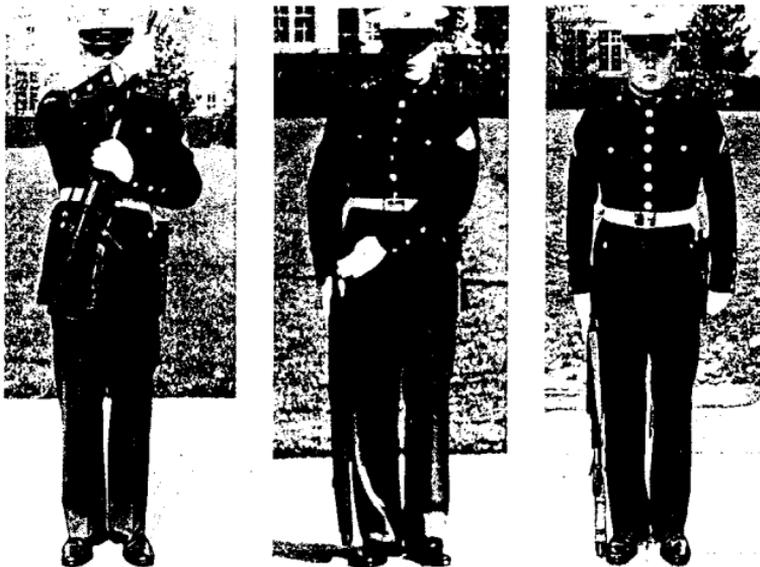
a. Count One.

b. Count Two.

Figure 3-5.--Movements from Order Arms to Port Arms.

c. Port arms to order arms is a three-count movement.

- (1) On the first count, at the command ORDER ARMS, the right hand is moved from the small of the stock and smartly regrips the barrel. The palm of the right hand is to the rear. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the barrel with the thumb wrapped around the inboard portion. The little finger is just above the bayonet stud. The right wrist is on the outboard portion of the front sight assembly. The elbow is held down without strain and nearly touches the handguard (see fig. 3-6a).
- (2) On the second count, lower the rifle initially with the left hand while changing the grasp of the right hand to the junction of the barrel and the front sight assembly as in the position of order arms. Without loss of motion, release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and, with your right hand, carry the weapon to your right side until the butt is 3 inches from the deck. The barrel is in a vertical position and the pistol grip is to the front. At the same time guide the weapon with the left hand until the right thumb is on the trouser seam. The fingers of the left hand are extended and joined and touch the rifle near the flash suppressor. The palm of the left hand is toward the rear. The left wrist and forearm are straight and the left elbow is in against the body (see fig. 3-6b).
- (3) On the third count, return the left hand to the left side at the position of attention. At the same time, gently lower the rifle to the deck with the right hand (see fig. 3-6c).



a. Count One.

b. Count Two.

c. Count Three.

Figure 3-6.--Movements from Port Arms to Order Arms.

3-6. RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS FROM ORDER ARMS.

a. The command is RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS.

b. This is a four-count movement from order arms.

- (1) On the command of execution, ARMS, grasp the barrel of the weapon with the right hand. Without loss of motion, raise and carry the rifle diagonally across the front of the body until the right hand is level with and slightly to the left of the face. The right wrist and forearm are straight. The right elbow is held down without strain. The barrel is up and bisecting the angle formed by the neck and left shoulder. At the same time, grasp the handguard with the left hand (same as in count one for port arms) (see fig. 3-7a).
- (2) On the second count, release the barrel with the right hand and grasp the butt placing the heel of the butt between the first two fingers. The heel will be visible between the index and middle fingers (see fig. 3-7b).
- (3) On the third count, release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and carry the rifle to the right side. The left hand remains in contact with the rifle in order to assist in the movement. At the same time, with the right hand, rotate the rifle a quarter turn counterclockwise and place the rifle into the right shoulder. Slide the left hand to the junction of the stock and receiver just below the charging handle. Guide the rifle into the shoulder with the left hand. The thumb and fingers are extended and joined with the palm turned toward the body. The first joint of the left forefinger touches the rear of the receiver. The left wrist and forearm are straight. The left elbow is held against the body. The grasp of the right hand is unchanged. The right wrist and forearm are straight and parallel to the deck. The elbow is held into the side with the upper arm in line with the back (see fig. 3-7c).
- (4) On the fourth count, move your left hand back to the left side at the position of attention. The rifle is held at a 60 degree angle from the deck (see fig. 3-7d).



a. Count One.



b. Count Two.



c. Count Three.



d. Count Four.

Figure 3-7.--Movements from Order Arms to Right Shoulder Arms.

3-7. ORDER ARMS FROM RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS

- a. The command is ORDER, ARMS.
- b. This is a four-count movement.
  - (1) At the command of execution and for the count of one, pull the rifle butt back quickly with the right hand so the rifle comes off the right shoulder. At the same time, with the right hand rotate the rifle a quarter turn clockwise so that the pistol grip is to the left. Allow the rifle to fall diagonally across the front of the body. Bring the left hand up and smartly grasp the handguard with the sling included in the grasp. The fingers are joined grasping the handguard. The little finger is in line with the sling but not touching it. The thumb is on the inboard side. The left wrist and forearm are straight. The elbow is held in against the body. The barrel is up, bisecting the angle formed by your neck and left shoulder. The butt is in front of the right hip. The grasp of the right hand has not changed. The right arm is nearly extended with the elbow held against the body (see fig. 3-8a).
  - (2) On the second count, release the grasp of the right hand from the butt and smartly regrasp the barrel. The palm of the right hand is to the rear. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the barrel with the thumb wrapped around the inboard portion. The little finger is just above the bayonet stud. The right wrist is on the outboard portion of the front sight assembly (see fig. 3-8b).
  - (3) On the third count, lower the rifle initially with the left hand while changing the grasp of the right hand to the junction of the barrel and the front sight assembly as in the position of order arms. Without loss of motion, release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and, with your right hand, carry the weapon to your right side until the butt is 3 inches from the deck. The barrel is in a vertical position and the pistol grip is to the front. At the same time, guide the weapon with the left hand until the right thumb is on the trouser seam. The fingers of the left hand are extended and joined and touching the rifle near the flash suppressor. The palm of the left hand is toward the rear. The left wrist and forearm are straight and the left elbow is in against the body (see fig. 3-8c).
  - (4) On the fourth count, return the left hand to the left side at the position of attention. At the same time, gently lower the rifle to the deck with the right hand (see fig. 3-8d).

3-8. LEFT SHOULDER ARMS FROM ORDER ARMS

- a. The command is LEFT SHOULDER, ARMS.
- b. This is a four-count movement from order arms.
  - (1) At the command ARMS, the rifle is brought to port arms on the first two counts (see figs. 3-9a and b).
  - (2) On the third count, release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and, with the right hand, carry the rifle to the left side rotating it a quarter turn counterclockwise. Place it on the left shoulder. The elbow is held down without strain. At the same time, grasp the butt of the rifle with the left hand in the same manner as for right shoulder arms (see fig. 3-9c).
  - (3) On the fourth count, move your right hand back to the right side at the position of attention. The rifle is held at a 60 degree angle from the deck (see fig. 3-9d).



a. Count One.

b. Count Two.

Figure 3-9.--Movements from Order Arms to Left Shoulder Arms.



c. Count Three.

d. Count Four.

Figure 3-9.--Movements from Order Arms to Left Shoulder Arms cont.

### 3-9. MOVEMENTS FROM LEFT SHOULDER ARMS

a. Port arms from left shoulder arms is a two-count movement.

- (1) On the first count, the right hand is moved up across the body and grasps the rifle at the stock below the charging handle (see fig. 3-10a).
- (2) On the second count, the grasp of the left hand is released, and the rifle is brought from the shoulder diagonally across the body with the right hand and regripped at the handguard just above the slipring with the left hand as in the position of port arms (see fig. 3-10b).



a. Count One.



b. Count Two.

Figure 3-10.--Movements from Left Shoulder Arms to Port Arms.

b. Order arms and right shoulder arms from left shoulder arms are five-count movements. On the first two counts, the rifle is brought to port arms. On the last three counts, the rifle is brought to order arms or right shoulder arms as described in paragraphs 3-6 and 3-7.

### 3-10. PRESENT ARMS

a. The command is PRESENT, ARMS.

b. Order arms to present arms is a two-count movement.

- (1) At the command of execution slide the right hand up and grasp the barrel near the flash suppressor. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the barrel. Without loss of motion, raise and carry the rifle to a vertical position centered on the body. The pistol grip is to the front. The wrist is on the right side of the front sight assembly. The elbow is held down without strain. At the same time, smartly grasp the rifle at the handguard with the left hand just above the sling. The sling is included in the grasp. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the handguard. The little finger is on line with the sling with the thumb on the inboard side of the handguard. The left wrist and forearm are straight and parallel to the deck. The elbow is held into the side with the upper arm on line with the back (see fig. 3-11a).

- (2) On the second count, release the grasp of the right hand and regrasp the small of the stock. The charging handle rests on the thumb of the right hand. The fingers are extended and joined diagonally across the small of the stock. The right wrist and forearm remain straight. The elbow is held against the body. The rifle is 4 inches from the body (see fig. 3-11b).



a. Count One.

b. Count Two.

Figure 3-11.--Movements from Order Arms to Present Arms.

c. Port arms to present arms is executed in one count. The rifle is rotated clockwise with the right hand, the muzzle moves to the right, and the rifle is regrasped above the sling with the left hand.

### 3-11. ORDER ARMS FROM PRESENT ARMS

a. The command is ORDER, ARMS.

b. Present arms to order arms is a three-count movement.

- (1) At the command of execution, release the grasp of the right hand from the small of the stock and regrasp the barrel. The palm of the right hand is to the left. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the barrel. The little finger is just above the bayonet stud. The wrist is on the right side of the front sight assembly. The elbow is held down without strain (see fig. 3-12a).

- (2) On the second count, lower the rifle initially with the left hand while changing the grasp of the right hand to the junction of the barrel and the front sight assembly as in the position of order arms. Without loss of motion, release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and, with the right hand, carry the weapon to the right side until the butt is 3 inches from the deck. The barrel is in a vertical position and the pistol grip is to the front. At the same time, guide the weapon into the right side with the left hand. The fingers of the left hand are extended and joined with the thumb along the hand. The tips of the forefinger and middle finger are touching metal at a point near the flash suppressor. The palm is towards the rear. The left wrist and forearm are straight. Guide the weapon into the right side so that the thumb of the right hand will be on the trouser seam and push back on the barrel until the toe of the stock is on line with the toe of the right shoe. The entire right arm is behind the rifle (see fig. 3-12b).
- (3) On the third count, gently lower the rifle to the deck with the right hand so that the toe of the rifle is on line with the toe of the right shoe, and the barrel is in a near vertical position; at the same time smartly and in the most direct manner return the left hand to the side as in the position of attention. The thumb of the right hand remains along the trouser seam and the right arm remains behind the rifle (see fig. 3-12c).



a. Count One.



b. Count Two.



c. Count Three.

Figure 3-12.--Movements from Present Arms to Order Arms.

3-12. RIFLE SALUTE

a. This movement may be executed from order arms, trail arms, or left or right shoulder arms. The command is, RIFLE, SALUTE, and to terminate the salute the command is, READY, TWO. Both of these commands are one-count movements.

b. When at order arms, the left arm moves smartly across the body with the forearm and wrist straight, fingers extended and joined and palm down. The first joint of the forefinger touches the flash suppressor. When not in ranks, the head turns toward the person or colors saluted (see fig. 3-13). On READY, TWO, resume the position of attention.

c. When at trail arms, the movements are identical with those for saluting at order arms, except that the rifle is held in the trail arms position.

d. At right (left) shoulder arms, the left (right) arm moves across the body, fingers extended and joined, and palm down. The first joint of the forefinger touches the rear of the receiver just below the charging handle, and the forearm is held parallel to the deck (see fig. 3-13b). When not in ranks, the head and eyes turn toward the person or colors saluted. On READY, TWO, the position of attention is resumed.



a. Rifle Salute from Order Arms.

b. Rifle Salute from Right Shoulder Arms.

Figure 3-13.--Rifle Salutes.

3-13. INSPECTION ARMS (WITH AND WITHOUT MAGAZINE)

a. The command is INSPECTION, ARMS.

b. Order arms to inspection arms is a seven-count movement.

- (1) The first two counts are the same as the two-count movement from order arms to port arms (see figs. 3-14a and b).
- (2) On the third count, release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and regrasp the pistol grip. The fingers are joined and grasping the pistol grip. At the same time, place the thumb of the left hand over the lower portion of the bolt catch (see fig. 3-14c).
- (3) On the fourth count, release the grasp of the right hand from the small of the stock and unlock the charging handle with the thumb and forefinger. The remaining three fingers are joined and placed on line with the forefinger just behind the charging handle. Sharply pull the charging handle to the rearmost position. At the same time, apply pressure to the bolt catch with the thumb of the left hand and lock the bolt to the rear (see fig. 3-14d).
- (4) On the fifth count, push the charging handle forward until it is locked in its foremost position and grasp the small of the stock with the right hand (see fig. 3-14e).
- (5) On the sixth count, elevate the rifle up and to the left rotating the rifle counterclockwise so that the chamber is visible. The ejection port will be at eye level. The right forearm will touch the stock and the weapon will be at approximately a 45 degree angle. At the same time, turn the head to the left and inspect the chamber to see that it is clear (see fig. 3-14f).
- (6) On the seventh count, and after finding the chamber clear or clearing it, lower the rifle rotating it clockwise while turning the hand back to the front. Without loss of motion, release the grasp of the left hand from the pistol grip and regrasp the handguard resuming the position of port arms.

c. To execute inspection arms with the magazine in the weapon, remove the magazine with the left hand and place it between the clothing and the belt (left front) prior to count three.



a. Count One.



b. Count Two.



c. Count Three.



d. Count Four.

Figure 3-14.--Inspection Arms from Order Arms.



e. Count Five.



f. Count Six.

Figure 3-14.--Inspection Arms from Order Arms cont.

3-14. PORT ARMS FROM INSPECTION ARMS (WITH AND WITHOUT MAGAZINE)

a. The command is PORT, ARMS.

b. PORT ARMS is the only command given from inspection arms. On the preparatory command of port, release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and regrasp the weapon with the thumb and fingers, forming a "U" at the magazine well and trigger guard. Press the bolt catch and allow the bolt to go forward. With the fingertips, push upward and close the dust cover. Slide the left hand down and grasp the pistol grip. The fingers are joined and grasping the pistol grip. At the same time, place the thumb on the trigger so the tip of the thumb is outboard.

c. On the command of execution ARMS, pull the trigger with the thumb of the left hand. Then release the grasp of the left hand from the pistol grip and regrasp the lower portion of the handguard resuming the position of port arms.

d. If inspection arms is executed with the magazine, it is returned to the weapon immediately after pulling the trigger and before resuming port arms.

3-15. FIX AND UNFIX BAYONETS

a. Fix Bayonets.

- (1) The command is FIX, BAYONETS.
- (2) This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts. On the command of execution, move the muzzle of the rifle to the left front and regrasp the barrel with the left hand. With the right hand, unsnap the securing strap and withdraw the bayonet. Turn the point skyward and attach the bayonet to the weapon. While engaging the bayonet stud, with the base of the bayonet, grasp the handle and apply downward pressure until a click is heard. Apply limited upward pressure to ensure that the bayonet is seated securely. Resnap the scabbard securing strap, and then resume the position of order arms.

b. Unfix Bayonets.

- (1) The command is UNFIX, BAYONETS.
- (2) This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts. On the command of execution, move the muzzle to the left and grasp it with the left hand. With the right hand unsnap the securing strap. Release the bayonet from the bayonet stud and remove the bayonet from the muzzle. Keeping your eyes on the bayonet point, return it to the scabbard and insert it with the ring facing to the front. Resnap the securing strap and then resume order arms.

3-16. AUTHORIZED MOVEMENTS IN THE MANUAL OF ARMS WITH THE M16 RIFLE

a. From Order Arms to:

- (1) Port Arms
- (2) Right Shoulder Arms
- (3) Left Shoulder Arms
- (4) Present Arms
- (5) Inspection Arms
- (6) Trail Arms
- (7) Rifle Salute
- (8) Rest Positions
- (9) Fix Bayonets
- (10) Sling Arms

b. From Port Arms to:

- (1) Right Shoulder Arms
- (2) Left Shoulder Arms
- (3) Order Arms
- (4) Present Arms

c. From Right Shoulder Arms to:

- (1) Left Shoulder Arms
- (2) Port Arms
- (3) Order Arms
- (4) Present Arms
- (5) Inspection Arms

d. From Left Shoulder Arms to:

- (1) Right Shoulder Arms
- (2) Port Arms
- (3) Order Arms
- (4) Present Arms
- (5) Inspection Arms

e. From Inspection Arms to Port Arms

f. From Present Arms to:

- (1) Order Arms
- (2) Port Arms (only when salute has been returned or the color has passed, without order)

## Section II. MANUAL OF ARMS MOVEMENTS WHILE AT SLING ARMS

### 3-17. GENERAL

a. This section contains the procedures for executing manual of arms movements while at sling arms.

b. All individual or unit drill movements may be executed while at sling arms, except stack arms and unfix and fix bayonets.

c. Remain at sling arms during all rest movements.

d. Stack arms and fix and unfix bayonets (slings loose) are executed from unsling arms (order arms) only.

e. When in formation at sling arms, execute the hand salute on the command PRESENT, ARMS.

### 3-18. SLING ARMS

a. From Order Arms.

- (1) From the order arms position (parade sling-slings tight), the command for sling arms is SLING, ARMS.
- (2) This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts. On the command of execution, slide the right hand up and grasp the barrel near the flash suppressor. Without loss of motion, raise the rifle to a vertical position where the butt is in front of the right hip with the muzzle pointing up and the pistol grip to the left. At the same time, grasp the rifle at the handguard just above the slipping with the left hand. The sling is included in the grasp. The fingers are joined. Place the butt on the right hip. If the rifle belt is worn, the butt will rest just above the belt. Release the grasp of the right hand and with the left hand move the rifle so that it will rest on the inside of the right elbow and cradle it there (see fig. 3-15). The muzzle points slightly to the right. Release the grasp of the left hand from the handguard and with both hands loosen the sling. After the sling

has been loosened, grasp the sling with your left hand and sling the rifle on the right shoulder in the most direct manner. Regrasp the sling with the right hand. With the exception of the right arm, return to the position of attention. The palm of the right hand is toward the sling. The fingers are joined. The fingers and thumb are wrapped around the sling with the knuckles forward. The wrist and forearm are straight and parallel to the deck. The elbow is holding the rifle in a vertical position and against the body (see fig. 3-16).



Figure 3-15. Cradle Rifle Inside Right Elbow.



Figure 3-16. Position of Sling Arms.

5. From Unslung Arms.

- (1) From the unslung arms position (order arms with loose slings), the command for sling arms is SLING, ARMS.
- (2) This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts. On the command of execution, slide the right hand up and grasp the barrel near the flash suppressor. The fingers are joined and wrapped around the barrel with the thumb wrapped around the inboard portion. Without loss of motion, raise the rifle and grasp the sling with the left hand near the upper sling swivel.

Release the grasp of the right hand and, with the left hand, sling the rifle over the right shoulder in the most convenient manner. Regrasp the sling with the right hand. With the exception of the right arm, return to the position of attention. The palm of the right hand is toward the sling. The fingers are joined. The fingers and thumb of the right hand are wrapped around the sling with the knuckles forward. The wrist and forearm are straight and parallel to the deck. The elbow is holding the rifle in a vertical position and against the body.

### 3-19. UNSLING ARMS

a. The command is UNSLING, ARMS.

b. This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts. On the command of execution, grasp the sling with the left hand in front of the armpit and unsling the rifle from the right shoulder in the most convenient manner. Grasp the rifle at the junction of the barrel and the front sight assembly. Release the grasp of the left hand from the sling and, with the right hand, carry the weapon to the right side until the butt is 3 inches from the deck. The barrel is in a vertical position. At the same time, guide the weapon with the left hand until the right thumb is on the trouser seam. The fingers of the left hand are extended and joined and touching the rifle near the flash suppressor. The palm of the left hand is toward the rear. The left wrist and forearm are straight and the left elbow is in against the body. Gently lower the rifle to the deck with the right hand and at the same time return the left hand to the left side at the position of attention.

### 3-20. ADJUST SLINGS

a. The command ADJUST, SLINGS is given when it is desired to tighten loose slings to the position of parade slings. This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts.

b. From unsling arms (order arms), on the command of execution, the rifle is brought to a cradle position inside the right elbow as in the movement from order arms to sling arms. While in this position, the sling is tightened to parade sling. The rifle is then returned to order arms.

c. From sling arms, on the command of execution, grasp the sling with the left hand in front of the armpit and unsling the rifle from the right shoulder in the most convenient manner. Then place the butt on the right hip and cradle the rifle inside the right elbow. Tighten the sling to the parade sling position and automatically assume the position of order arms.

### 3-21. SALUTE AT SLING ARMS

a. To salute while at sling arms, the command is PRESENT, ARMS. On the command of execution, reach across the body with the left hand and grasp the sling just above the right hand. Release the right hand and execute the hand salute (see fig. 3-17).

b. To resume order arms, the command is ORDER ARMS. On the command of execution ARMS, lower the right hand smartly to the right side and regasp the sling at the original position. After grasping the sling with the right hand, release the sling with the left hand and return it smartly to the position of attention.



Figure 3-17.--Salute at Sling Arms.

3-22. PORT ARMS FROM SLING ARMS

a. The command is PORT, ARMS.

b. This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts. On the command of execution, reach across the body with the left hand and grasp the sling at the shoulder. Lift the weapon (by the sling), swing it to the front of the body, and grasp the small of the stock with the right hand. Release the sling and regrasp the weapon just forward of the slipring with the left hand. Keep the elbows into the side with the right forearm horizontal (see fig. 3-18).

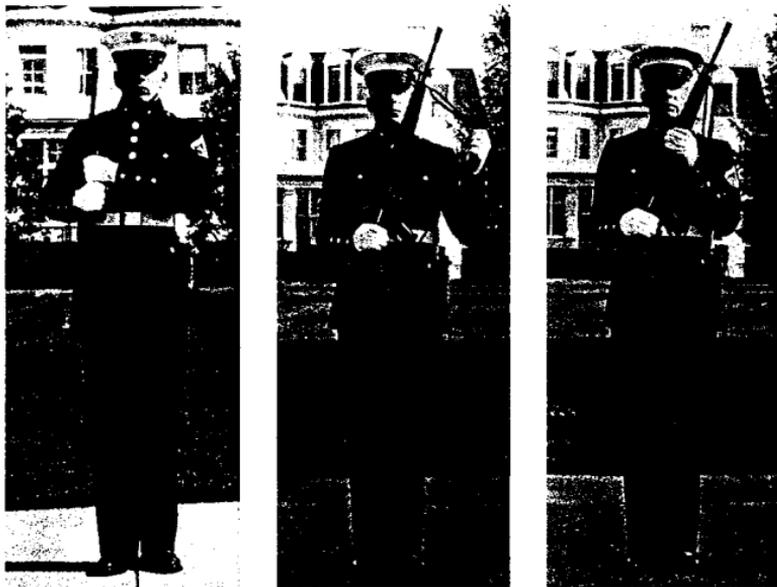


Figure 3-18.--Port Arms From Sling Arms.

c. To resume sling arms, the command is SLING, ARMS. On the command of execution, grasp the sling near the upper sling swivel with the left hand. Release the right hand and swing the weapon back onto the shoulder by inserting the right arm through the sling, immediately resuming the position of sling arms.

### 3-23. INSPECTION ARMS FROM SLING ARMS

a. The command is INSPECTION, ARMS.

b. This is not a precision movement; therefore, there are no counts. On the command of execution, move the left arm across the body and grasp the rifle by the pistol grip and place the thumb on the lower part of the bolt catch (see fig. 3-19a). Release the grasp on the sling and, with the left hand and arm supporting the weapon, bring the rifle to a position diagonally across the body, placing the right hand at the small of the stock (see fig. 3-19b). Unlock the charging handle with the thumb and pull it to the rear (see fig. 3-19c). Push the charging handle until it is locked in its foremost position and grasp the small of the stock with the right hand. Elevate the rifle up and to the left, at the same time rotating it ninety degrees so that the handgrip is pointing away from the body. At this time, visually inspect the chamber to see that it is clear (see fig. 3-19d). Return to port arms.



a. Grasp Pistol Grip.



Bring Rifle to Position  
Diagonally Across Body.



c. Unlock and Pull  
Charging Handle  
to Rear.



d. Elevate and Inspect  
Rifle.

Figure 3-19.--Inspection Arms from Sling Arms.

## 4-1. PISTOL MANUAL OF ARMS

a. General Rules.

- (1) When in ranks and armed with the pistol, facings, rests, open and close ranks, and alignments are executed as if unarmed.
- (2) The pistol manual of arms is not executed in cadence. It is a simple, quick, and safe method of handling the pistol.
- (3) When in formation, remain at attention during all rifle manual movements except those listed below:

b. Present Arms From Attention (Pistol in Holster).

- (1) The command is PRESENT, ARMS. It is executed in one count.
- (2) On ARMS, execute the hand salute.

c. Attention (Pistol in Holster) From Present Arms.

- (1) The command is ORDER, ARMS. It is executed in one count.
- (2) On ARMS, return the right hand to its normal position by the right side.

d. Inspection Arms From Attention (Pistol in Holster).

- (1) The command is INSPECTION, ARMS. It involves several movements which are executed rapidly and smartly without count. It may be executed only when halted at attention with pistol in holster (see fig. 4-1). Inspection arms is not executed with the pistol as part of the rifle manual except when the unit is formed and dismissed.



Figure 4-1.--Position  
of Attention Armed with  
Pistol.

- (2) On ARMS, with the right hand, unbutton the holster flap, grasp the grip and pull the pistol from the holster. Raise the right hand to a position level with and 6 inches in front of the right shoulder. The grip should be held between the thumb and last three fingers, and the forefinger extended outside the trigger guard. The muzzle points forward and up at an angle of 30 degrees (see fig. 4-2).



Figure 4-2.--Remove Pistol from the Holster and Raise to Vertical Position.

- (3) Without lowering the muzzle or the right hand, turn the barrel slightly clockwise, look at the pistol, press the magazine catch with the right thumb, and remove the magazine with the left hand (see fig. 4-3). Turn the barrel back to the front. Place the magazine between the pistol belt and outer garment.



Figure 4-3.--Remove Magazine.

- (4) Without lowering the muzzle or the right hand, grasp the slide with the thumb and fingers of the left hand, thumb on the left side of the slide and pointing downward. Keep the left forearm parallel with the deck. Push the slide all the way to the rear and engage the slide stop in its notch with the right thumb (see fig. 4-4). Look into the chamber; if it is not empty, empty it. Take the magazine from under the belt with the left hand. Raise the left hand to the height of the belt, forearm parallel to the deck, elbow at the side, palm up, fingers extended and joined. Hold the magazine in the open hand, follower to the rear (see fig. 4-5).



Figure 4-4. Push Slide to Rear.

Figure 4-5. Position of Inspection Arms.

e. Attention (Pistol in Holster) From Inspection Arms.

- (1) The command is PORT, ARMS. It is the only command which may be executed from inspection arms.
- (2) On ARMS, return the magazine to a position between the belt and outer garment. With the thumb of the left hand, release the slide stop. Keep the muzzle up and squeeze the trigger. Remove the magazine from the belt with the left hand and insert into the pistol. Return the pistol to the holster and button the flap with the right hand.

4-2. REVOLVER MANUAL OF ARMS

a. General Rules. The general rules described in paragraph 4-1 for the pistol are applicable to the manual of arms for the revolver.

b. Present Arms From Attention (Revolver in Holster).  
Execute as described in paragraph 4-1b.

c. Attention (Revolver in Holster) From Present Arms.  
Execute as described in paragraph 4-1c.

d. Inspection Arms From Attention (Revolver in Holster).

- (1) The command is INSPECTION, ARMS. It involves several movements which are executed rapidly and smartly without count. It may be executed only when halted at attention with revolver in holster. Inspection arms is not executed with the revolver as part of the rifle manual of arms except when the unit is formed and dismissed.
- (2) On ARMS, with the right hand, unbutton the holster, grasp the grip, and pull the pistol from the holster. Raise the left hand to the front, forearm parallel to the deck, elbow at the side, palm up. Place the revolver cylinder in the left hand, latch up, barrel inclined to the left front and downward at an angle of about 30 degrees from the horizontal. Press the latch with the right thumb, push the cylinder out with the second finger of the left hand, and if necessary, eject any live rounds or empty shells by pressing the ejector rod head with the left thumb. Live rounds are placed in the belt with the right hand.
- (3) Regrasp the grip with the right hand, holding it between the thumb and last three fingers, forefinger extended outside the trigger guard. Raise the right hand to a position level with and 6 inches in front of the right shoulder. The muzzle points forward and up at an angle of 30 degrees.

e. Attention (Revolver in Holster) From Inspection Arms.

- (1) The command is PORT, ARMS. It is the only command which may be executed from inspection arms.
- (2) On ARMS, push the cylinder in with the left hand, return the pistol to the holster, and button the flap with the right hand.

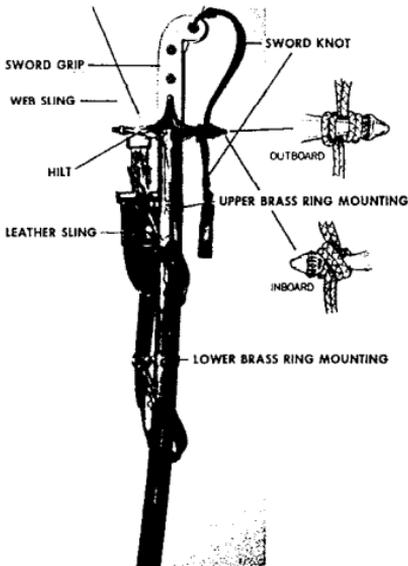
## CHAPTER 5

### SWORD MANUAL

#### 5-1. GENERAL RULES

a. Officers and noncommissioned officers execute the sword manual in the same manner with the following exceptions:

- (1) The officer's scabbard is rotated to draw or return sword. The Marine officer's scabbard is worn with the convex edge to the rear (see fig. 5-1), except when rotated 180 degrees to draw or return sword.



a. Nomenclature.

b. Properly Worn.

Figure 5-1.--Marine Officer's Sword.

- (2) The noncommissioned officer's scabbard is attached to a frog which prevents it from rotating. It is worn with the convex edge to the front and remains in that position during draw and return sword (see fig. 5-2).

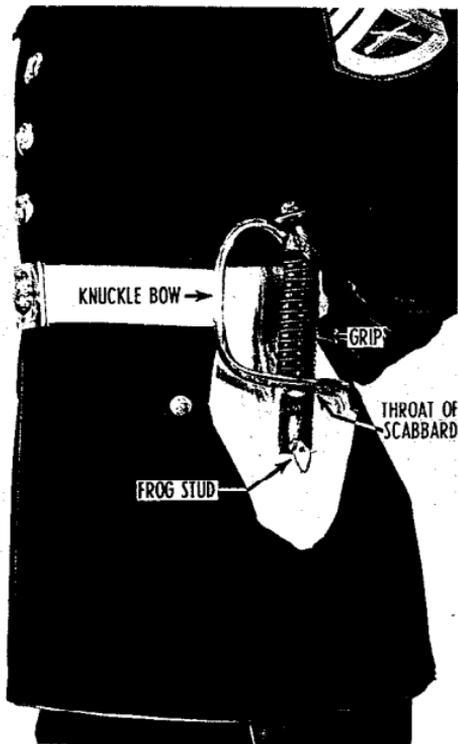


Figure 5-2.--Noncommissioned Officer's Sword.

b. Officers and noncommissioned officers draw and return sword, without command, when the commander of their unit does. Unless members of the commander's staff, they execute all other movements of the sword manual on the commander's command to the unit. Staff members execute all other movements on the commander's separate command to his staff. The sword will be drawn with armed troops, except when at ease, rest, route step, at ease march, or when inspecting troops. A unit commander, after being inspected, will return sword prior to accompanying the inspecting party, except during the inspection of an honor guard.

c. Carry sword is assumed when:

- (1) Giving commands.
- (2) Changing position in formation at quick time.
- (3) Addressing or being addressed by a senior.
- (4) The preparatory command for quick time has been given.
- (5) While marching at quick time.
- (6) Any manual of arms movement has been ordered except parade rest, at ease, rest, present arms, or eyes right (left). When in formation with personnel to your front at normal distance or less (organization staffs excluded), remain at carry sword except during rest or at ease.

- d. Present sword is assumed when:
- (1) Saluting with the sword.
  - (2) The unit is presented to the colors or any person, or when the National Anthem, To The Color, Retreat, or Hail to the Chief is played.
  - (3) Executing eyes right (left) while marching past a reviewing officer or stand. If in the interior of a formation, remain at carry sword.
- e. While marching with sword at the carry, both arms should swing 6 inches to the front and 3 inches to the rear. Do not hold the scabbard or sling.
- f. While marching at double time, hold the sword diagonally across the chest with the sharp edge to the front. Hold the scabbard with the left hand just below the lower brass ring mounting/frog.
- g. When calling roll, reading documents, or publishing orders to a formation, slip the fingers of the left hand between the sword grip and knot (officers) or guard (noncommissioned officers). Keep the left elbow against the side. Hold the document with both hands (see fig. 5-3).
- h. When not in formation, keep the sword in its scabbard. Salute by executing the hand salute.



Figure 5-3.--Position for Reading Documents.

5-2. DRAW SWORD

- a. The command is DRAW, SWORD.
- b. On the preparatory command, DRAW:

(1) Officers. Grip the scabbard below the upper brass ring mounting with the left hand. Turn it clockwise 180 degrees. Tilt it forward to form an angle of 45 degrees with the deck. Take the sword grip in the right hand and pull it about 6 inches from the scabbard. The right forearm should now be parallel to the deck and the left hand holding the scabbard against the side (see fig. 5-4a and b).



a. Front View on DRAW.



b. Side View on DRAW.



c. Front View of First Step of Execution.



d. Side View of First Step of Execution.



e. Front View of Position of Carry Sword.



f. Side View of Position of Carry Sword.

Figure 5-4. --Movements to Draw sword for Officers.

(2) Noncommissioned Officers. Grip the scabbard just below the frog with the left hand. Tilt it forward to form a 45-degree angle with the deck. Take the grip in the right hand and raise it about 10 inches from the scabbard. The right forearm should now be parallel to the deck and the left hand holding the scabbard against the side (see fig. 5-5a and b).



a. Front View on DRAW.

b. Side View on DRAW.

c. Front View of First Step of Execution.



d. Side View of First Step of Execution.

e. Front View of Position of Carry Sword.

f. Side View of Position of Carry Sword.

Figure 5-5. --Movements to Draw sword for Noncommissioned Officers.

c. On the command of execution, SWORD:

- (1) Draw the sword smartly, raising the right arm to its full extent, directly to the front at an angle of about 45 degrees, the sword in a straight line with the arm, edge down; drop the left hand by the side (Officers see fig. 5-4c and d, NCO's see fig. 5-5c and d).
- (2) Pause for one count.
- (3) Bring the back of the blade against the shoulder seam of the coat, the blade vertical, back of the grip to the rear, the arm nearly extended, the thumb and forefinger embracing the lower part of the grip, the thumb against the trouser seam, and the fingers joined behind the end of the hilt. This is the position of carry sword (Officers see fig. 5-4e and f, NCO's see fig. 5-5e and f).

### 5-3. PRESENT SWORD FROM CARRY OR ORDER SWORD

a. The command is PRESENT, SWORD (ARMS). It may be given only when halted at order sword or carry sword. It is executed in two counts.

b. On PRESENT, raise the right hand to the level of and 6 inches in front of the neck. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist straight, and elbow against the body. The blade should tilt forward at 30 degrees (see figs. 5-6b and 5-7b).

c. On SWORD (ARMS), bring the point down smartly, without whipping, to a position 3 inches above the deck and slightly right of the right foot. Straighten the arm so the guard (noncommissioned officers) or the acorn (officers) is against the trouser seam. The blade is inclined down and to the front with the sharp edge to the left. The thumb remains on the left side of the grip. (See figs. 5-6c and d and 5-7c).

d. When the sword is at carry or order sword, and it becomes necessary to salute, execute present sword. After the salute has been returned, come to order sword (then to carry sword if walking).



a. Carry Position.



b. Position on Command,  
PRESENT.



c. Position of Present  
Sword, Front View.



d. Position of Present  
Sword, Side View.

Figure 5-6.—Movements for Present Sword from Carry or Order Sword; Officers.



a. Carry Position.



b. Position on Command,  
PRESENT.



c. Position of Present Sword, Front View.

Figure 5-7.--Movements for Present Sword from Carry or Order Sword; NCO's.

5-4. ORDER SWORD FROM PRESENT SWORD

a. The command is ORDER, SWORD (ARMS). It is executed in one count.

b. On SWORD (ARMS), turn the sharp edge down. In this position, the right arm hangs naturally with the thumb along the trouser seam. The blade slants down to the front with the point 3 inches from the deck (see figs. 5-8 and 5-9).



Figure 5-8.--Order Sword from Present Sword; Officers.



a. Position of Present Sword.

b. Position of Order Sword, Side View.

c. Position of Order Sword, Front View.

Figure 5-9.--Order Sword from Present Sword: NCO's

5-5. EYES RIGHT (LEFT) FROM CARRY OR ORDER SWORD

a. The command is EYES, RIGHT (LEFT). It may be given only when halted at order sword or when marching at carry sword. It is executed in two counts.

b. On EYES, raise the right hand to the level of and 6 inches in front of the neck. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist straight, and elbow against the body. The blade should tilt forward at 30 degrees.

c. On RIGHT (LEFT), bring the point down smartly, without whipping, to a position 3 inches above the deck and slightly right of the right foot. Straighten the arm so the guard (noncommissioned officers) or the acorn (officers) is against the trouser seam. The blade is slanted down and to the front, with the sharp edge to the left. The thumb remains on the left side of the grip. At the same time, turn the head and eyes 45 degrees to the right (left). If in extreme right (left) file, continue looking straight ahead (see figs. 5-10 and 5-11).



Figure 5-10.--Eyes Right (Left) from Carry or Order Sword; Officers.



Figure 5-11.--Eyes Right (Left) from Carry or Order Sword; NCO's.

d. Order sword from eyes right (left):

- (1) The command is READY, FRONT. It is executed in one count.
- (2) On FRONT, turn the sharp edge of the sword down. At the same time, turn the head and eyes smartly to the front.

e. Carry sword from eyes right (left) (executed when on the march):

- (1) The command is READY, FRONT. Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- (2) On READY, turn the sharp edge of the sword down.
- (3) On FRONT, raise the sword to carry. At the same time, turn the head and eyes to the front.

5-6. PARADE REST FROM ORDER ARMS.

a. The command is PARADE REST. This command is normally given only from order sword, in which case it is executed in one count.

b. If given when at another position of the manual, come to order sword on the command PARADE.

c. On REST, move the left foot smartly 12 inches to the left. At the same time, lower the point of the sword to the deck, place the left hand behind you, just below the belt (see figs. 5-12 and 5-13).



a. Front View.



b. Side View.

Figure 5-12.--Parade Rest from Order Sword; Officers.



a. Front View.



b. Side View.

Figure 5-13.--Parade Rest from Order Sword; NCO's

d. Order sword from parade rest:

- (1) The command is PLATOON (COMPANY, DETAIL), ATTENTION. It is executed in one count.
- (2) On ATTENTION, bring the left heel smartly against the right and the left hand back to the side. Raise the blade so the point is 3 inches from the deck.

5-7. AT EASE FROM ANY POSITION OF THE SWORD

a. The command is AT EASE. It may be given from any position of the sword.

b. On AT EASE, come to order sword if not already at that position. Then move the left foot 12 inches to the left and lower the point of the sword to the deck. Rest the weight equally on both feet with the legs straight. At the same time, place the left hand behind you. Keep the fingers straight and joined, the palm flat and facing rear. You may relax and, except for your right foot, move about. Do not talk. (See fig. 5-14).



Figure 5-14.--At Ease.

5-8. REST FROM ANY POSITION OF THE SWORD

The command is REST. It is executed in the same manner as at ease, the only difference being that you may talk.

5-9. TO RETURN TO ATTENTION

The command is PLATOON (COMPANY, DETAIL), ATTENTION. Execution is begun on the preparatory command.

a. On PLATOON (COMPANY, DETAIL), come to parade rest.

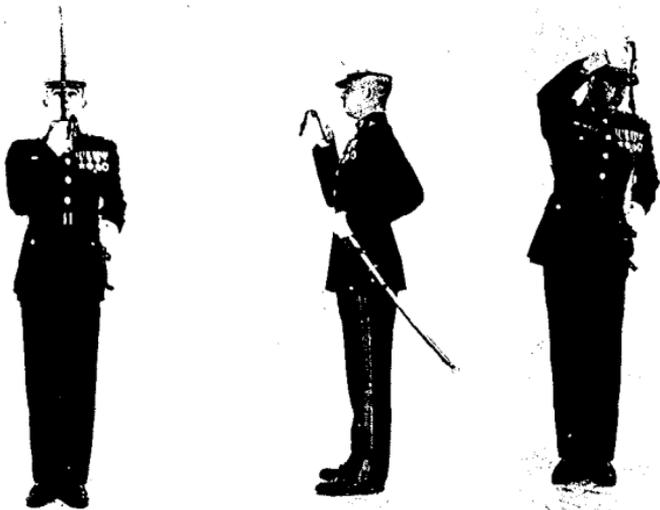
b. On ATTENTION, bring the left heel smartly against the right and the left hand to the side. Raise the blade so the point is 3 inches from the deck.

5-10. RETURN SWORD FROM CARRY OR ORDER SWORD

a. The command is RETURN, SWORD. Execution is begun on the preparatory command.

b. On the preparatory command, RETURN:

- (1) Officers raise the right hand to a position 6 inches in front of the neck. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist straight and elbow against the body. The sword should tilt forward at 30 degrees. At the same time, grasp the scabbard with the left hand just above the upper brass ring mounting. Tilt it forward and turn it clockwise 180 degrees. The scabbard should form a 45-degree angle with the deck. Then lower the sword point to a position just above the opening of the scabbard. Look down at the opening. Guide the point into the opening with the left thumb and forefinger until the right forearm is parallel to the deck. Then raise the head back to attention. The left hand holds the scabbard against the side (see fig. 5-15).



a. Raise Sword and Tilt Scabbard, Front View.

b. Raise Sword and Tilt Scabbard, Side View.

c. Insert Sword Into Scabbard.

Figure 5-15.--Movements for Return Sword from Carry or Order Sword; Officers.



d. Final Position on Preparatory Command, RETURN, Front View.

e. Final Position on Preparatory Command, RETURN, Side View.

Figure 5-15. Movements for Return Sword from Carry or Order Sword; Officers (contd).

- (2) Noncommissioned officers raise the right hand to a position 6 inches in front of the neck. At the same time, grasp the scabbard with the left hand below the throat. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist straight, and elbow against the body. Tilt the sword forward 30-degrees. Then lower the sword point to a position just above the opening of the scabbard. Look down at the opening. Guide the point into the opening with the left thumb and forefinger until the right hand is 10 inches from the scabbard. Then raise the head back to attention. The right forearm should now be straight and parallel across the body. The left hand holds the scabbard against the side (see fig. 5-16).

c. On the command of execution, SWORD, push smartly down on the sword and release the hand grip so it will slide all the way into the scabbard. In the same motion, bring the right hand back to the right side (officers must then turn the scabbard counterclockwise 180 degrees). Release the scabbard with the left hand.

#### 5-11. FUNERAL CARRY

a. This position is assumed when marching for long distances such as funerals or street parades.

b. After initially stepping off at the carry, change the grip of the right hand so that the knuckle bow (noncommissioned officers) is between the index finger and the thumb, and the rest of the fingers curled (see fig. 5-17). On the Marine officers sword, the sword grip is between the index and middle fingers, and all fingers are curled around the hilt.

c. To return to normal carry, reach across the body with the left hand, forearm parallel to the deck, and grasp the blade with the thumb and index finger, and at the same time adjust the grip with the right hand.

d. Smartly cut the left hand back to the side.



a. Front View.



b. Sidé View.

Figure 5-17.--Funeral Carry.

## CHAPTER 6

### GUIDON MANUAL

#### 6-1. GENERAL RULES

a. The guidon is a company identification flag. It is carried at ceremonies and at other times prescribed by the commander.

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 a man outstanding for his snap, bearing, appearance, and ability.

d. When acting as guidon bearer, the individual is considered under arms and will not carry a weapon.

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. For marching at double time, on the preparatory command, hold 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.

#### 6-2. POSITIONS OF GUIDON

a. Order Guidon. At order guidon, the ferrule rests on the deck, touching the right shoe to the right of the toe. Hold the staff in the "V" formed by the right thumb and fingers. The thumb and fingers should be straight with fingers touching. Keep the right arm behind the staff and the elbow slightly bent. The upper staff rests in the hollow of the right shoulder. The staff points straight up with the flat side of the spearhead facing front. Except for the right hand, the entire body is at attention (see fig. 6-1).



Figure 6-1.--Order Guidon.

b. Carry Guidon.

- (1) This is the normal position of the guidon while marching at quick time. It is the same as order guidon except the ferrule is 6 inches above the deck (see fig. 6-2).



Figure 6-2.--Carry Guidon.

- (2) From carry guidon, movements to present guidon, order guidon, and ready guidon may be executed.

c. Carry Guidon From Order Guidon.

- (1) This is executed on a preparatory command, such as FORWARD, which requires moving to a new position. Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- (2) On the preparatory command, place the left hand on the staff 2 inches above the right.
- (3) Loosen the grip of the right hand. Pull the staff up with the left hand until the ferrule is 6 inches above the deck. Hold the staff straight with the right hand.
- (4) Move the left hand smartly back to the side.

d. Order Guidon From Carry Guidon.

- (1) The command is ORDER, ARMS. It is executed in one count.
- (2) On ARMS, allow the staff to slip through the right hand until the ferrule touches the deck.

e. Present Guidon From Order or Carry Guidon.

- (1) From order guidon at the halt, the command is PRESENT, ARMS. From carry guidon on the march, the command is EYES, RIGHT. At officers center, the movement is executed at a halt, from carry, without command.
- (2) Because the right hand is 6 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 carry.
- (3) From order guidon, the command is PRESENT, ARMS. It is executed in one count.
- (4) On ARMS, lower the guidon straight to the front, until the staff, resting in the pit of the right arm, is horizontal. As the staff is lowered, turn it to the right so the sharp edge of the spearhead faces down. Hold your right elbow firmly against the body (see fig. 6-3).



Figure 6-3.--Present Guidon.

- (5) 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 fig. 6-4).

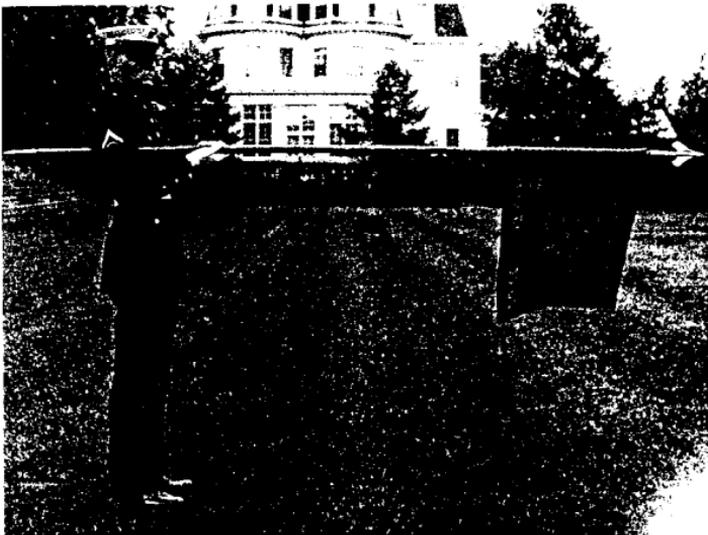


Figure 6-4.--Eyes Right with the Guidon.

g. 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 6-2e(4). Hesitate for one count after halting. The movements should be completed on the fourth count after the command HALT.

h. Carry Guidon From Present Guidon at Officers Center.

- (1) The command is CARRY, SWORD (READY, TWO if the officers are not armed with swords).
- (2) This movement is executed in the same manner as described in paragraph 6-2f(3), except that the head and eyes are not turned, since they remain to the front.

i. Ready Guidon From Order or Carry Guidon.

- (1) This movement is used as a signal for aiding troops in the execution of commands where hearing verbal commands is difficult. The guidon is brought to ready guidon on the preparatory command (see fig. 6-6). It is smartly lowered to order or carry guidon upon the command of execution.



Figure 6-6.--Ready Guidon.

- (2) 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 also renders honors.

j. Guidon Salute From Carry or Order Guidon.

- (1) The command is GUIDON, SALUTE. It is executed in two counts.
- (2) On SALUTE, move your left hand, palm down, smartly to a position approximately 18 inches 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 your forefinger. Turn your head and eyes toward the person being saluted (see fig. 6-7).



Figure 6-7.--Guidon Salute from Carry or Order Guidon.

- (3) After your salute is returned, move your left hand smartly back to your side and look to the front.

k. Rests With the Guidon.

(1) Parade Rest From Order Guidon.

- (a) The command is PARADE, REST. It is executed in one count, and may be given only when halted at attention.
- (b) On REST, move your left foot smartly 12 inches to the left. Place your left hand behind you, just below the belt. Keep your fingers straight and touching, palm flat and facing rear. At the same time, straighten your right arm and your grasp, as shown in figure 6-8, so the staff of the guidon tilts forward at 30 degrees. The ferrule remains in the same position as at order guidon. The flat side of the spearhead remains facing front (see fig. 6-8).

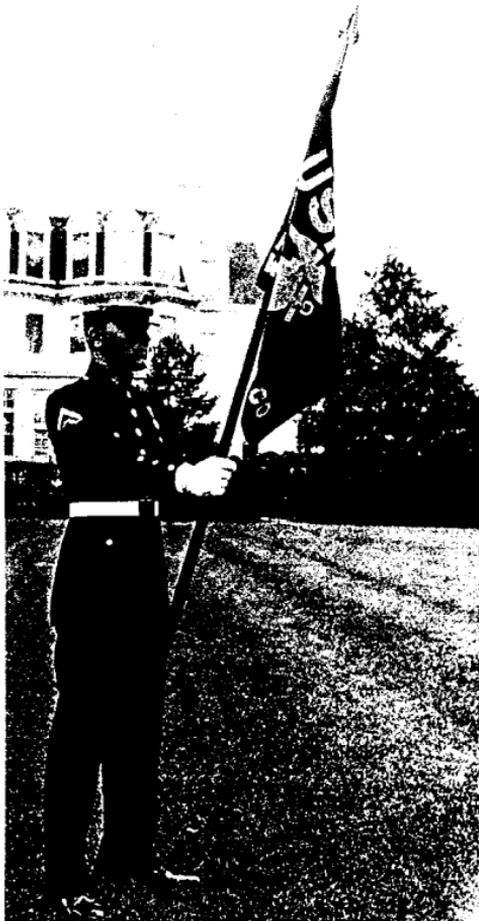


Figure 6-8.--Parade Rest with the Guidon.

(2) At Ease From Any Position of the Guidon.

- (a) The command is AT EASE. It is executed in one count.
  - (b) On the command, come to order guidon if not already at that position. Move your left foot smartly 12 inches to the left. Rest your weight equally on both feet with your legs straight. Place your left hand behind you, just below the belt. Keep your fingers straight and touching with your palm flat and facing rear. At the same time, straighten your right arm so the staff tilts forward at 30 degrees. The ferrule remains at the order. The flat side of the spearhead continues facing front.
  - (c) After assuming this position, you may relax and, except for your right foot and ferrule, move about. Do not talk.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.

(5) Order Guidon From Rest Positions.

- (a) From parade rest, at ease, and rest, the command is (SIZE OF UNIT), ATTENTION. On (UNIT), come to parade rest, if not already in that position. At ATTENTION, come smartly to order guidon.
- (b) 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.

CHAPTER 7  
SQUAD DRILL

7-1. GENERAL

- a. Figure 7-1 shows the symbols used in this manual.

	REGIMENTAL COMMANDER AND STAFF		PLATOON GUIDE
	BATTALION COMMANDER AND STAFF		SECTION LEADER OR CHIEF OF SECTION
	COMPANY COMMANDER		SQUAD LEADER
	EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR SECOND IN CHARGE		FIRE TEAM LEADER
	FIRST SERGEANT OR SERGEANT MAJOR		FILE CLOSER
	GUNNERY SERGEANT		RIFLEMAN
	PLATOON COMMANDER		COLORS
	PLATOON SERGEANT		GUIDON BEARER

Figure 7-1.--Symbols Used in This Manual.

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

c. Members of the squad take positions, move, and execute the manual of arms as stated in this manual. All men execute the movements at the same time.

d. Squads are kept intact when practicable. The normal formation for a squad is a single rank (squad in line) or single file (squad in column) (see fig. 7-2). This permits variation in the number of men composing the squad. The first formation is always in 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.

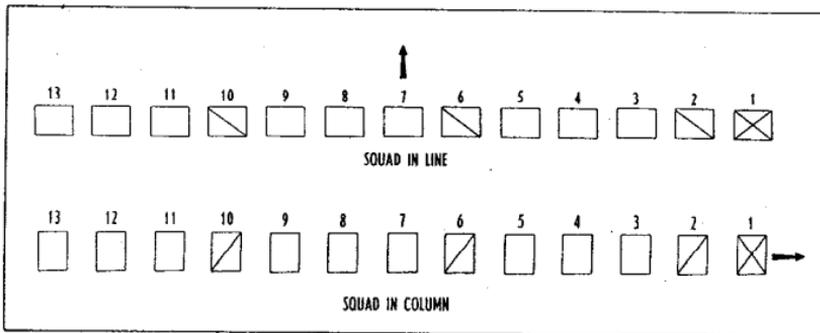


Figure 7-2.--Squad Formations.

e. The squad marches in line for minor changes of position only.

f. When the squad is armed with rifles:

- (1) The command RIGHT (LEFT) SHOULDER, ARMS or PORT (SLING), ARMS is given before commanding the squad to move, except for short distances, when the command TRAIL ARMS may be given.
- (2) At the command SQUAD, HALT, remain at the position of right shoulder (left shoulder or port) arms until ORDER ARMS or some other manual command is given.

#### 7-2. TO FORM THE SQUAD

a. To form at normal interval (see fig. 7-3), the command is FALL IN.

b. The squad forms in line on the left of the squad leader. Each member of the squad, except the left flank man, raises his left arm shoulder high in line with his body. Fingers are extended and joined, palm down. Each man except the squad leader turns his head and looks to the right. To obtain a normal interval, each man places himself in line so his right shoulder touches the fingertips of the man on his right. As soon as each man is in line with the man on his right, and the man on his left has obtained normal interval, he turns smartly and quickly to the position of attention.

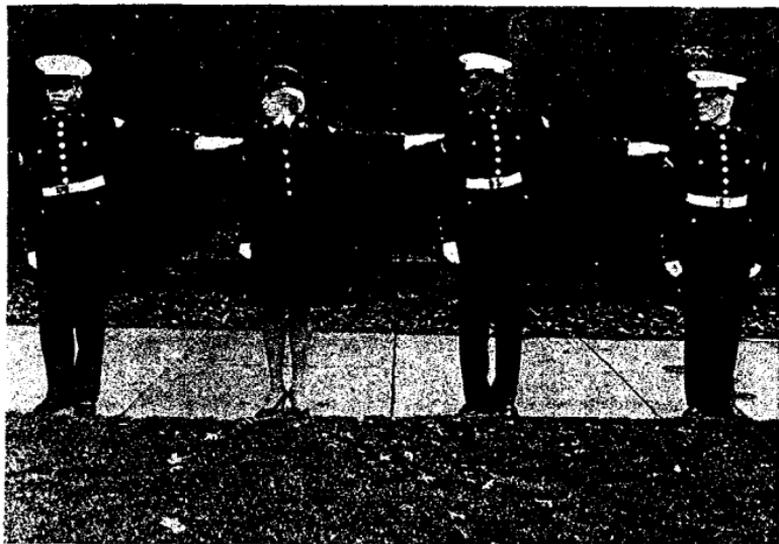


Figure 7-3.--Falling In at Normal Interval.

c. To form at close interval, the command is AT CLOSE INTERVAL, FALL IN (see fig. 7-4).

d. The squad forms in line on the left of the squad leader. Each member of the squad, except the left flank man, places his left hand on his hip, elbow in line with his body. He rests the heel of the palm on the hip with fingers extended and joined and pointing down. Each man except the squad leader turns his head and looks to the right. To obtain close interval, he places himself in line so his right arm touches the elbow of the man on his right. As soon as each man is in line with the man on his right, and the man on his left has obtained close interval, he turns smartly and quickly to the position of attention.

e. If the squad is armed, men fall in with weapons at the position of order arms. Pieces are inspected at once.

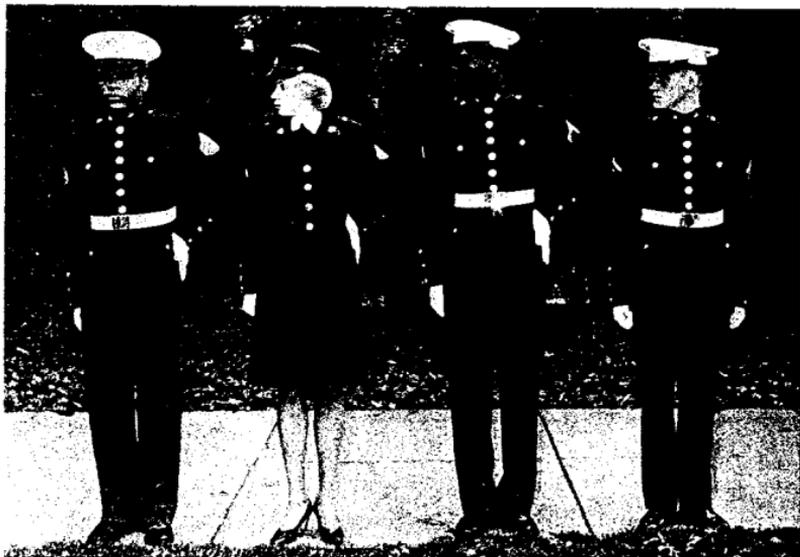


Figure 7-4.--Falling In at Close Interval.

7-3. TO DISMISS THE SQUAD

a. The squad is dismissed only from a line with men at attention.

b. Armed troops are dismissed with the commands INSPECTION, ARMS; PORT, ARMS; DISMISSED.

c. Unarmed troops are dismissed with the command DISMISSED.

7-4. TO COUNT OFF

a. In line, the command is COUNT, OFF. At the command OFF, all men except the man on the right flank smartly turn their heads and look to the right. The right flank man shouts ONE. The man to his left shouts TWO. Each man shouts the next higher number after the man to his right has shouted a number. At the same time he shouts the number, each man smartly turns his head and looks to the front. Numbers are counted in cadence of quick time from man to man.

b. In column, the command is FROM FRONT TO REAR, COUNT, OFF. Each man, starting with the front man, turns his head to the right and smartly shouts his number as he turns his head back to the front.

7-5. TO ALIGN THE SQUAD

a. In line, the commands are DRESS RIGHT (LEFT), DRESS; READY, FRONT, or AT CLOSE INTERVAL, DRESS RIGHT (LEFT), DRESS; READY, FRONT.

b. These commands are given only when the squad is at approximately the same interval as the interval at which the dress is commanded.

c. At the command DRESS, all men, except the right flank man, smartly turn their heads, look, and align themselves to the right. At the same time, all men except the left flank man smartly extend their left arms shoulder high (or if at close interval, place their left hands on their hips). All men except

the squad leader position themselves by short steps until their right shoulders touch the fingertips of the men on their right (or right arms touch the elbows of the men on their right). The instructor places himself on line with the squad, 1 pace from the right (left) flank man, and faces down the line. He checks the alignment of the squad, ordering men, by name or number, to move back or forward as necessary. The instructor does not lean his body to be able to see down the line. He moves with short side steps as necessary to check alignment, constantly maintaining military bearing.

d. When the alignment is correct, the instructor faces to the right (left) in marching and moves 3 paces forward, halts, faces to the left (right), and commands READY, FRONT. At the command FRONT, men smartly and quickly lower their arms to their sides, turn their heads, and look to the front.

e. The left arm is used to obtain interval for both dress right and dress left.

f. In column, the command is COVER. At this command, men move as necessary to place themselves directly behind the man in front of them, still maintaining 40-inch distance.

#### 7-6. TO OBTAIN CLOSE INTERVAL FROM NORMAL INTERVAL IN LINE

The command is CLOSE, MARCH. At the command MARCH, all men, except the right flank man, face to the right in marching, march forward until approximately a 4-inch interval has been obtained, halt, and face to the left. They then form at close interval by placing the left hand on the hip and dressing to the right. When the man on the left has obtained the proper interval, smartly lower the left hand to the side, and turn the head to the front.

#### 7-7. TO OBTAIN NORMAL INTERVAL FROM CLOSE INTERVAL IN LINE

The command is EXTEND, MARCH. At the command MARCH, all men, except the right flank man, face to the left, march forward until approximate normal interval has been obtained, halt, and face to the right. They form at normal interval by extending the left arm at shoulder height and dressing to the right. When the man on the left has obtained proper interval, smartly lower the left arm to the side and turn the head to the front.

#### 7-8. TO OBTAIN DOUBLE-ARM INTERVAL IN LINE

a. From either close or normal interval, the command is TAKE INTERVAL TO THE LEFT (RIGHT) MARCH. At the command MARCH, men move as when extending, except that the double-arm interval is obtained by each man raising both arms (the right flank man raises only his left arm and the left flank man raises only his right arm) and touching the fingertips of the man on his right. Each man smartly lowers his right arm when he has proper interval, his left arm when the man on his left lowers his right arm. Each man smartly turns his head and looks to the front as he lowers his right arm. Armed troops are given this command only when at sling arms.

b. To obtain normal interval from double-arm interval, the command is ASSEMBLE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT), MARCH. Execute this movement similarly to closing, except form at normal interval.

#### 7-9. TO FORM COLUMN FROM IN LINE AND REFORM LINE

a. Being in line at a halt, at the order, and at normal interval, to form column, the command is RIGHT, FACE. All members of the squad simultaneously face to the right, thereby forming column. The squad leader may then command RIGHT (LEFT) SHOULDER, or PORT, or SLING ARMS; FORWARD, (COLUMN RIGHT/LEFT), MARCH to cause the squad to march in column. (NOTE: As the squad becomes inverted if faced to the left, this should be done only for short movements.

Being in line to form column facing to the left, the squad should first form column by facing to the right, then execute necessary successive column movements until the column is faced in the desired direction.)

b. Being in line at close interval to form column, the squad is first extended to normal interval (see paragraph 7-7), then forms column by facing to the right as described above.

c. Being in column at a halt and at the order, to form line, the command is LEFT, FACE.

#### 7-10. TO MARCH TO THE OBLIQUE

a. When marching in any formation, the command is RIGHT (LEFT) OBLIQUE, MARCH. (The word OBLIQUE is pronounced to rhyme with strike.)

b. To teach men to march to the oblique, the instructor aligns the unit and has each man do half right (left) face. The instructor points out each man's position and explains that each man is to keep this position while marching. The position is kept by each man holding his shoulders parallel to the man in front.

c. At the command MARCH, given as the foot in the direction of the turn hits the deck, each man takes one more step forward, faces half right (left) in marching, and steps off at a 45-degree angle from his original direction of march (see fig. 7-5).

d. The command FORWARD, MARCH is given to resume original direction of march. It is given as the foot toward the original front hits the deck. At the command MARCH, each man faces half left (right) in marching and steps off to the front.

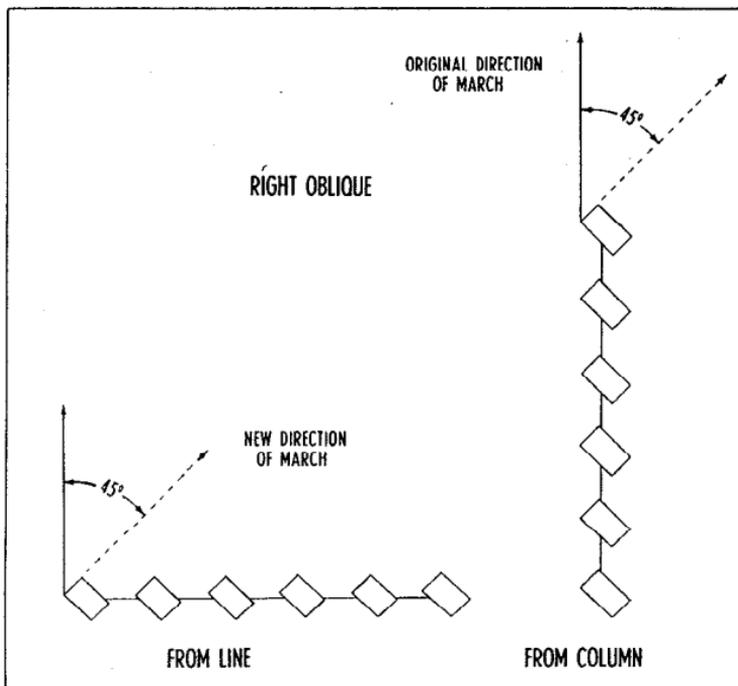


Figure 7-5.--Marching to Right Oblique.

e. The command HALT is given on the left foot when halting from right oblique and on the right foot when halting from left oblique. At the command HALT, each man takes one more step in the oblique direction, turns to the front on the toe of his right (left) foot, and places his left (right) foot beside his right (left) foot.

f. The command IN PLACE, HALT is given as either foot hits the deck to halt the unit in the oblique temporarily for correcting errors. At the command HALT, each man halts in two counts as in quick time but 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 in the oblique direction.

g. At half step or mark time while obliquing, resume the full step to the oblique on the command RESUME, MARCH.

#### 7-11. TO MARCH TO THE FLANK

a. To move a column a short distance to the right or left while in march, the command is BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, MARCH. The preparatory command and command of execution are given so they end when the foot in the direction of the turn hits the deck.

b. At the command MARCH, each man takes one more step, then faces to the right (left) in marching, and steps out with his right (left) foot in the new direction.

c. This command will not be given at a halt.

#### 7-12. TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF A COLUMN

a. The command is COLUMN RIGHT (COLUMN LEFT, COLUMN HALF RIGHT, COLUMN HALF LEFT), MARCH.

b. When marching, the preparatory command and command of execution are given so they end as the foot in the direction of the turn hits the deck. At the command MARCH, the front man faces to the right (left) in marching and steps out with his right (left) foot in the direction of the turn. Other men in the column continue the march to the point where the front man pivoted. At that point they face successively to the right (left) in marching and continue in the direction of the turn.

c. When halted, at the command MARCH, the front man faces to the right (left) in marching by turning to the right (left) on his right toe and steps out with his left foot in the new direction. At the same time, all other men march forward and successively face to the right (left) in marching on the same pivot point used by the front man.

d. For slight changes of direction, the command is INCLINE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT). At that command, the front man changes direction as commanded. All other men do likewise when they come to the point on which the front man pivoted. This is not a precise movement. It is executed only when marching.

#### 7-13. TO FORM COLUMN OF TWOS FROM SINGLE FILE

a. When the squad is halted in column, the command is COLUMN OF TWOS TO THE LEFT (RIGHT), MARCH.

b. On MARCH, the front man stands fast. Even-numbered men (counting from front to rear) face half left (right) in marching, take two steps, face half right (left) in marching, and move forward until beside and at normal interval from odd-numbered men who were in front of them. Each odd-numbered man, except the front man, marches forward and halts as he reaches normal distance from the odd-numbered man in front of him. All men required to move do so at the same time (see fig. 7-6).

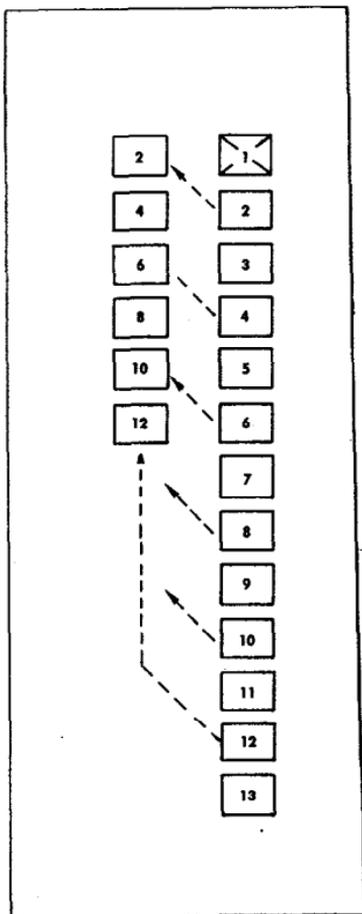


Figure 7-6.--Forming Column of Twos from Single File.

7-14. TO FORM SINGLE FILE FROM COLUMN OF TWOS

a. When the squad is halted in column of twos, the command is COLUMN OF FILES FROM THE RIGHT (LEFT), MARCH.

b. At the command MARCH, number one and two men (counting from front to rear) step off at the same time. The number one man moves forward and the number two man faces to the half right, moves two steps, faces to the half left in marching, and follows the number one man at normal distance. Remaining odd- and even-numbered men step off in pairs, execute the same movements as numbers one and two, and follow in file at normal distance (see fig. 7-7).

c. This movement is done only from a halt.

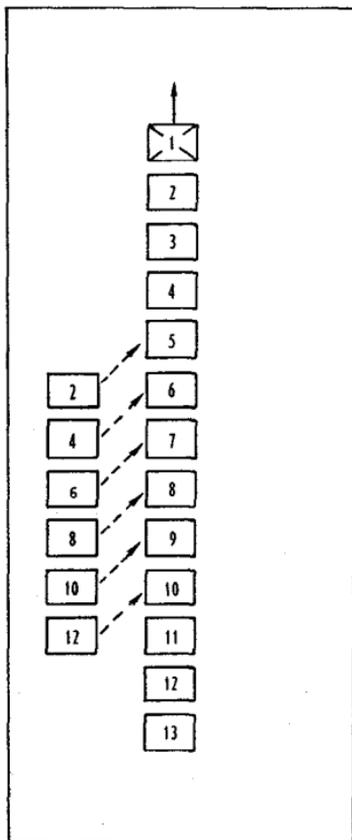


Figure 7-7.--Forming Single File from Column of Twos.

7-15. TO STACK ARMS

a. Before stacking arms, the squad must be given count off. Squad members numbered 3, 7, and 11 are designated stackmen. Additional stackmen may be designated, if necessary.

b. The squad leader will then command, PREFARE, SLINGS. On the command of execution, SLINGS, the designated stackmen place the butt of the weapon on their right hip and cradle the rifle in the crook of the right arm. They then tighten the sling (dust cover side) and adjust the sling to form a 4-inch loop next to the upper sling swivel. As soon as they have prepared the loop, they return to order arms.

c. When all stackmen have returned to order arms, the squad leader commands STACK, ARMS.

- (1) On the command of execution, ARMS, the designated stackmen place their weapons directly in front of and centered on the body with the sights to the rear. The heel of the rifle butt is placed on the ground on line with the toes of their shoes. Each stackman grasps the rifle at the upper portion of the handguard with the left hand, keeping the rifle vertical at all times. The first two fingers of the left hand hold the inner part of the loop against the rifle. The stackman reaches across the front of the rifle with the right hand, grasps the outer part of the loop and holds it open for insertion of the other rifles (see fig. 7-8).
- (2) On the command of execution, ARMS, the men to the left and right of the stackman perform the following movements simultaneously.
  - (a) The man on the stackman's right raises and centers his weapon, wrist shoulder high, with the magazine well facing to the front. He then grasps the handguard (midway) with his left hand, releases his right hand and regrasps the weapon at the small of the stock. He then lowers both arms, holding the weapon in a horizontal position with the muzzle to the left (see fig. 7-8).
  - (b) The man on the stackman's left raises and centers his rifle, wrist shoulder high, with the magazine well facing to the front. He then grasps the weapon at the small of the stock with the left hand, releases the right hand and regrasps the handguard (midway). He then lowers both arms, holding the weapon in a horizontal position with the muzzle to the right (see fig. 7-8).

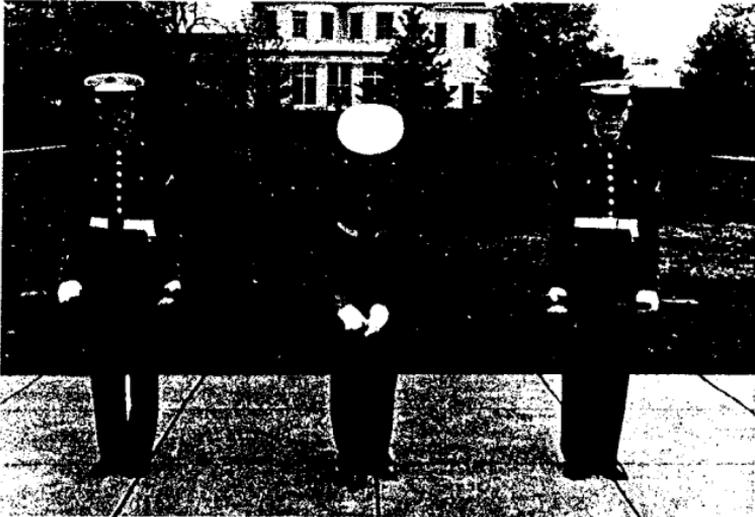


Figure 7-8. Positions of Stackman and Men to His Right and Left At End of First Step in Stack Arms.

- (4) The butts of both rifles are swung outward and down to the ground until the stack is tight with the rifle butts on line and approximately 2 feet from the baseline. When the stack has been completed, all three men resume the position of attention (see fig. 7-10).

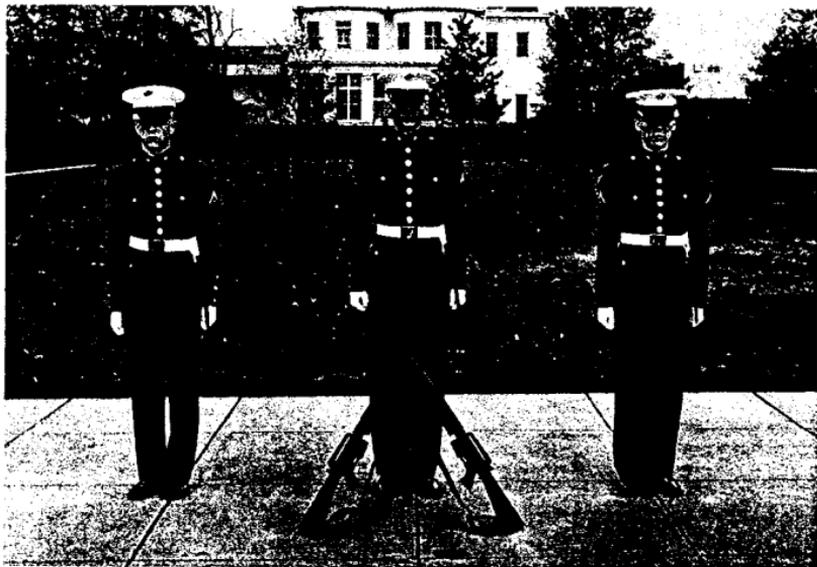


Figure 7-10.--Final Position of Stack Arms.

- (5) Extra rifles are passed to the nearest stack on the right (right or left if stacked in column). The extra men grasp the barrel of the rifle, raise it vertically and extend their arm horizontally to the right front. The next man grasps the weapon at the handguard, moves it center of the body, grasps the barrel with the right hand, and extends the right arm horizontally to the right front. This action continues until the rifle reaches the stackman. The stackman places the rifle on the stack in a manner to prevent damage to the front sight assembly.

7-16. TO TAKE ARMS

a. The command is TAKE, ARMS.

b. On the command of execution, the men return extra rifles in the same manner as they were received. The stackman secures the stack and holds the loop in the same manner as for stacking rifles. The men on the left and right step to the oblique, reach down and regrasp their weapons, bringing them to a horizontal position. The man on the right frees his rifle first and resumes order arms or unsling arms. The man on the left frees his weapon and resumes order arms or unsling arms. The stackman cradles his weapon and adjusts the sling and sling keeper to its original position and then resumes the order or unsling arms position.

CHAPTER 8  
PLATOON DRILL

8-1. GENERAL

a. The first phase of drill has been explained in earlier chapters of this manual. This chapter discusses the next phase, platoon drill. In platoon drill, the squad is merged with other squads into a platoon.

b. A platoon consists of a platoon headquarters and two or more squads or sections. Platoon headquarters consists of a platoon commander and one or more assistants.

c. A section normally forms and drills as part of a platoon. In this manual, the instructions given for the squad or platoon also apply to a section. A section, not subdivided into squads, forms and drills as a squad. A section that is divided into two or more squads, forms and drills as a platoon.

d. Squads in a platoon are numbered from front to rear in line and from left to right in column.

e. The platoon forms in two or more ranks with 40-inch distance between ranks. Movements in this section are described for columns of threes or fours and may be executed by either formation.

f. 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. Each Marine in rear of the first rank covers the corresponding Marine in the front rank in executing these movements. The guide moves to the right when interval is taken to the left, and he/she does not count off.

g. 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.

h. 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.

8-2. FORMATIONS

a. Column and line are the two formations for a platoon (see figs. 8-1 and 8-2).

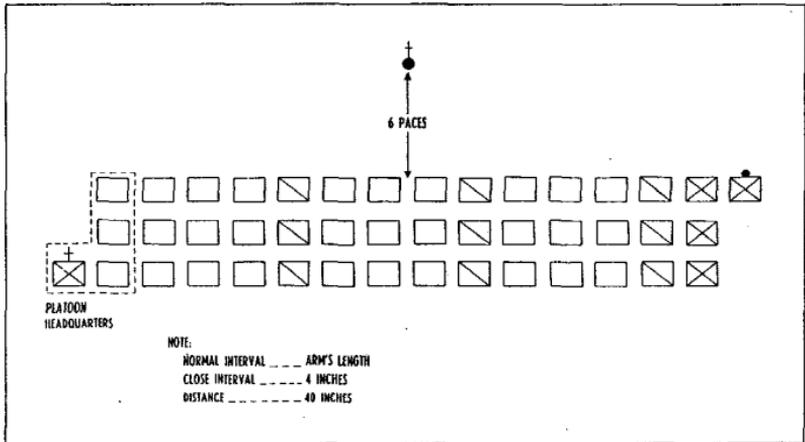


Figure 8-1.-- Platoon in Line at Normal Interval.

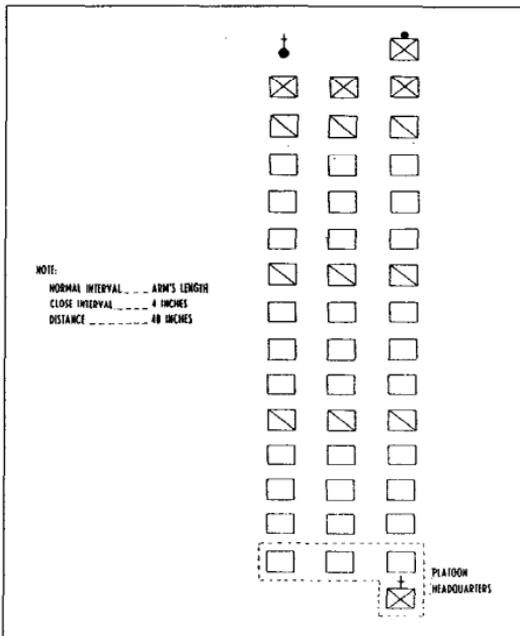


Figure 8-2.-- Platoon in Column at Normal Interval.

b. 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 (see fig. 8-1). The platoon marches in line for short distances only.

#### 8-3. POSTS OF INDIVIDUALS

a. In line, the platoon commander takes post 6 paces in front of the center of the front rank of the platoon (see fig. 8-1). In column, the platoon commander marches at the head of the left file of the platoon (see fig. 8-2).

b. When the platoon commander is present, the platoon sergeant takes post to the left file of the rear rank when the platoon is in line, and following the last member of the right file (squad) when in column. When the platoon commander is not present, after the platoon is formed, the platoon sergeant takes post and drills the platoon as prescribed for the platoon commander.

c. The platoon guide takes post as stated in paragraph 8-4.

d. Extra Marines may fall in on the left when the platoon is in line and in rear when in column.

#### 8-4. RULES FOR THE GUIDE

a. Unless otherwise announced, guide is right, and the guide takes post on the right. In line, he/she is posted to the right of the squad leader of the first squad. In column, he/she is posted in front of the squad leader of the third squad.

b. In column, when it is desired to guide left, 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 in march. The base squad or base file is the one behind the guide.

c. The guide does not change his/her position at the command DRESS LEFT (RIGHT), DRESS.

d. When a platoon in line is given the command RIGHT, FACE, the platoon guide executes right face with the platoon. Then he/she immediately faces to the right in marching and marches to a position in front of the right squad leader, halts, and executes left face. If a platoon is given LEFT, FACE, the guide executes left face with the platoon but does not change his/her position within the platoon.

e. When a platoon in column is given the command COLUMN OF FILES FROM THE LEFT, MARCH, the guide, on the preparatory command, takes his/her position in front of the left squad leader so he/she is at the head of the column.

f. When a platoon in column is given the command COLUMN OF TWOS FROM THE LEFT, MARCH, the guide, on the preparatory command, takes his/her position in front of the second file from the left so he/she is at the head of the right file of the column. He/she does this by facing to the left as in marching and marches to a position in front of designated right squad leader, halts, and executes right face.

g. When reforming in a column of threes or fours from a file or column of twos, the guide posts himself/herself in his/her normal position when the movement is completed.

h. The guide sets the direction and cadence of the march. The leading Marine in each file is responsible for interval.

i. When a platoon is marching in column and the command to march by a flank or to the rear (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 his/her position with the platoon (see paragraph 9-10 for an exception).

j. The guide does not count off.

#### 8-5. TO FORM THE PLATOON

a. The platoon forms in line at normal interval and distance between files and ranks (see fig. 8-1) 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 (4 inches) between files. The platoon is formed by the platoon sergeant or platoon commander as described below.

b. Forming the Platoon by the Platoon Sergeant.

(1) 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 FALL IN (AT CLOSE INTERVAL, FALL IN). At this command, the guide takes post so that the first rank, when aligned on him/her will be centered on and 3 paces from the platoon sergeant. The squad leader of the first squad falls in at normal (close) interval to the left of the guide. 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 on their squad leaders at normal (close) interval as prescribed in squad drill, except that exact interval is taken only by the first squad (i.e., front rank). Marines in the rear squads (i.e., rear ranks) take approximate interval only so as to cover the corresponding member of the front rank. All personnel fall in at attention and, if armed with the rifle, at the position of order arms.

(2) When a report is appropriate, after all personnel are formed, the platoon sergeant commands REPORT. Remaining in position (at order arms if armed with the rifle), the squad leaders, in succession from front to rear, salute and report, "All present", or "Private \_\_\_\_\_ absent." The platoon sergeant then commands INSPECTION, ARMS; PORT, ARMS; ORDER, ARMS, if troops are armed with the rifle.

(3) If the platoon commander does not receive the platoon, the platoon sergeant takes three paces forward and assumes the post and duties of the platoon commander.

(4) When the platoon commander is present, the platoon sergeant faces the front after receiving the reports of the squad leaders and/or causing the platoon to execute inspection arms. When the platoon commander has taken post 6 paces front and center of the platoon (remaining with sword in scabbard if so armed), the platoon sergeant salutes and reports, "Sir, all present and accounted for," or, "Sir, \_\_\_\_\_ Marines absent." The platoon commander returns the salute and may discuss absentees and issue necessary instructions to the platoon sergeant. Next the platoon commander directs the platoon sergeant to TAKE YOUR POST, at which the platoon sergeant marches by the most direct route to his/her post on the left of the rear rank. The platoon commander then draws sword, if so armed.

c. Forming the Platoon by the Platoon Commander.

(1) 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, draws sword and commands FALL IN (AT CLOSE INTERVAL, FALL IN). The platoon then forms on the platoon commander, the platoon sergeant falling in on the left of the rear rank with sword drawn, if

so armed. The platoon commander then receives the report of the squad leaders and causes the platoon to execute inspection arms if troops are armed with the rifle.

#### 8-6. TO DISMISS THE PLATOON

a. The platoon is dismissed only from a line with Marines at attention.

b. Armed troops are dismissed with the commands INSPECTION, ARMS; PORT, ARMS; DISMISSED.

c. Unarmed troops are dismissed with the command DISMISSED.

d. The platoon sergeant usually dismisses the platoon.

#### 8-7. TO ALIGN THE PLATOON

a. In line, the platoon is aligned as prescribed for the squad (see paragraph 7-5). The guide raises his left arm to obtain proper interval and looks to the front (to the left) and the squad leader of the first squad turns his/her head to the right (left) during alignment. Other squad leaders cover the first squad leader and look to the front during the alignment.

b. The platoon commander, on his/her own command of execution DRESS, faces half left, as in marching, and proceeds in the most direct route until positioned on line with the front rank and one pace from the extreme right flank Marine. When in position, the commander executes a halt, facing to the rear, and then executes a right face facing down the line. He/she aligns the front rank by commanding those Marines in advance or rear of the line to move forward or backward until in line. These Marines are designated by name or number. Those commanded to move will move the designated number of steps or will continue to move until receiving the command, STEADY. The platoon commander executes a series of short side steps to the right or left to identify a Marine. The commander must be in line with the rank when commanding a Marine to move. When he/she has verified the alignment of the first rank, he/she faces to the left (right) in marching, and marches straight to the front. He/she halts on line with each succeeding rank, executes right (left) face, and aligns on line with each succeeding rank, executes right (left) face, and aligns each squad. When the guide is in ranks for right dress, the platoon commander will be 2 paces from the squad leaders of succeeding ranks. After verifying the alignment of the rear rank, he/she faces to the right (left) in marching, marches straight to a point 3 paces beyond the front rank, halts, faces to the left (right), and commands READY, FRONT; COVER. Immediately after commanding COVER, the platoon commander marches by the most direct route and takes post 6 paces front and center of the platoon.

c. When aligning a platoon of well-drilled troops or when there is insufficient time to verify alignment, the platoon commander may command READY, FRONT; COVER from his/her normal post without verifying alignment.

d. When marching in column, the platoon is aligned by the command COVER. At that command, the base squad leader obtains 40-inch distance from the guide. Other squad leaders obtain proper interval from the base squad leader and align on him/her. Other Marines in the base squad execute the movement as in squad drill. At the same time, the remaining Marines of the platoon align on the base squad and cover their squad leaders.

#### 8-8. TO FORM COLUMN FROM LINE

Being in line at a halt and at the order, to form column the command is RIGHT, FACE. All members of the platoon face to the right and form column, the platoon commander taking post in front of the left file and the guide in front of the right file (see fig. 8-1).

The platoon commander may then command RIGHT SHOULDER (LEFT SHOULDER, PORT, OR SLING) ARMS; FORWARD (COLUMN RIGHT/LEFT), MARCH to cause the platoon to march in column. (NOTE: As the platoon becomes inverted if faced to the left, this should only be done for short movements. Being in line to form column facing to the left, the platoon should first form column by facing to the right, then execute necessary successive column movements until the column is faced in the desired direction.)

8-9. TO MARCH (FORM) AT CLOSE INTERVAL IN COLUMN

a. When in column at normal interval, at a halt, or in march at quick time, to obtain close interval between files, the command is CLOSE, MARCH.

b. At a halt, on the command MARCH, members of the base squad stand still. Other Marines obtain close interval by doing right (left) step.

c. When marching, the command MARCH is given on the right foot when the base squad is on the right and on the left foot when the base squad is on the left. When the base squad is center, the command MARCH may be given on either foot. At the command MARCH, the base squad takes up the half step. Other squad(s) oblique toward the base squad until the interval between Marines is 4 inches. When squad members are abreast of the corresponding member of the base squad, they oblique to the front and take up the half step (see fig. 8-3). At the command FORWARD, MARCH, all squads resume the 30-inch step.

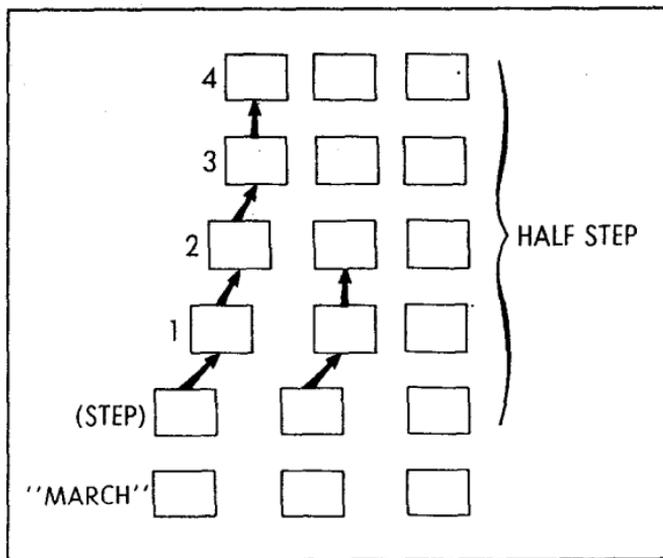


Figure 8-3. -- Close March (While Marching), Right Squad Base.

8-10. TO MARCH (FORM) AT NORMAL INTERVAL IN COLUMN

a. When in column at close interval, at a halt, or in march at quick time, to obtain normal interval between files, the command is EXTEND, MARCH.

b. At a halt, on the command MARCH, members of the base squad stand still. Other Marines obtain normal interval by doing right (left) step.

c. When marching, the command MARCH, is given on the left foot when the base squad is on the right and on the right foot when the base squad is on the left. When the base squad is center, the command MARCH may be given on either foot. At the command MARCH, the base squad takes up the half step. Other squad(s) oblique away from the base squad until normal interval is obtained. When squad members are abreast of corresponding members of the base squad, they oblique to the front in marching and take up the half step. At the command FORWARD, MARCH, all squads resume the 30-inch step.

d. When the platoon executes flank movements from a column at close interval, squad(s) in rear of the squad which becomes the leading squad take up the half step, after doing the flank movement, until 40-inch distance is obtained between squads. After such a movement, the platoon maintains normal interval until close march is commanded.

8-11. TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF A COLUMN

a. The command is COLUMN RIGHT (COLUMN LEFT, COLUMN HALF RIGHT, or COLUMN HALF LEFT), MARCH. The base element during the turn is the squad on the flank in the direction of the turn. The pivot Marine for the movement is the first Marine in the base squad, excluding the platoon commander and guide.

b. When marching, the preparatory command and command of execution are given so they end on the foot in the direction of the turn. At the command MARCH, the pivot Marine faces to the right (left) in marching and steps out one full step with his/her right (left) foot in the direction of the turn. Then he/she half steps. When other Marines of his/her rank are abreast, he/she resumes the full step. Other Marines of the leading rank twice oblique to the right (left) without changing interval, place themselves abreast of the pivot Marine, and conform to his/her step. They execute the first oblique at the command of execution. The second oblique is executed when opposite their new line of march, so that when the oblique is completed, they will be marching toward the new front with proper interval. Ranks in rear of the leading rank execute the movement on the same ground and in the same way as the leading rank (see fig. 8-4).

c. When halted, at the command MARCH, the pivot Marine faces to the right (left) by turning to the right (left) on his/her right toe and steps one full step with his/her left foot in the new direction. Then he/she half steps. When other Marines of his/her rank are abreast, he/she resumes the full step. Other Marines of the leading rank twice oblique to the right (left) in marching without changing interval, place themselves abreast of the pivot Marine, and conform to his/her step. They execute the two obliques as when the column movement is ordered while marching. At the same time, all other Marines march forward and execute the movements as when marching.

d. During column movements, the platoon commander and guide smartly oblique in the direction of the turn, half step, and resume full step in a manner that places them in their proper positions in the formation for marching in the new direction.

e. 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 precise movement. It is executed only while marching.



8-13. TO MARCH TOWARD A FLANK

a. The command is BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, MARCH. It may be given from any marching formation. It should not be given at a halt. The preparatory command and command of execution are given so they end as the foot in the direction of the turn hits the deck.

b. At the command MARCH, each Marine takes one more step, then faces to the right (left) in marching and steps out with his/her right (left) foot in the new direction. The platoon commander and guide execute the flanking movement with the platoon, but do not change their position within the platoon (for the one exception to this see paragraph 9-10).

c. When this movement is executed from a column at close interval, squad(s) in rear of the squad which becomes the leading squad take up the half step, after doing the flank movement, until a 40-inch distance is obtained between squads. After such a movement, the platoon maintains normal interval until close march is commanded.

d. This movement is used to move a column a short distance to the right or left.

8-14. TO STACK ARMS

Before stacking arms, ranks are opened. Arms are then stacked, on the command of the platoon commander, by each squad as prescribed in paragraph 7-15. The guide passes his/her rifle to the left, and it is placed, as an extra weapon, on the first stack of the first squad.

8-15. TO OPEN RANKS

The commands are OPEN RANKS, MARCH; READY, FRONT; COVER. They are given only in line. At the command MARCH, the front rank takes 2 paces forward, halts, and executes dress right. The second rank takes one pace forward, halts, and executes dress right. The third rank, if present, stands fast and executes dress right. Each succeeding rank present takes 2, 4, or 6 steps backward, halts, and executes dress right. The platoon commander verifies the alignment as for dress right. After verifying the alignment of the rear rank, he/she faces to the right in marching, moves 3 paces beyond the front rank, faces to the left, and commands READY, FRONT; COVER.

8-16. TO CLOSE RANKS

The command is CLOSE RANKS, MARCH. It may be given only from open ranks. At the command MARCH, the front rank stands fast; the second rank takes one pace forward and halts. Each succeeding rank present takes 2, 3, 4, or 5 paces forward and halts. Each Marine covers. The platoon commander gives the command to close ranks at the same position from which he/she commanded ready front. At the command MARCH, the platoon commander moves by the most direct route and posts 6 paces in front of the center of the platoon.

8-17. TO FORM FOR SHELTER TENTS

a. Shelter tents will be pitched in line and in formation only for the purpose of instruction and formal field inspections of equipment. Normally in bivouac, full use will be made of available cover and concealment and straight lines will be avoided.

b. The platoon forms in one line to pitch shelter tents. If sufficient space is not available, squad lines may be used.

c. Marines armed with rifles will sling arms prior to forming for shelter tents.

d. The platoon being in line, to form in one rank for pitching shelter tents, the commands are FORM FOR SHELTER TENTS TO THE LEFT, MARCH; TAKE INTERVAL TO THE LEFT, MARCH; COUNT OFF.

(1) At the command FORM FOR SHELTER TENTS TO THE LEFT, the second in command moves to a position on the right of the right Marine of the front rank. The messengers take positions on the left of the left Marine of the rear rank. The squad leader of the first squad commands STAND FAST and the squad leaders of the other squads give the supplementary command BY THE LEFT FLANK.

(2) At the command MARCH, all squads except the first face to the left in marching and step off. Squad leaders move their squads into line abreast of the squad(s) already on line by giving the commands BY THE RIGHT FLANK, MARCH and SQUAD, HALT.

(3) At the commands TAKE INTERVAL TO THE LEFT, MARCH; COUNT OFF, given by the platoon commander, the entire rank takes interval and counts off.

e. When directed by the platoon commander, the odd-numbered Marines draw their bayonets and thrust them into the ground alongside the outside of the left heel near the instep. The bayonet indicates the position of the front tent pole. Marines not equipped with bayonets mark the place with the left heel. Odd and even-numbered Marines (numbers 1 and 2, numbers 3 and 4, etc.) pitch tents together.

f. To assemble, the commands are ASSEMBLE TO THE RIGHT, MARCH; RIGHT, FACE; COLUMN OF TWOS (THREES, FOURS) TO THE RIGHT, MARCH. The second in command and messengers resume their normal posts.

#### 8-18. TO FORM COLUMN OF TWOS AND SINGLE FILE AND REFORM

a. The platoon may be marched in column of twos and reform into column by the procedures given below. The change of column is always made from the halt.

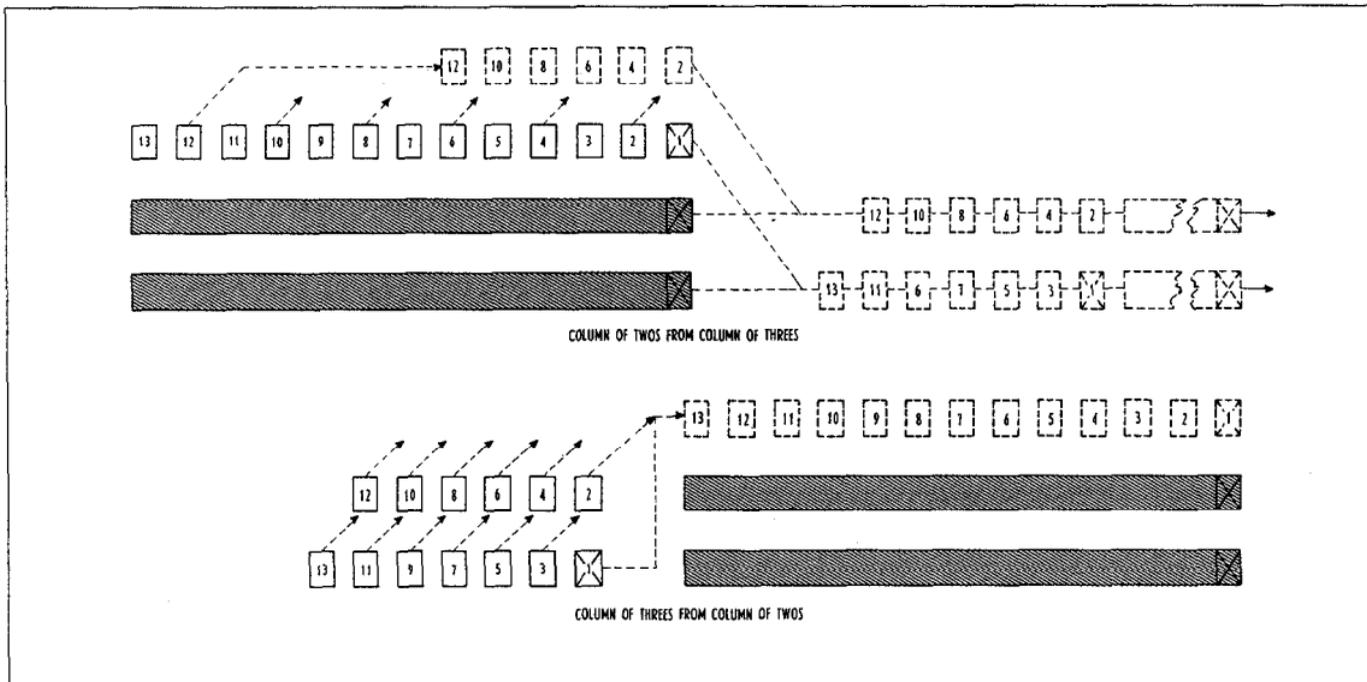
(1) Being in column of threes, to form column of twos, the platoon commander commands COLUMN OF TWOS FROM THE RIGHT (LEFT), MARCH. On the preparatory command, the squad leaders give the following supplementary commands: the two right (left) squad leaders command, FORWARD; the remaining squad leader commands, COLUMN OF TWOS TO THE LEFT (RIGHT). On the platoon commander's command of execution, MARCH, the two right (left) squads march forward; the remaining squad forms column of twos to the left (right) as prescribed in squad drill (see paragraph 7-13) then, on commands of its squad leader, executes column half right (left) and column half left (right) so as to follow the two leading squads at normal distance in column (see fig. 8-5).

(2) Being in column of twos, to reform into column of threes, the platoon commander commands COLUMN OF THREES TO THE LEFT (RIGHT), MARCH. At the preparatory command, squad leaders give the following supplementary commands: the two leading squad leaders command, STAND FAST; and the remaining squad leader commands, COLUMN OF FILES FROM THE RIGHT (LEFT). On the platoon commander's command of execution, MARCH, the two leading squads stand fast; the rear squad forms single file from the right (left) as in squad drill (see paragraph 7-14), then on command of its squad leader, moves to its normal place beside the leading squads by executing a column half left (right) then column half right (left). It is halted by the squad leader when its leading file is on line with the leading rank of the platoon (see fig. 8-5).

b. The platoon, being at a halt, may be marched in single file then reform into column of threes in the same manner as forming into column of twos and reforming into column of threes by giving the following commands.

(1) Being in column of threes, to form column of files, the platoon commander commands COLUMN OF FILES FROM THE RIGHT (LEFT), MARCH. On the preparatory command, squad leaders give the following supplementary commands: right (left) squad leader, FORWARD; remaining squad leaders, STAND FAST. On the platoon commander's command of execution, MARCH, the right (left) squad marches forward; the remaining squads stand fast, then each in succession, on command of its squad leader, executes a column half right (left), then column half left (right), so as to march

Figure 8-5. -- Column of Twos From Column of Threes and Reform.



at normal distance in single file behind the leading squad.

(2) Being in column of files, to reform column of threes, the platoon commander commands COLUMN OF THREES TO THE LEFT (RIGHT), MARCH. At the preparatory command, squad leaders give the following supplementary commands: leading squad leader, STAND FAST; second squad leader, COLUMN HALF LEFT (RIGHT); and third squad leader, FORWARD. On the platoon commander's command of execution, MARCH, the leading squad stands fast; the second squad executes a column half left (right), then on command, of its squad leader, a column half right (left) so as to march at normal interval abreast of the leading squad, then halts when the leading file is abreast of the front file of the leading squad. The third squad marches forward, then, on command of its squad leader, executes a column half left (right), column half right (left), and marches at normal interval alongside the second squad, halting when its leading file is abreast of the front rank of the platoon.

c. When marching in column of twos, the platoon commander is ahead of the left file and the right guide in front of the right file. When marching in single file, the guide leads the platoon, the platoon commander marching abreast of and to the left of the guide.