MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE ORDER P1550.14

From: Director
To: Distribution List
Subj: The United States Marine—Essential Subjects

1. **Purpose.** To publish the handbook, The United States Marine—Essential Subjects.

2. **Background.** The Commandant of the Marine Corps has directed that all enlisted Marines, regardless of grade, MOS, billet, or unit to which assigned, achieve and maintain proficiency in certain essential subjects. This proficiency is initially acquired in recruit training and is the hallmark of a Marine. It enables an enlisted man to sustain himself on the battlefield and enables an enlisted man or woman to function effectively in garrison and to practice those personal and professional traits characteristic of Marines. After recruit training, Marines are evaluated by their commanders to determine if essential subjects proficiency is being maintained.

3. **Training Resource.** This publication, The United States Marine—Essential Subjects, contains information on all the essential subjects and provides a condensed, readily available study aid to supplement more detailed information contained in Fleet Marine Force Manuals, The Guidebook for Marines, and other sources.

4. **Additional Copies.** Additional copies are available upon request. Requests should be made to the Director, Marine Corps Institute. All requests should include Reporting Unit Code (RUC) and Autovon/commercial phone number.

5. **Certification.** Reviewed and approved this date.

J. M. D. HOLLADAY
Deputy

DISTRIBUTION: SPECIAL
# CONTENTS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 1.</th>
<th>CODE OF CONDUCT, MILITARY LAW/UCMJ, AND CONDUCT IN WAR</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2.</td>
<td>MARINE CORPS HISTORY, CUSTOMS, AND COURTESIES</td>
<td>2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3.</td>
<td>CLOSE ORDER DRILL</td>
<td>3-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4.</td>
<td>INTERIOR GUARD</td>
<td>4-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5.</td>
<td>FIRST AID AND FIELD SANITATION</td>
<td>5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6.</td>
<td>UNIFORM CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT</td>
<td>6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7.</td>
<td>PHYSICAL FITNESS</td>
<td>7-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8.</td>
<td>NBC DEFENSE</td>
<td>8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 9.</td>
<td>SERVICE RIFLE AND MARKSMANSHIP</td>
<td>9-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 10.</td>
<td>INDIVIDUAL TACTICAL MEASURES</td>
<td>10-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 11.</td>
<td>SECURITY OF MILITARY INFORMATION</td>
<td>11-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 12.</td>
<td>SUBSTANCE ABUSE</td>
<td>12-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 13.</td>
<td>LAND NAVIGATION (This is not an ESSENTIAL SUBJECT)</td>
<td>13-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Throughout this order the words HE, HIS, HIM, and HIMSELF will be considered to include the meaning of SHE, HERS, HER, and HERSELF except in chapter 10 which, by regulation, is restricted to male Marines only.
Chapter 1. Code of Conduct, Military Law/UCMJ, and Conduct In War

Section I. Code of Conduct

Objective: Provided with a list of the six articles of the Code of Conduct, explain the meaning of each article.

A. CODE OF CONDUCT ARTICLES

1. Article I. "I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense."

INTERPRETATION: I am a Marine. I will fight and, if necessary, die for my country and our way of life.
EXAMPLE: Resistance can demand the ultimate sacrifice—your life. Lance Corporal Jimenez made that sacrifice while serving as a Fire Team Leader with Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 August 1969. On that date Lance Corporal Jimenez’s unit came under heavy attack by North Vietnamese Army soldiers concealed in well-camouflaged emplacements. Lance Corporal Jimenez reacted by seizing the initiative and plunging forward toward the enemy position. He personally destroyed several enemy personnel and silenced an antiaircraft weapon. Shouting encouragement to his companions, Lance Corporal Jimenez continued his aggressive forward movement. He slowly maneuvered to within ten feet of hostile soldiers who
were firing automatic weapons from a trench and, in the face of vicious enemy fire, destroyed the position. Although he was by now the target of concentrated fire from hostile gunners intent upon halting his assault, Lance Corporal Jimenez continued to press forward. As he moved to attack another enemy soldier, he was mortally wounded. Because of his unconquerable courage, aggressive fighting spirit, and unfaltering devotion to duty, Lance Corporal Jimenez was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

2. **Article II.** "I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist."
INTERPRETATION: I will never surrender as long as I can fight, nor will I surrender my men if they can fight. If they lose the means to fight, they will take all possible steps to evade capture.

EXAMPLE: During the Vietnam War, Captain Walsh, an aviator, ejected from his stricken aircraft, and parachuted to the ground. He landed in the midst of a sizeable enemy unit. He immediately drew his service revolver and fired on the opposing force, inflicting a casualty. Taking cover, he continued to engage his adversaries until he ran out of ammunition, at which time he was captured. Placed in a boat en route to a POW camp, he attempted to escape, but was unsuccessful. Once formally imprisoned, Captain Walsh maintained his high degree of courage by resisting his captors' efforts to secure any information from him. By his steadfast policy of noncooperation with the enemy, he provided leadership by example for his fellow POW's. For his courage, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

NOTE: Suppose a man surrenders while he still has the means to fight back or can remain in hiding. What can he expect to gain in captivity? During the Korean War, four out of every ten Americans who became prisoners of the communists died. Untold numbers were coldly executed shortly after laying down their arms, and these were not included in the "prisoner" statistics. The odds are in favor of the man who "sticks by his guns." Since many of the deaths in a prison camp result from lack of will, the person who surrenders to the enemy is even less likely to survive.
3. Article III. "If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy."

INTERPRETATION: If I am captured, I will not take any favors from the enemy, but I will resist and escape, if possible.
EXAMPLE: One prisoner who escaped against great odds was Lieutenant Charles F. Klusmann, a U.S. Navy pilot, shot down over Laos and captured by the communists in June 1964. Lieutenant Klusmann at once decided to escape, if possible. After 2 months of solitary confinement, he was moved in August to another building where some Laotians were imprisoned. Here, he and two other prisoners cautiously mapped out an escape plan.
Their moment came in late August and they succeeded in breaking out of the prison compound. Throughout the night, the three escapees traveled through rice paddies and along wooded trails. A communist patrol recaptured one of the Laotians the next day, but the other two escapees evaded the patrol in the brush. After running for 2 hours, they slowed to a walk keeping to animal trails.
A chilling rain that night added to their misery. At dawn the following day they were on their way again, heading toward friendly troops which they believed to be beyond a high mountain. Keeping a close watch for communist patrols, the two succeeded in crossing over the mountain by late afternoon. That night they risked a small fire to cook some squash they had found. Early the next morning, after finishing the remains of the squash, they resumed their march. Since their escape, Lieutenant Klusmann and his companion had been bothered by painful leech bites which caused their legs to swell. Klusmann's right leg was in such bad shape that he could not lift it without using his hand to lever it along, but by midafternoon the two reached a friendly outpost. That evening a plane was called in to fly Lieutenant Klusmann to safety, capping his escape with a final triumph.

4. Article IV. "If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information nor take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way."
INTERPRETATION: If I am a prisoner I will help my fellow prisoners and not sell them out for favors from the enemy. If senior, I will take charge; if not, I will follow the orders of the senior prisoner, regardless of his branch of service (U.S. or allied nation).

EXAMPLE: While interned as a Prisoner of War by the Viet Cong in Vietnam from December 1964 to December 1967, Colonel (then Captain) Cook answered the call for leadership. Repeatedly assuming more than his share of manual labor in order that the other Prisoners of War could improve the states of their health, Colonel Cook willingly and unselfishly put the interests of his comrades before that of his own well-being and, eventually, his life. Giving more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them, he risked infections from contagious diseases while his health deteriorated rapidly. This unselfish and exemplary conduct, coupled with his refusal to stray even the slightest
from the Code of Conduct, earned him the deepest respect from not only his fellow prisoners, but his captors as well. Rather than negotiate for his own release or better treatment, he steadfastly frustrated attempts by the Viet Cong to break his unconquerable spirit, and passed the same resolve on to the men with whose well-being he so closely associated himself. Knowing his refusals would prevent his release prior to the end of the war, and also knowing his chances for prolonged survival would be small in the event of continued refusal, he chose nevertheless to adhere to a Code of Conduct far above that which could be expected. Colonel Cook was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

5. Article V. "When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth (fig 1-1). I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause."

1-10
INTERPRETATION: If a prisoner, I will give my service number (social security number), name, rank, and date of birth. I may fill out a Geneva Convention Capture Card, (fig 1-1) but I am not required to. I may also write letters home and talk with the enemy about matters of health and welfare. I will say or sign nothing that may hurt my fellow prisoners, my country, or its allies.
EXAMPLE: Shortly after his capture as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War, Captain (then First Lieutenant) Dibernardo and a group of prisoners began a journey to a permanent installation. During this journey, he exerted himself in a positive leadership capacity, maintaining the military organization of the men at all times. In the first of the temporary camps which the group was to occupy, he instructed his group to resist providing anything more than the most basic biographical information. Although subjected to routine cruelties for refusal to cooperate, Captain Dibernardo continued to provide leadership and guidance for his group.

You may but you are not required to provide the information requested on this card. Be especially aware that the enemy may include unauthorized questions on the Capture Card that they offer you.

![Capture Card for Prisoner of War](image)

*Fig 1-2. Geneva Convention Capture Card.*
### CAPTURE CARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. POWER ON WHICH THE PRISONER DEPENDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. NAME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. FIRST NAME (IN FULL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. FIRST NAME OF FATHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. DATE OF BIRTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. PLACE OF BIRTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. RANK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. SERVICE NUMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. TAKEN PRISONER ON: (OR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMING FROM (CAM NO., HOSPITAL, ETC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A) GOOD HEALTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) NOT WOUNDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) RECOVERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) CONVALESCENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) SICK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(F) SLIGHTLY WOUNDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) SERIOUSLY WOUNDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. MY PRESENT ADDRESS IS: PRISONER NO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME OF CAMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. SIGNATURE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*STRIKE OUT WHAT IS NOT APPLICABLE—DO NOT ADD ANY REMARKS—SEE EXPLANATIONS OVERLEAF.*

---

**Fig 1-2. Contd**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WRITE LEGIBLY AND IN BLOCK LETTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13. DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. SIGNATURE JOHN DOE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*STRIKE OUT WHAT IS NOT APPLICABLE—DO NOT ADD ANY REMARKS—SEE EXPLANATIONS OVERLEAF.*

---

1-13

Provided by www.marines.cc
6. Article VI. "I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."

INTERPRETATION: I am a Marine fighting for my country. I will be responsible for my conduct, and I will trust in my God and my country.

EXAMPLE: In 1966 Lieutenant (JG) Dieter Dengler, a U.S. Navy pilot, added another illustrious chapter to the traditions of U.S. fighting men. While on a mission over North Vietnam near the Laotian border on 1 February, his plane was crippled by ground fire and crashed. Unable to avoid capture, Lieutenant Dengler repeatedly refused to give his captors any military information or to sign a propaganda statement condemning the United States. He was severely mistreated for refusing to comply. Months later on 29 June, Lieutenant Dengler and another prisoner, U.S. Air Force First Lieutenant Duane Martin, a helicopter pilot, escaped. The two men, barefoot and weakened by malnutrition and illness, traveled by foot and raft toward safety. Lieutenant Martin was killed by a villager, but Lieutenant Dengler managed to signal a friendly plane and was rescued by helicopter on the 22nd day of his trek to freedom.
B. POW DO'S AND DON'TS

Every American Fighting man must face the fact that he might be captured, even if he does his best to avoid it. Here are some situations to avoid should you fall into enemy hands.

1. Don’t be pressured into "confessing" anything, verbally or in writing. A false confession of guilt can brand you as a "War Criminal" and cost you your POW status; this will deny you the protection of the Geneva Convention and may prevent your return to the U.S. when the war ends.

2. Don’t sign petitions and other documents offered by the enemy. These could be used against you, the United States, or its allies. Even a blank sheet of paper with your signature can be filled in and used by the enemy. (This
does not apply, of course, to authorized forms
notifying your family and proper authorities of
your capture, address, and state of health.)

3. Don't make oral statements, publicly or privately,
which could be useful to the enemy.

4. Don't allow yourself to be drawn into conversa-
tion with the enemy. One slip of the tongue
could be deadly.

5. Don't pose for photographs other than an of-
official identification photograph. Photographs
can be used as "proof" of almost anything the
enemy wants to prove.

6. Don't invent lies when being interrogated. It is
better to reply "I don't know" than to lie.

7. Don't accept parole or favors from the enemy.
You can be sure that such "favors" would place
you under an obligation to the enemy.

8. Do be firm but polite in your contacts with the
enemy. Yielding to the impulse to take a punch
at the interrogator could bring you harsher
treatment.

9. Do plan your escape under the guidance and
supervision of the senior military person and
the POW organization, even if this means a
long wait for the right opportunity. In your
escape plan, consider the welfare of the POW'S left
behind.
10. Do take command if you are senior. If you can't do it openly, do it secretly.

11. Do bear in mind at all times that discipline and unity are powerful weapons in a POW camp.

12. Do retain hope. DON'T yield to despair or indulge in self-pity.

NOTE: The UCMJ applies to members of the Armed Services even in a POW situation.
Section II. Military Law/UCMJ

Objectives:
1. State the purpose and function of the military justice system.
2. Describe the rights of an accused before a court-martial and before any administrative and nonjudicial proceeding.

A. PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM

The purpose of the military justice system is to establish a means for insuring good order and discipline within the military community. The system serves the same function as criminal statutes in a civilian community. Obedience to military law is the responsibility of each Marine.

B. RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED

An accused person has certain rights before a court-martial and also before any judicial or non-judicial proceeding in which the accused is subject to charges or in which his conduct is subject to inquiry. Nowhere in any legal system is a person given more protection of his rights than he is under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The Code is of great importance to you because it explains your legal responsibilities while protecting and guaranteeing your rights. Listed below are some of the rights to which every Marine is entitled.
1. JUDICIAL RIGHTS.

a. Innocent until proven guilty. The basic principle of law, both in and out of the service, is that an accused person is considered to be innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt is always on the prosecution. Unless at least two-thirds of the court (or the military judge where the accused elects trial by the military judge) are convinced beyond any reasonable doubt by the prosecution in court, then the accused is acquitted (set free), even though he may not have presented any evidence in his own defense.

b. Right to remain silent. This is a protection against self-incrimination. In other words, you cannot be forced to say anything that might be used to help convict you. The prosecution has to prove the case against you on its own. The right to remain silent about a crime applies to investigations as well as to a court-martial. Under the UCMJ, anyone who is investigating a crime is required to advise you of this right before he can ask you any questions about the crime. If you decide to answer the questions, you are warned that your answers can be used as evidence against you in a subsequent trial.

c. Right to be represented by a lawyer. You have the right to consult with a lawyer before being questioned about a crime in which you are suspect and to have your lawyer present during questioning. A military lawyer will be appointed to defend you at no expense, unless you wish to hire a civilian attorney at your own expense.

d. Protection against double jeopardy. Every Marine is protected against former jeopardy (double jeopardy). This means that once a person has been declared innocent of wrongdoing by a court-martial, he can never
be tried again by a court-martial for the same crime.

b. Right to call witnesses. The accused has the right to be able to compel witnesses to appear in court who can present evidence favorable to him. If the witness is a civilian, he can be issued a subpoena which is an order from the court-martial to appear. He must appear or be in violation of Federal law. If the witness is in the military, then his service will prepare orders sending him to testify.

c. Right to sentence review. Every Marine has the right to have a conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher authority. In the military, every case is reviewed automatically by higher authority. The sentence can never be increased, but may be decreased or left as is.

g. Right to speedy public trial. The accused has the right to a speedy and public trial.

h. Right to be informed of charges. A Marine has the right to be informed of charges preferred against him for any type court-martial. The immediate commander will inform him of the charges against him. Further, at the beginning of an investigation of charges that may result in trial by a general court-martial, the accused Marine must be informed of the offense charged against him, the name of the accuser, and the names of known witnesses against him.

i. Right to an interpreter. Any Marine who does not fully understand the English language has the right to have an interpreter present at any court-martial proceedings to translate all questions or statements.

j. Protection against illegal search or seizure. Evidence obtained through illegal search or seizure cannot be used against an accused.
k. Right to challenge members of the court. You may challenge for cause the right of any member of the court to sit in judgment of you. You may also challenge one member of the court peremptorily. (You do not have to state the reason for challenging this member.)

l. Right to have enlisted representation on the court. When tried by a general or special court-martial, and no enlisted members have been appointed to the court, you may request in writing that enlisted members be so assigned. If enlisted membership is requested, at least one-third of the court membership must be enlisted.

m. Right to be tried by a military judge. If you are the accused in a general or special court-martial, you may request, in writing, to be tried by a military judge alone rather than by a court-martial.

n. Right to trial by court-martial. You have the right to refuse Article 15 punishment (office-hours) and demand trial by court-martial instead, unless embarked upon a vessel. You also have the right to object to trial by a summary court-martial. You may then be awarded a special or general court-martial by the appropriate convening authority.

2. NON-JUDICIAL RIGHTS.

a. Right to appear before boards. You have the right to appear before an administrative discharge board.

b. Right to appear before fact-finding bodies. When you are a party before a fact-finding body, you have the right to be present during the proceedings of the body except when the investigation is cleared for deliberations. Your presence before the fact-finding body, in addition to
several other rights, affords you the following specific rights of considerable importance:

- To examine and object to the introduction of physical and documentary evidence and written statements.
- To object to the testimony of witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses other than your own.
- To introduce evidence in your own behalf.
- To testify as a witness in your own behalf.
- To make a voluntary statement for the official record.

For additional training in this area, references are provided below:


2. MCO P1900.16B Marine Corps Separation and Retirement Manual

1-22
Section III. Request Mast

Objective: Define "Request Mast" and describe the procedures involved.

A. DEFINITION

Request mast is a procedure in which an individual can discuss any matter with commanding officers in the chain of command. The Marine Corps uses the chain of command to accomplish its mission and see to the morale, physical well-being, and general welfare of Marines.

B. PURPOSE

1. Request mast procedures are designed to provide timely and appropriate responses to petitions of individual Marines by commanding officers in the chain of command. These procedures are meant to create confidence in request mast as a way to solve problems. Compliance with the spirit and intent of these procedures will maintain this confidence and encourage the resolution of personal problems at the lowest possible level.

2. Marines may not be prohibited from speaking with their commanding officers at a proper time and place. Persons who try to prevent access to the commanding officer may be subject to disciplinary action. However, a commanding officer can deny request mast if disciplinary action is pending concerning the matter and the request mast would improperly affect the pending reviewing action of the officer who began the disciplinary action.
3. Every Marine also has the right to be granted request mast with commanders up to and including the immediate commanding general within the chain of command who is located at the same base or immediate geographic location. An individual may write to higher commanders including the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Secretary of the Navy and ask for request mast, but does not have a right to personally meet with either.

C. PROCEDURES

Marine Corps chains of command are clear; however, a few commands are dispersed over a wide area, and this has caused some confusion concerning who should be the commanding general for the purpose of request mast. Also, it is not always possible for a Marine to request mast with the commanding general when the commanding general is in another geographic area. To identify the commanding general for purposes of request mast for areas where there is no general officer immediately assigned, you should refer to the current edition of MCO 1700.23, request mast.

1. REQUESTING MAST BELOW THE COMMANDING GENERAL LEVEL.

a. Requests will be submitted at the lowest echelon and forwarded via the chain of command to the commander before whom the requestor wishes to appear.

b. The requestor does not have to state the matter of concern either orally or in writing, to anyone in the chain of command except to the officer with whom the Marine wishes to request mast.

c. There should be no more than a 24 hour delay at any level, whenever possible.

d. Marines may request mast without fear of prejudice to their interest.
e. Upon completion of request mast, the requestor must make a written statement regarding his degree of satisfaction with the outcome.

f. If a request mast petition with a higher commander is resolved by a lower commander, the requestor will make a witnessed, written statement in the record indicating his satisfaction with the action taken and his willingness to withdraw his request mast to the higher commander.

g. Request mast will be conducted at the earliest reasonable time and not later than 72 hours after submission of the request, whenever possible. Emergency cases will be heard as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours from preparation of the request mast.

2. REQUESTING MAST WITH A COMMANDING GENERAL.

a. The requestor must prepare a complete written statement about the reasons for the request mast, to include a list of witnesses with a summary of the expected testimony of each.

b. If applicable, documents to support the request mast must be attached.

c. The written statement must also include a list of persons in the chain of command whom the requestor has seen at request mast and the action taken by these individuals.

For additional training in this area, the following reference is provided below:

1. MCO 1700.23A Request Mast
Section IV. Conduct in War

Objective: Explain the nine principles governing Marines' conduct as stated by the Law of War.

A. PURPOSES OF THE LAW OF WAR

The conduct of armed hostilities on land is regulated by the law of land warfare which is both written and unwritten. It is inspired by the desire to diminish the evils of war by:

- Protecting both combatants and noncombatants from unnecessary suffering;
- Safeguarding certain fundamental human rights of persons who fall into the hands of the enemy, particularly prisoners of war, the wounded, the sick, and civilians; and
- To help bring peace.

B. BACKGROUND

The Secretary of Defense has directed the Armed Forces of the United States to comply with the Law of War in the conduct of military operations and to establish programs to prevent violations of the Law of War as required by those international treaties which regulate armed conflicts.

C. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF WAR

Discipline in combat is essential. Disobedience to the Law of War dishonors the nation, the Marine Corps, and the individual Marine; and, far from weakening the enemy's will to fight, it strengthens it. The following
basic principles require the Marine's adherence in the accomplishment of any mission:

- Marines fight only enemy combatants.
- Marines do not harm enemies who surrender. Disarm them and turn them over to your superior.
- Marines do not kill or torture prisoners.
- Marines collect and care for the wounded, whether friend or foe.
- Marines do not attack medical personnel, facilities, or equipment.
- Marines destroy no more than the mission requires.
- Marines treat all civilians humanely.
- Marines do not steal. Marines respect private property and possessions.
- Marines should do their best to prevent violations of the Law of War. Report all violations of the Law of War to your superior.

Violations of these principles detract from the commander's ability to accomplish his mission, have an adverse impact on public opinion (both national and international), have on occasion served to prolong conflict by inciting an opponent to continue resistance, and in most cases constitute violations of the UCMJ.

These principles are consistent with the principles of war, principles of leadership, and tactical considerations. Violations of these principles disregard these basic military tenets and prejudice the good order and discipline essential to success in combat.
D. SOURCES OF THE LAW OF WAR

The Law of War is derived from two principal sources:

- Lawmaking treaties (or conventions) and
- Custom.

Under the Constitution, treaties constitute part of the "Supreme Law of the Land" and have a force equal to laws enacted by Congress. Although some of the Law of War is not incorporated in any treaty or convention to which the United States is a party, this body of unwritten or customary law is firmly established by the custom of nations. It is also part of the law of the United States and is binding upon the United States, its citizens, and persons serving in the Armed Forces of this country.

For additional training in this area, the following reference is provided below:

1. MCO 3300.2 Law of War Training in the Marine Corps
Chapter 2. Marine Corps History, Customs, and Courtesies

Section I. Marine Corps History

Objectives:
1. Explain the origin of the terms “Devil Dog” and “Leatherneck.”
2. Name the World War II battle in which the famous flag raising by Marines occurred.
3. State the basic mission of the Marine Corps.
4. Give four examples where the Marine Corps mission has been accomplished.

A. DEVIL DOG

The term “Devil Dog” came into use during World War I, and is said to have originated as follows: During interrogation, a captured German soldier was asked his opinion of U.S. Marines in the bitter fighting in Belleau Wood during June, 1918. He replied that the Marines fought like teufel hunden, legendary wild, devil dogs that at one time roamed the forests of northern Germany.

B. LEATHERNECK

On 25 March 1804 the first official uniform order was issued by the Marine Corps and approved by the Secretary of the Navy directing Marine officers to wear “black leather stock (collars) when on duty.” The wearing of these heavy leather collars is believed to be the foun-
dation of the nickname “Leathernecks” for the U.S. Marines. While the leather stock, worn by Marines from 1775 to 1881, was intended to resemble the high stocks and collars of the early years, it was retained by the Marine Corps to make the Marine keep his head erect while in uniform.

C. FLAG RAISING ON IWO JIMA

The raising of the American flag at Mt. Suribachi became perhaps the most famous single photograph ever taken. It was immortalized in the largest bronze statue in the world—the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, VA.

D. MARINE CORPS MISSION

Historically, Marine Corps preparedness has generally been characterized by the phrase, "The First to Fight." Marines are trained, organized, and equipped for offensive amphibious employment and as a "force in readi-
ness.” Officially, the mission of the Marine Corps is set forth in the National Security Act of 1947 as amended (1952). The key parts of the act are listed below.

1. To seize or defend advanced naval bases and to conduct such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign.

2. To provide detachments and organizations for service in armed vessels of the Navy or for protection of naval property on naval stations and bases.

3. To develop, with the other Armed Forces, the tactics, techniques, and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations.

4. To train and equip, as required, Marine forces for airborne operations.

5. To develop, with the other Armed Forces, doctrine, procedures, and equipment of interest to the Marine Corps for airborne operations which are not provided for by the Army.

6. To be able to expand from peacetime components to meet the needs of war in accordance with mobilization plans.

D. MARINE CORPS PARTICIPATION IN WARS AND CONFLICTS

Our mission and readiness has caused us, throughout our history, to take part in many wars and conflicts in the defense of freedom. Some of the more prominent examples where the Marine Corps’ mission has been accomplished are listed below:
1. 1775-1940.
   a. Revolutionary War
   b. Naval War with France
   c. War with Tripoli
   d. War of 1812
   e. Florida Indian War
   f. Mexican War
   g. Civil War
   h. Spanish-American War
   i. Philippine Insurrection
   j. Boxer Rebellion
   k. World War I
   l. Banana Wars in Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua

2. World War II.
   a. Wake
   b. Midway
   c. Solomon Islands
      (1) Guadalcanal
      (2) New Georgia
      (3) Bougainville
   d. Gilbert Islands, Tarawa
   e. Marshall Islands
      (1) Roi-Namur
      (2) Kwajalein
   f. Marianas Islands
      (1) Saipan
      (2) Tinian
      (3) Guam
   g. Palau Islands, Peleliu
   h. Iwo Jima
   i. Okinawa

3. Post World War II.
   a. Korea
   b. Dominican Republic
   c. Republic of Vietnam
   d. Seizure of the Mayaguez

For additional training in this area, the following references are provided below:

1. Marine Corps Museum Historical Pamphlets
Section II. Marine Corps Customs

Objectives:
1. Name the birthplace and birthdate of the Marine Corps.
2. Name the three elements of the Marine Corps emblem and state the meaning of each.
3. State the motto of the Marine Corps and what it means.

The Marine Corps is rich in customs and traditions. These are the things that make the Marine Corps what it is. You begin your knowledge of customs and traditions in recruit training and continue this education throughout your life as a Marine. Every Marine should know the following important facts.

A. BIRTHDAY

The birthday of the Marine Corps is 10 November 1775. The legendary birthplace of the Marine Corps was Tun Tavern (fig 2-1) a favorite meeting place in 18th century Philadelphia.

Fig 2-1. Tun Tavern.

2-5

Provided by www.marines.cc
B. EMBLEM

The emblem (fig 2-2) of the Marine Corps consists of the eagle, globe, and anchor. The globe and anchor signify worldwide service and sea traditions. The spread eagle is a symbol of the nation itself. The emblem was adopted by Brigadier General Jacob Zeilin, 7th Commandant, in 1868.

Fig 2-2. Marine Corps emblem.

C. MOTTO

The motto of the Corps is "Semper Fidelis" which is Latin for "always faithful."
Section III. Marine Corps Courtesies

Objectives:
1. Demonstrate the correct honors to be observed to officers, uncased colors, during morning and evening colors, and during the playing of the National Anthem and the Marine's Hymn.
2. Demonstrate the correct honors to be observed when embarking and debarking a naval vessel.

A. SALUTING OFFICERS

1. When meeting an officer who is either walking (fig 2-3) or riding (fig 2-4), salute between 6-30 paces to give him or her time to return your salute before you are abreast of the officer. Hold the salute until it is returned, and accompany the salute with "Good morning, sir or ma'am" or some other appropriate greeting.

Fig 2-3. Saluting an officer at six paces.
Fig 2-4. Saluting an officer in a vehicle.

2. Render the salute but once if the senior remains in the immediate vicinity. If conversation takes place, however, again salute when the senior leaves, or when you depart.

3. When passing an officer who is going in the same direction as you, come abreast of the officer, salute and say, “By your leave sir or ma’am.” He or she will return the salute and say “Carry On” or “Granted.” You then finish your salute and pass ahead (fig 2-5).
Fig 2-5. Saluting when overtaking an officer.

4. When armed with a rifle, the rifle salute is executed except when on guard duty when Present Arms is rendered (fig 2-6).

Fig 2-6. Saluting when armed with a rifle.
5. Do not salute if you are engaged in work or play unless spoken to directly.

6. Members of the Naval Service are required to render a salute to officers, regular and reserve, of the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, members of the Army Nurse Corps and Navy Nurse Corps, and to foreign military and naval officers whose governments are formally recognized by the Government of the United States.

7. In general, one does not salute when: at work, indoors (except when under arms, fig 2-7), guarding prisoners, under battle conditions, or when a prisoner.

![Fig 2-7. Saluting an officer when indoors and under arms.](image)

8. Individuals not armed with a rifle and in formations do not salute, except at the command “Present Arms.”
9. Upon the approach of a superior officer, individuals of a group not in formation are called to attention by the first person noticing the officer and all come smartly to attention and salute (fig 2-8).

Fig 2-8. Group not in formation saluting an officer.

B. REPORTING TO AN OFFICER

1. When ordered to report to an officer, either outdoors or indoors, if under arms, approach the officer at attention and halt about 2 paces from the officer, render the appropriate salute and say "Sir or Ma'am, reporting as ordered," using your name and grade. For example: Sir or Ma'am, Private Jones reporting as ordered." Hold the salute until it is acknowledged. When the business is completed, salute and after the salute has been returned, take one step backward, execute about face and depart at attention.

2. When reporting to an officer indoors when not under
arms, follow the same procedure except remove your headgear before approaching the officer and do not salute.

C. SALUTING WHILE STANDING GUARD AS A SENTRY

1. If you are walking a post, halt and salute by presenting arms (fig 2-9) when you carry a rifle with a parade sling. If you are otherwise armed, or if you are carrying your rifle at sling arms, give the hand salute (fig 2-10). If you are touring a roving post, you do not halt unless spoken to, but you give the rifle salute when armed with a rifle and the hand salute when otherwise armed.

Fig 2-9. Present arms.
Fig 2-10. Hand Salute when rifle is at sling arms.

2. During the hours when you are required to challenge, salute an officer as soon as he is recognized. If your orders require you to come to the position of raise pistol while challenging, you will not salute (fig 2-12).

3. You salute an officer as he comes to your post. If the officer stops to hold a conversation with you, assume the position of port arms, if armed with a rifle (fig 2-11), or the position of attention (fig 2-12) throughout the conversation. You salute again when the officer leaves.
Fig 2-11. Port arms while talking to an officer.

Fig 2-12. Position of raised pistol.
4. If you are in a conversation with an officer, do not interrupt the conversation to salute another officer. In case the officer to whom you are talking salutes a senior, you also salute.

5. When the flag is raised at morning colors or lowered at evening colors, you stand at attention at the first note of the National Anthem or "To the Colors" (Standard) and render the prescribed salute. If you are engaged in some duty which would be hampered, you need not salute. You usually face the flag while saluting, but if your duty requires it, you can face in another direction. When the music sounds "Carry On" you resume regular duties.

D. RENDERING HONORS DURING COLORS AND PLAYING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

1. Whenever the National Anthem or To the Colors is played and you are not in formation and not in a vehicle, come to attention at the first note, face the flag, and render the prescribed salute. Hold the salute until the last note of music is sounded.

2. If no flag is near, face the music and salute.

3. If in formation, salute only on the order, "Present Arms."

4. Vehicles in motion are brought to a halt. Troops riding in vehicles do not disembark. They and the driver remain seated at attention and do not salute. Drivers and passengers riding either in military or private vehicles remain seated at attention and do not salute.

5. If outdoors and uncovered, stand at attention and face the direction of the flag or music. When the National
Anthem is played indoors, officers and enlisted men will stand at attention and face the music or flag if one is present.

6. When passing or being passed by an uncased color which is being paraded, presented, or is on formal display, salute at six paces distance and hold the salute until six paces beyond it or until it has passed you by six paces (fig 2-13).

7. If uncovered, stand or march at attention when passing or being passed by an uncased color. The marks of respect shown above are also rendered to the national anthem of any friendly country when played upon official occasions.
E. RENDERING HONORS DURING THE PLAYING OF THE MARINE'S HYMN

An important part of Marine traditions is the Marine's Hymn. During the playing of this music, all Marines stand at attention whether in uniform or civilian attire. This tradition also applies to former Marines.

F. PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING VEHICLES AND BOARDING NAVAL VESSELS

1. When entering an automobile, small boat, or ship the junior goes first and the others follow in inverse order of rank. In leaving, the senior goes first and the others follow in order of rank.

2. When boarding a naval ship, upon reaching the top of the gangway (brow) face aft and salute the National Ensign (fig 2-14). After completing this salute, salute the officer of the deck who will be standing on the quarterdeck at the head of the gangway (brow) and request permission to come aboard. When leaving the ship, render the salutes in reverse order (fig 2-14). First salute the officer of the deck and request permission to go ashore. Then salute the National Ensign and leave the ship.

BOARDING—0800 to Sunset

a. First, salute the National Ensign at top of gangway (brow).

*Fig 2-14. Boarding and departing a naval vessel.*

2-17

Provided by www.marines.cc
b. Second, turn and salute OOD and request permission to come aboard.

Fig 2-14. Contd

DEPARTING-0800 to sunset (reverse procedure)

a. First, salute OOD and request permission to go ashore.

b. Second, go to top of gangway (brow), turn aft, and salute the National Ensign.

BOARDING AND DEPARTING SUNSET TO 0800

Follow the above procedure but do not turn aft and salute the National Ensign.
Chapter 3. Close Order Drill

This text will not attempt to duplicate the NAVMC 2691, but will present highlights or key points.

Section I. The Purpose of Close Order Drill

Objective: State the purpose of close order drill.

PURPOSE. A unit leader uses drill to:

- Move a unit from one place to another in a standard, orderly manner.
- Provide simple formations from which combat formations may be readily assumed.
- Teach discipline by instilling habits of precision and automatic response to orders.
- Increase the confidence of subordinate leaders through the exercise of command, by the giving of proper commands, and by the control of drilling Marines.
- Give Marines an opportunity to handle individual weapons.

For additional training in this area, the following reference is provided:

1. NAVMC 2691   Drill and Ceremonies Manual

3-1

Provided by www.marines.cc
Section II. Drill Movements
Without Arms

Objective: Individually or in formation, execute on command, all of
the drill movements without arms.

A. STATIONARY

1. ATTENTION (fig 3-1). Come to attention at the
command FALL IN or ATTENTION. Thereafter, move only
as ordered until given AT EASE, REST, or FALL OUT.

2. RESTS. There are four positions of rest for halted
Marines. All are executed from the position of attention.

   a. PARADE REST. Left foot is moved smartly 12 in-
   ches to the left. Join hands behind your back, right hand
   inside left, palms to rear just below the belt, right hand
   loosely holding left thumb, fingers extended and joined.
   Do not move. Do not talk.

   b. AT EASE. Keep right foot in place. Move, but do
   not talk.

   c. REST. Move and talk, but keep your right foot in
   place.

   d. FALL OUT. You may leave your position in ranks,
   but remain nearby. When FALL IN is given, resume your
   position in ranks at attention.
3. **EYES RIGHT.** When RIGHT is given, turn your head smartly and look 45° to the right. At the command READY, FRONT, turn your head and eyes smartly to the front. When a reviewing officer troops the line, READY, FRONT will not be given after EYES, RIGHT. As the reviewing officer passes your unit, follow him with your head and eyes until you are looking directly to the front.

4. **HAND SALUTE** (fig 3-2). Execute the movement at the command HAND, SALUTE or PRESENT, ARMS. Hold it until given the command ORDER, ARMS or READY, TWO.
5. **FACINGS.** All facing movements are done from the position of attention and in the cadence of quick time. The three facing movement are:

- Right face,
- Left face,
- About face,

**B. STEPS AND MARCHING**

With the exception of RIGHT STEP, all steps in marching which begin from a halt, start with the left foot.

1. **QUICK TIME.** From the halt, command is FORWARD, MARCH. Step is 30 inches at 120 steps per minute.

2. **DOUBLE TIME.** Command is DOUBLE TIME, MARCH. Take 180, 36-inch steps per minute. To resume normal cadence, command is QUICK TIME, MARCH.

3. **HALT.** Command is SQUAD (or appropriate unit), HALT.

4. **MARK TIME.** Command is MARK TIME, MARCH. May be given from the halt, marching at quick time, half step, or double time in place. Ball of foot is raised approximately 2 inches from the deck at a cadence of 120 steps per minute. To resume the quick time, the command is FORWARD, MARCH.

5. **DOUBLE TIME IN PLACE.** Command is IN PLACE, DOUBLE TIME, MARCH.

6. **HALF STEP.** To march with 15-inch steps, the command is HALF-STEP, MARCH. To resume a 30-Inch step, the command is FORWARD, MARCH.
7. **SIDE STEP.** The command RIGHT (LEFT) STEP, MARCH is given only at the halt. At the command, MARCH, move your right foot 12 inches to the right, then place your left foot beside your right. Continue until command is given, SQUAD, HALT.

8. **BACK STEP.** Command is BACKWARD, MARCH. Given only from the halt. Continue until command is given, SQUAD, HALT.

9. **TO FACE IN MARCHING OR MARCH BY THE FLANK.** Except for instructional purposes, the command is given only while marching. Command is BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, MARCH. To resume marching in column another flanking movement is used.

10. **TO FACE ABOUT WHILE MARCHING.** The command is TO THE REAR, MARCH.

11. **TO CHANGE STEP.** Command is CHANGE STEP, MARCH.

12. **TO MARCH AT EASE.** Command is AT EASE, MARCH. Maintain distance and interval. Don't talk.

13. **TO MARCH AT ROUTE STEP.** Command is ROUTE STEP, MARCH. Maintain interval and distance. You may talk.

14. **TO RESUME QUICK TIME FROM AT EASE OR ROUTE STEP.** The command is SQUAD, ATTENTION.

For additional training in this area, the following reference is provided:

1. NAVMC 2691 Drill and Ceremonies Manual

3-5

Provided by www.marines.cc
Section III. Manual of Arms

Objective: Individually or in formation, execute on command, all of the drill movements with the M16 rifle.

All male Marines must be able to execute the manual of arms with the M16 rifle while stationary or on the march. Figure 3-3 illustrates the M16 rifle prepared for drill. Note the position of the sling.

![M16 prepared for drill.](image)

A. STATIONARY

1. ORDER ARMS (fig 3-4). Order arms is the basic position from which a Marine may execute other drill movements. All facing movements must be executed from order arms.

2. TRAIL ARMS (fig 3-5). The command is given when the unit is to move short distances. It is given only from order arms. To assume the position of trail arms, the command is TRAIL, ARMS.
3. PARADE REST (fig 3-6).

Fig 3-6. Parade rest.
4. **PRESENT ARMS.** Present arms is given in formation to render honors. It is also the proper salute given by an armed sentry.

a. Present arms from order arms (fig 3-7).

![Fig 3-7. Order arms to present arms.](image)

b. Present arms to order arms (fig 3-8).

![Fig 3-8. Present arms to order arms.](image)
5. **PORT ARMS.** From port arms the Marine may return to order arms or continue to right (left) shoulder arms. It is basically an intermediate movement between order arms and shoulder movements.

a. Order arms to port arms (fig 3-9).

![Fig 3-9. Order arms to port arms.](image1)

b. Port arms to order arms (fig 3-10).

![Fig 3-10. Port arms to order arms.](image2)
c. Port arms to right shoulder arms (fig 3-11).

![Fig 3-11. Port arms to right shoulder arms.]

d. Port arms to left shoulder arms (fig 3-12).

![Fig 3-12. Port arms to left shoulder arms.]

3-10
6. RETURN TO ORDER ARMS.

a. Right shoulder arms to order arms (fig 3-13).

---

Fig 3-13. Right shoulder arms to order arms.

3-11
b. Left shoulder arms to order arms (fig 3-14).

Fig 3-14. Left shoulder arms to order arms.
7. RIFLE SALUTES.

a. Rifle salute from right shoulder arms (fig 3-15).

b. Rifle salute from order arms (fig 3-16).
c. Rifle salute from left shoulder arms (fig 3-17).

Fig 3-17. Rifle salute from left shoulder arms.

d. Rifle salute from trail arms (fig 3-18).

Fig 3-18. Rifle salute from trail arms.
8. **INSPECTION ARMS.**
   
a. Order arms to inspection arms (fig 3-19).

*Fig 3-19. Order arms to inspection arms.*

3-15
b. Inspection arms to port arms (fig 3-20).

Fig 3-20. Inspection arms to port arms.
B. MARCHING

1. The manual of arms may be executed while on the march. In each case, the command of execution will be given on the same foot as the direction of the movement of the rifle. For example, to move from right shoulder arms to port arms, the command would be given as the left foot strikes the deck. The command to move from port arms to left shoulder arms is also given on the left foot. To return to right shoulder arms or port arms from left shoulder arms, the command is given on the right foot.

2. The rifle movements shown above may be combined in a number of ways while on the march. The basic movements must be learned separately, then combined during drill in order to ensure knowledge and proficiency by your unit.

3. The normal cadence for rifle movements is quick time.

For additional training in this area, the following reference is provided:

1. NAVMC 2691 Drill and Ceremonies Manual

3-17

Provided by www.marines.cc
Section IV. Execution of Drill Movements

Objective: As a member of a squad or platoon, execute all of the drill movements relating to the squad or platoon.

A. SQUAD DRILL

1. GENERAL. The normal formation of a squad is a rank (line) or file (column) (fig 3-21). The squad marches in line for minor changes of position only.

When the squad is armed with rifles the command RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS or SLING, ARMS is given before giving a command to move the squad. If the squad is only to be moved a short distance it may be done at trail arms which will be assumed automatically at the command MARCH. The squad will automatically come to order arms on HALT.

---

Fig 3-21. Squad formations.

3-18
NOTE: Symbols used in the figures showing drill movements in this chapter are taken from the Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual and are reproduced below.

Platoon Commander

Platoon Sergeant

Platoon Guide

Squad Leader

Fire Team Leader

2. TO FORM THE SQUAD.

a. To form at normal interval (fig 3-22), the command is FALL IN. As soon as each man has obtained interval, he returns to attention.
b. To form at close interval (fig 3-23) the command is AT CLOSE INTERVAL, FALL IN.

c. If the squad is armed, fall in at order arms.

![Fig 3-23. Close interval.]

3. TO DISMISS THE SQUAD.

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

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

C. Unarmed troops are given the command, DISMISSED.

4. TO COUNT OFF.

a. In line the command is COUNT, OFF. All men except the right flank man turn their heads smartly to the
right. The right flank man shouts ONE. The next man turns his head to the front and shouts TWO, the next THREE, and so on down the line. Cadence is quick time.

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

5. TO ALINE THE SQUAD.

a. In line, the command is DRESS RIGHT, DRESS or AT CLOSE INTERVAL, DRESS RIGHT, DRESS. Aline ment and interval are obtained as in FALL IN (figs 3-22 and 3-23). All men except the squad leader position themselves by short side steps until their right shoulder touch the fingertips of the men on their right. At close interval the right arms touch the elbows of the men on the right as in figure 3-23. The instructor or leader places himself on line with the squad one pace from the right flank man and faces down the line. He orders the men to move backward or forward as necessary.

b. When alinement is correct, the leader faces to the right in marching and moves 3 paces forward, halts, faces to the left and commands, READY, FRONT.

c. In column, the command is COVER. Men move as necessary to place themselves directly behind the man in front of them, still maintaining a 40-inch distance.

6. TO OBTAIN CLOSE INTERVAL FROM NORMAL INTERVAL IN LINE.

The command is CLOSE, MARCH. All men, except the right flank man, face to the right as in marching, march forward until a 4-inch interval has been obtained, halt,
and face to the left. They then obtain proper interval as in falling in at close interval.

7. TO OBTAIN NORMAL FROM CLOSE INTERVAL IN LINE.

The command is EXTEND, MARCH. All men, except the right flank man, face to the left as in marching, march forward until approximate normal interval is obtained, halt, and face to the right. Obtain proper interval as in falling in.

8. TO OBTAIN DOUBLE-ARM INTERVAL IN LINE.

a. The command is TAKE INTERVAL TO THE LEFT, MARCH. Movement is as in extending except that both arms are raised (right flank man raises only his left arm and the left flank man raises only his right arm).

b. To return to normal interval, the command is ASSEMBLE TO THE RIGHT, MARCH.

9. TO MARCH TO THE FLANK FROM IN LINE.

a. The commands are RIGHT (LEFT) FACE; FORWARD, MARCH.

b. Under arms, the commands are RIGHT, (LEFT) FACE; RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS; FORWARD MARCH.

10. TO MARCH TO THE OBLIQUE.

a. The command is RIGHT (LEFT) OBLIQUE, MARCH. Each man faces half right (left) in marching and steps off at a 45° angle from the original direction of march.
b. To return to the original direction, the command is FORWARD, MARCH.

c. If marching in the oblique and given HALT, each man takes one more step in oblique, faces 45° in the original direction of march, and halts.

d. For a temporary halt in the oblique direction, the command is, IN PLACE, HALT. The only command that can be given after halting in place is, RESUME, MARCH.

11. TO MARCH TO THE FLANK.

a. To move a column a short distance to the right or left while marching the command is, BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, MARCH.

b. Each man takes one more step and faces to the right (left) in marching and steps out in the new direction.

c. The command will not be given at the halt.

12. TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF A COLUMN.

a. The command is COLUMN RIGHT (COLUMN LEFT, COLUMN HALF RIGHT, COLUMN HALF LEFT), MARCH. The front man faces to the right (left) in marching and steps out with his right (left) foot in the new direction. 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 new direction.

b. When halted, at the command MARCH, the front man faces to the new direction in marching and steps out

3-23

Provided by www.marines.cc
with his left foot. At the same time, all other men march forward and successively face in the new direction on the same pivot point used by the front man.

c. For slight changes of direction, the command is INCLINE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT). At the command, the front man changes direction as commanded. All other men do likewise when they come to the pivot point used by the front man. This is not a precise movement. It is executed when marching around a curve in a road or to bypass an obstacle such as a parked car.

13. TO FORM COLUMN OF TWOS FROM SINGLE FILE (fig 3-24).
14. TO SINGLE FILE FROM COLUMN OF TWOS (fig 3-25).

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 man and number two man step off at the same time. Number one man moves forward and the number two man faces to the half right, moves two steps and faces 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 one and two, and follow in file at normal distance.

Fig 3-25. Forming single file from column of twos.
B. PLATOON DRILL

1. FORMATIONS.

a. Column and line are the two formations for a platoon (figs 3-26 and 3-27).

![Diagram of platoon formations]

*Fig 3-26. Platoon on line.*

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. The platoon marches in line for short distances only.

2. TO FORM THE PLATOON. The platoon is normally formed by the platoon sergeant with the command, FALL IN. The guide takes his post and the platoon aligns on him using the same procedure as the squad drill.

3. TO DISMISS THE PLATOON. The platoon is dismissed only from a line with men at attention. The procedure is the same as for squad drill except that the platoon sergeant normally dismisses the platoon.

4. TO ALINE THE PLATOON. Procedure is the same as in squad drill except that the platoon commander will
verify alignment of all three squads. Upon commanding READY, FRONT, he then commands, COVER.

5. TO MARCH TO THE RIGHT (LEFT). The platoon being in line, to march to the right (left), the commands are RIGHT (LEFT), FACE; FORWARD, MARCH.

6. SUPPLEMENTARY COMMANDS. When commands are given for movements in which all squads of the platoon do not move at the same time, the squad leaders give appropriate supplementary commands.

7. TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF A COLUMN (fig 3-28). The command is COLUMN RIGHT (COLUMN LEFT, COLUMN HALF RIGHT, COLUMN HALF LEFT), MARCH.

Fig 3-27. Platoon in column.
8. TO FORM LINE FORM COLUMN. The commands are, PLATOON, HALT; LEFT, FACE.

9. TO MARCH TOWARD A FLANK. The command is BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, MARCH.
10. **TO OPEN RANKS.** The commands are OPEN RANKS, MARCH; READY, FRONT. At the command MARCH, the front rank takes two paces forward, halts and executes dress right, dress. The second rank takes one pace forward, halts and executes dress right, dress. The third rank stands fast and executes dress right, dress. The platoon commander verifies alinement as for dress right, dress.

11. **TO CLOSE RANKS.** The command is CLOSE RANKS, MARCH. The front rank stands fast; the second rank takes one pace forward and halts; the third rank takes two paces forward and halts.

12. **TO FORM COLUMN OF TWOS AND SINGLE FILE AND REFORM.**

![Diagram of Column of Twos from Column of Threes](image)

*Column of twos from column of threes*

*Fig 3-29. Column of twos from column of threes and reform.*

a. Being in a column of threes at a halt, to form a column of twos, the commands are COLUMN OF TWOS FROM THE RIGHT (LEFT), MARCH. The two right squads march forward; the left squad forms column of twos to the left and then executes column half right and column half left so as to follow the leading squads in column (fig 3-29).
b. Being in column of twos, to reform in column of threes, the commands are COLUMN OF THREES TO THE LEFT (RIGHT), MARCH. The two leading squads stand fast. The rear squad forms single file from the right (left), moving into its normal place next to the leading squads (fig 3-29).

c. Being in column of twos or threes, to form single file, the command is COLUMN OF FILES FROM THE RIGHT (LEFT), MARCH.

d. Being in single file, to reform in column of twos or threes, the command is COLUMN OF TWOS (THREES) TO THE LEFT (RIGHT), MARCH.

For additional training in this area, the following reference is provided:

1. NAVMC 2691 Drill and Ceremonies Manual

3-30