DRILL AND CEREMONIES
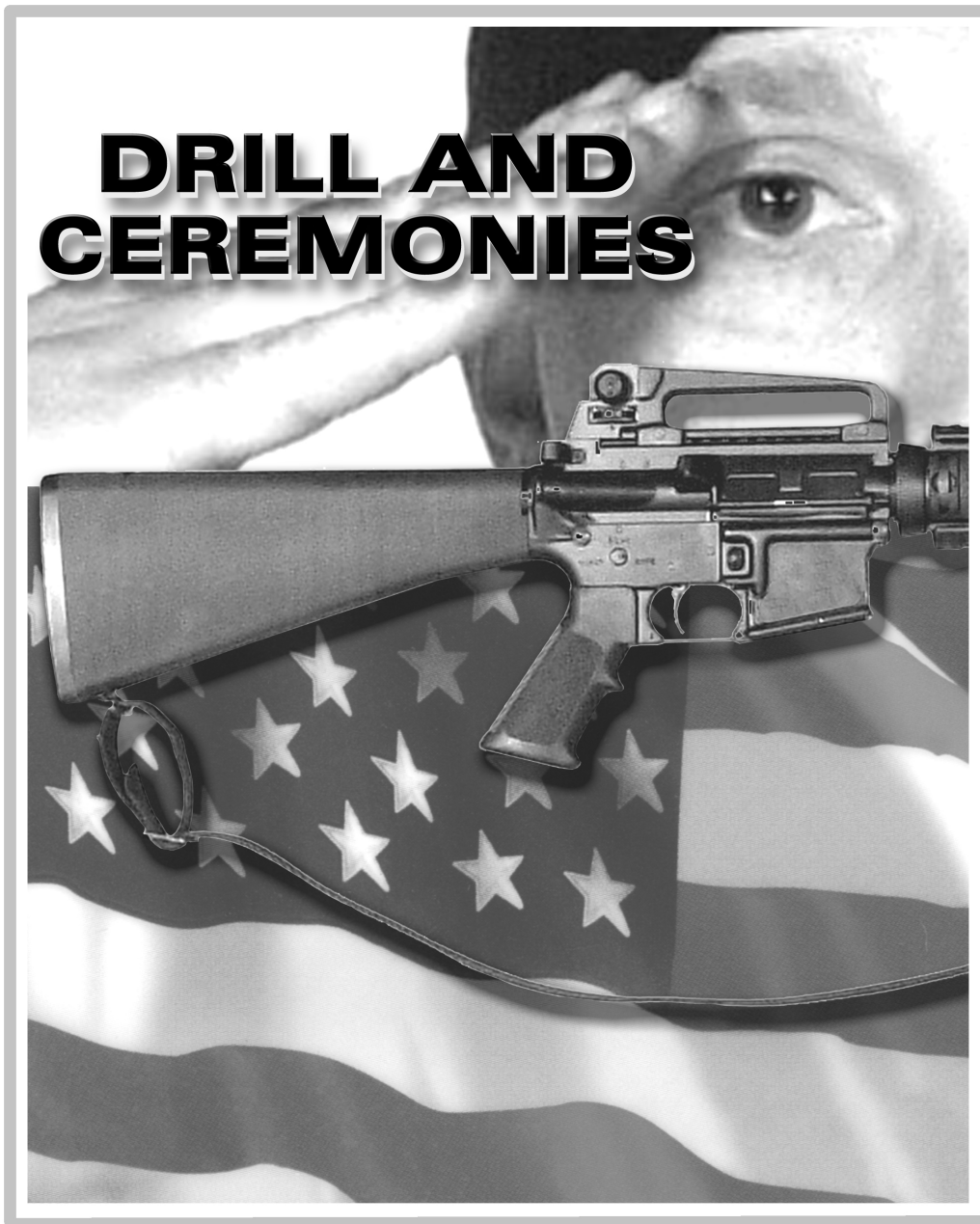
HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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DRILL AND CEREMONIES

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Preface

This training circular provides guidance for Armywide uniformity in the conduct of drill and ceremonies. It includes methods of instructing drill, teaching techniques, individual and unit drill, manual of arms for infantry weapons, and various other aspects of basic drill instruction.

This publication is designed for use by Soldiers of all military occupational skills, to include the new Soldier in the initial entry training environment. Since all situations or eventualities pertaining to drill and ceremonies cannot be foreseen, commanders may find it necessary to adjust the procedures to local conditions. However, with the view toward maintaining consistency throughout the Army, the procedures prescribed herein should be followed as closely as possible.

Personnel preparing to give drill instruction must be thoroughly familiar with Chapters 3 through 7 before attempting to teach material in Chapters 8 and 9.

For ease in distinguishing a preparatory command from a command of execution, the commands of execution appear in **BOLD CAP** letters and preparatory commands appear in ***Bold Italic*** letters. Reference to positions and movements appear in *Italics*.

Army Regulation (AR) 670-1 should be used as a reference for the proper wearing of uniforms and insignia.

This publication applies to the Active Army, the U.S. Army National Guard (ARNG)/Army National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS), and the United States Army Reserve (USAR) unless otherwise stated.

The proponent for this publication is the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). The preparing agency is the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE). Send comments and recommendations by any means, U.S. mail, e-mail, fax, or telephone, using the format of DA Form 2028, *Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms*. Point of contact information is as follows.

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

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PART ONE

DRILL

"Gentlemen: you have now reached the last point. If anyone of you doesn't mean business let him say so now. An hour from now will be too late to back out. Once in, you've got to see it through. You've got to perform without flinching whatever duty is assigned you, regardless of the difficulty or the danger attending it. If it is garrison duty, you must attend to it. If it is meeting fever, you must be willing. If it is the closest kind of fighting, anxious for it. You must know how to ride, how to shoot, how to live in the open. Absolute obedience to every command is your first lesson. No matter what comes you mustn't squeal. Think it over - all of you. If any man wishes to withdraw he will be gladly excused, for others are ready to take his place."

Theodore Roosevelt, Remarks to Recruits, 1898

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of drill is to enable a commander or noncommissioned officer to move his unit from one place to another in an orderly manner; to aid in disciplinary training by instilling habits of precision and response to the leader's orders; and to provide for the development of all Soldiers in the practice of commanding troops.

1-1. HISTORY

Military history reveals that armies throughout the world participated in some form of drill. The primary value of drill, historically, is to prepare troops for battle. For the most part, the drill procedures practiced are identical to the tactical maneuvers employed on the battlefield. Drill enables commanders to quickly move their forces from one point to another, mass their forces into a battle formation that affords maximum firepower, and maneuver those forces as the situation develops.

a. In 1775, when this country was striving for independence and existence, the nation's leaders were confronted with the problem of not only establishing a government but also of organizing an army that was already engaged in war. From the "shot heard around the world," on 19 April 1775, until Valley Forge in 1778, Revolutionary forces were little more than a group of civilians fighting Indian-style against well-trained, highly disciplined British Redcoats. For three years, General George Washington's troops had endured many hardships—lack of funds, rations, clothing, and equipment. In addition, they had suffered loss after loss to the superior British forces. These hardships and losses mostly stemmed from the lack of a military atmosphere in country. Thus, an army was created with little or no organization, control, discipline, or teamwork.

b. Recognizing the crisis, General Washington, through Benjamin Franklin, the American Ambassador to France, enlisted the aid of a Prussian officer, Baron Friedrich von

Steuben. Upon his arrival at Valley Forge on 23 February 1778, von Steuben, a former staff officer with Frederick the Great, met an army of several thousand half- starved, wretched men in rags. He commented that a European army could not be kept together in such a state. To correct the conditions that prevailed, he set to work immediately and wrote drill movements and regulations at night and taught them the following day to a model company of 120 men selected from the line.

c.   Discipline became a part of military life for these selected individuals as they learned to respond to command without hesitation. This new discipline instilled in the individual a sense of alertness, urgency, and attention to detail. Confidence in himself and his weapon grew as each man perfected the fifteen 1-second movements required to load and fire his musket. As the Americans mastered the art of drill, they began to work as a team and to develop a sense of pride in themselves and in their unit.

d.   Watching this model company drill, observers were amazed to see how quickly and orderly the troops could be massed and maneuvered into different battle formations. Officers observed that organization, chain of command, and control were improved as each man had a specific place and task within the formation. Later, the members of the model company were distributed throughout the Army to teach drill. Through drill, they improved the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Army.

e.   To ensure continuity and uniformity, von Steuben, by then a major general and the Army Inspector General, wrote the first Army field manual in 1779, The Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, commonly referred to as the Blue Book. The drill procedures initiated at Valley Forge were not changed for 85 years, until the American Civil War, and many of the drill terms and procedures are still in effect today.

f.   Drill commands are about the same as at the time of the War of 1812, except that then the officers and noncommissioned officers began them by saying, "Take care to face to the right, right, face." Also, during the American revolutionary period, troops marched at a cadence of 76 steps a minute instead of the current cadence of 120 steps. Then units performed precise movement on the battlefield, and the army that could perform them best was often able to get behind the enemy, or on his flank, and thus beat him. Speed spoiled the winning exactness. Also, firearms did not shoot far or accurately in 1776, so troop formations could take more time to approach the enemy.

g.   As armament and weaponry improved, drill had to adapt to new tactical concepts. Although the procedures taught in drill today are not normally employed on the battlefield, the objectives accomplished by drill—professionalism, teamwork, confidence, pride, alertness, attention to detail, esprit de corps, and discipline—are just as important to the modern Army as they were to the Continental Army.

1-2. MILITARY MUSIC

The earliest surviving pictorial, sculptured, and written records show musical or quasimusical instruments employed in connection with military activity for signaling during encampments, parades, and combat. Because the sounds were produced in the open air, the instruments tended to be brass and percussion types. Oriental, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and American Indian chronicles and pictorial remains show trumpets and drums of many varieties allied to Soldiers and battles.

a. **Bugle Calls.** Bugle calls are used in U.S. military service as the result of the Continental Army's contact with the Soldiers and armies from Europe during the revolutionary period. After the American Revolution, many of the French (and English) bugle calls and drum beats were adopted by the United States Army.

b. **Attention.** This is taken from the British "Alarm," at which call the troops turned out under arms.

c. **Adjutant's Call.** The adjutant's call indicates that the adjutant is about to form the guard, battalion, or regiment.

d. **To the Color.** The old cavalry call, "To the Standard," in use from about 1835, was replaced by the present call of "To the Color."

e. **National Anthem.** Our national anthem officially became "The Star Spangled Banner" by law on 3 March 1931, in Title 36, United States Code 170.

f. **Sound Off.** The band, in place, plays "Sound Off" (three chords). It then moves forward and, changing direction while playing a stirring march, troops the line and marches past the Soldiers in formation, then returns to its post. Upon halting, the band again plays three chords.

g. **Retreat.** Retreat is the ceremony that pays honors to the national flag when it is lowered in the evening.

h. **Official Army Song.** The official Army song, "The Army Goes Rolling Along," was formally dedicated by the Secretary of the Army on Veterans Day, 11 November 1956, and officially announced on 12 December 1957 (AR 220-90). In addition to standing while "The Star Spangled Banner" is played, Army personnel stand at attention whenever the official song is played. Although there is no Department of the Army directive in this regard, commanders, other officers, and other personnel can encourage the tribute to the Army by standing at attention when the band plays "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

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Chapter 2

DRILL INSTRUCTIONS

"Troops who march in an irregular and disorderly manner are always in great danger of being defeated."

Vegetius: De Re Militari: A.D. 378

Section I. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The progress made by individuals and units in precise and unified action in drill is determined by the following:

- The methods of instruction and the thoroughness of the instructor.
- The organization of Soldiers into units of the most effective instructional size.

The three methods of instruction used to teach drill to Soldiers are: step-by-step, talk-through, and by-the-numbers. The character of the particular movement being taught will indicate the most effective method to use. As a rule, marching movements are taught using the step-by-step method. Movements that require numerous or simultaneous actions by an individual or unit are best taught using the talk-through method. Movements that have two or more counts are taught using the by-the-numbers method.

To ensure that a Soldier develops satisfactory proficiency during the time allotted, and to ensure a complete and consistent presentation by the drill instructor, each movement (regardless of the method used) should be presented using three teaching stages: explanation, demonstration, and practice.

2-1. EXPLANATION

In the explanation stage, the instructor must:

- Give the name of the movement.
- Give the practical use for the movement.
- Give the command(s) for the movement and explain its elements: the preparatory command and the command of execution. He must also discuss the command(s) necessary to terminate the movement. (Supplementary commands are discussed where appropriate in the explanations.)

This is how an instructor teaches a marching movement using the first teaching stage.

"***Platoon*, ATTENTION. AT EASE.** The next movement (position), which I will name, explain, and have demonstrated, and which you will conduct practical work on, is the *30-Inch Step From the Halt*. This movement is used to march an element from point A to point B in a uniform manner. The command to execute this movement is ***Forward*, MARCH**. This is a two-part command: ***Forward*** is the preparatory command, and **MARCH** is the command of execution. The command to terminate this movement is **HALT. HALT** is also a two-part command when preceded by a preparatory command such as ***Squad*** or ***Platoon***. I will use ***Demonstrator*** as the preparatory command and **HALT** as the command of execution. When given, these commands are as follows: ***Forward*, MARCH; *Demonstrator*, HALT."**

2-2. DEMONSTRATION

In the demonstration stage, the instructor may use the step-by-step, talk-through, or by-the-numbers methods of instruction.

NOTE: The instructor may demonstrate the movement himself, modifying his position when necessary to maintain eye-to-eye contact with personnel being instructed.

a. **Step-by-Step Method of Instruction.** In the step-by-step method of instruction, the explanation and demonstration are combined, and the movements are taught one step at a time.

NOTE: The letters **P, I, C**, or **A** have been added to the end of certain paragraphs to help the reader understand the five-step process used in all marching movements known as the **PICAA** effect. Put simply, the **P**reparatory command, the **C**ommand of execution and the **A**ction step—executing the movement—are all given or executed when the same foot strikes the marching surface. The **I**ntermediate step and **A**dditional step are executed with the other foot.

(1) The instructor explains that on the command of execution, the demonstrator takes only one step and then stops in position until the command ***Ready, STEP*** (for the next step) is given. While the demonstrator is stopped in position, the instructor makes on-the-spot corrections and explains the actions to be taken on the next step. The instructor then has the demonstrator execute the movement at normal cadence.

(2) This is how an instructor teaches the demonstration stage when using the step-by-step method of instruction:

- "***Demonstrator*, POST.** I will use the step-by-step method of instruction. On the preparatory command ***Forward*** of ***Forward*, MARCH**, without noticeable movement, shift the weight of the body onto the right foot. ***Forward***."

- "On the command of execution **MARCH** of ***Forward*, MARCH,** step forward 30 inches with the left foot. The head, eyes, and body remain as in the *Position of Attention*. The arms swing in natural motion, without exaggeration and without bending the elbows, about 9 inches straight to the front and 6 inches straight to the rear of the trouser seams. The fingers and thumbs are curled as in the *Position of Attention*, just barely clearing the trousers. **MARCH**."

  "On the command of execution **STEP** of ***Ready, STEP*,** execute a 30-inch step with the trail foot. Once again, ensure that the head, eyes, and body remain as in the *Position of Attention*, and that the arms swing naturally, without exaggeration and without bending the elbows, about 9 inches straight

to the front and 6 inches straight to the rear of the trouser seams. The fingers and thumbs are curled, as in the *Position of Attention*, barely clearing the trousers. ***Ready, STEP.*** Notice that there are two steps explained: one from the *Halt* and one while marching."

- "The command to terminate this movement is **HALT.** The preparatory command ***Demonstrator*** of ***Demonstrator,* HALT,** may be given as either foot strikes the marching surface. However, the command of execution **HALT** of ***Demonstrator,* HALT,** must be given the next time that same foot strikes the marching surface. The *Halt* is executed in two counts."

- "On the command of execution **STEP** of ***Ready*, STEP,** execute a 30-inch step with the trail foot. When that foot strikes the marching surface, the demonstrator will receive the **preparatory** command ***Demonstrator*** of ***Demonstrator,* HALT**. ***Ready***, **STEP**. ***Demonstrator***." (**P—step 1 of the PICAA process**)

- "On the command of execution **STEP** of ***Ready***, **STEP**, execute a 30-inch step with the trail foot. This is the **intermediate** (or thinking) step required between the preparatory command and the command of execution. ***Ready***, **STEP**." (**I—step 2 of the PICAA process**)

- "On the command of execution **STEP** of ***Ready***, **STEP**, execute a 30-inch step with the trail foot. When the foot strikes the marching surface, the demonstrator will receive the **command of execution HALT** of ***Demonstrator,* HALT**. ***Ready***, **STEP. HALT**. The *Halt* is executed in two counts." (**C—step 3 of the PICAA process**)

- "On the command of execution **STEP** of ***Ready***, **STEP**, execute a 30-inch step with the trail foot, this being the **additional** step required after the command of execution. ***Ready***, **STEP**." (**A—step 4 of the PICAA process**)

- "On the command of execution **STEP** of ***Ready***, **STEP**, bring the trail foot alongside the lead foot, reassuming the *Position of Attention*, thus terminating this movement. (***Ready***, **STEP. RE-FORM**.) At normal cadence, this movement would look as follows: ***Forward***, **MARCH**. ***Demonstrator,* HALT**. **AT EASE**." (**A—step 5 of the PICAA process**)

- "Platoon, what are your questions pertaining to this movement when executed at normal cadence or when using the step-by-step method of instruction? (Clarify all questions.)"

- "***Demonstrator*, ATTENTION**. You will now become my assistant instructor. **FALL OUT**."

NOTE: Notice that when marching, there are five steps in the step-by-step method of instruction: 1 - **P**reparatory command step; 2 - **I**ntermediate step; 3 - **C**ommand of execution step; 4 - **A**dditional step; and 5 – **A**ction step.

b. **Talk-Through Method of Instruction.** Demonstrations are combined. Each movement is orally described. In this method the explanation and action by the individual is executed as:

(1) The instructor simply tells the demonstrator how and what he wants him to do. The demonstrator executes the movement as the instructor describes it. Then the instructor has the demonstrator execute the movement at normal cadence.

(2) This is how an instructor teaches the demonstration stage when using the talk-through method of instruction:

- "***Demonstrator*, POST.** I will use the talk-through method of instruction. On the command of execution **ATTENTION** or **FALL IN**, sharply bring the heels together and on line, with the toes forming a 45-degree angle. Rest the weight of the body equally on the heels and balls of both feet. The legs are straight without locking the knees; the body is erect; hips level; chest, lifted and arched; and shoulders, square and even. Keep the head erect and face straight to the front with the chin drawn in so that the alignment of the head and neck is vertical. The arms hang straight without stiffness. The fingers are curled so that the tips of the thumbs are alongside and touching the first joint of the forefingers. Keep the thumbs straight along the seams of the trousers with the first joint of the fingers touching the trouser legs. Remain silent and do not move unless otherwise directed."

- "**AT EASE.** This position, executed at normal cadence, is as follows: Demonstrator, **ATTENTION**. **AT EASE**. **FALL IN**. **AT EASE**."

- "Platoon, what are your questions pertaining to the *Position of Attention* when executed at normal cadence or when executed using the talk-through method of instruction?" (Clarify all questions.)

- "***Demonstrator*, ATTENTION**. You will be my assistant instructor, **FALL OUT**."

NOTE: When teaching squad, platoon, or company drills, this method should be modified so that individuals are talked into position rather than through the position.

c. **By-the-Numbers Method of Instruction**. *By-The-Numbers* is the command used to begin instructing one count at a time. *Without-The-Numbers* is the command used to terminate single-count instruction and return to normal cadence. The explanation and demonstration are combined. Movements are explained and demonstrated one count at a time.

(1) The instructor has the demonstrator execute the movement **by the numbers** (one count at a time). The instructor then has the demonstrator execute the movement at normal cadence.

(2) This is how an instructor teaches the demonstration stage using the by-the-numbers method of instruction:

- "***Demonstrator,*** **POST**. I will use the by-the-numbers method of instruction. *Port Arms* from *Order Arms* is a two-count movement. On the command of execution **ARMS** of Port, **ARMS**, this being count one, grasp the barrel of the rifle with the right hand and raise the rifle diagonally across the body, ensuring that the right elbow remains down without strain. Simultaneously, grasp the rifle with the left hand at the handguard just forward of the slip ring, keeping the rifle about 4 inches from the belt. By-the-numbers, Port, **ARMS**."

- "On count two, release the grasp of the rifle with the right hand and regrasp the rifle at the small of the stock. Keep the rifle held diagonally across the body, about 4 inches from the belt, elbows drawn in at the sides, and ensure the right forearm is horizontal, thus assuming the position of *Port Arms*. Ready, TWO."

- "*Order Arms* from *Port Arms* is a three-count movement. On the command of execution **ARMS** of ***Order,*** **ARMS**, this being count one, release the grasp of the rifle with the right hand and move the right hand up and across the body, approaching the front sight assembly from the right front, and firmly grasp the barrel without moving the rifle. Ensure the right elbow remains down without strain. ***Order,*** **ARMS**."

- "On count two, release the grasp of the rifle with the left hand, and with the right hand lower the rifle to the right side until it is about 1 inch off the marching surface. At the same time, guide the rifle into place with the left hand at the flash suppressor, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing the rear. **Ready, TWO**."

- "On count three, sharply move the left hand to the left side as in the *Position of Attention* and, at the same time, gently lower the rifle to the marching surface with the right hand, assuming the position of *Order Arms*. ***Ready,*** **THREE**."

- "At normal cadence, these commands (movements) are as follows: ***Without-the-numbers, Port,*** **ARMS**. ***Order,*** **ARMS**. **AT EASE**"

- "Platoon, what are your questions pertaining to *Port Arms* from *Order Arms* and *Order Arms* from *Port Arms* when executed at normal cadence or when executed by-the-numbers?" (Clarify all questions.)

- "***Demonstrator,* ATTENTION**. You will be my assistant instructor. **FALL OUT**." (Notice that there is no ***Ready*, ONE** command.)

2-3. PRACTICE

The practice stage is executed in the same manner as the demonstration stage except that the instructor uses the proper designator for the size of his element. However, the instructor does not have his element execute the movement at normal cadence until his element has shown a satisfactory degree of proficiency executing the movement using the selected method of instruction.

Section II. INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES

Basic drill instruction includes line and U-formations, stationary and moving cadence counts, and dedicated instruction to units and individuals.

2-4. FORMATIONS

Instruction and practical work, in all phases of drill, can best be presented by using the U-formation or line formation. As a rule, stationary movements are taught using the U-formation; marching movements, to include squad, platoon, and company drills, are best taught from the line formation. Soldiers should be taught in the smallest formation possible to ensure individual attention; however, squad drill, whenever possible, should be taught to squad-size units, platoon drill to platoon-size units, and company drill to company-size units.

   a. The U-formation is formed by the instructor commanding ***Count,* OFF**.

   (1) On the command of execution "**OFF**" of ***Count,* OFF**, all personnel, except the right flank personnel, turn their head and eyes to the right and the right flank personnel count off with "**ONE**." After the right flank Soldiers have counted their number, the Soldiers to their left count off with the next higher number and simultaneously turn their head and eyes to the front. All other members of the formation count off in the same manner until the entire formation has counted off. The instructor then commands ***First and second squads,* FALL OUT**.

   (2) On the command of execution "**FALL OUT**," the first squad faces to the right, and the second squad faces to the left. After the squads have faced, the instructor commands ***U-formation,* FALL IN**.

   (3) On the command of execution "**FALL IN**," the following actions happen simultaneously:

- The first squad executes a *Column Left* and takes one more step than the highest number counted when the formation counted off; halts, and faces to the left without command.
- The second squad marches forward until the lead man clears the last vacated position of the first squad and then executes a *Column Right*, taking three more steps than the highest number counted when the formation counted off; halts, and faces to the right without command.
- The third squad stands fast, and the fourth squad executes one *15-Inch Step to the Left*. The instructor ensures that the first and second squads are one step in

front of and one step outside the flanks of the third squad before commanding **AT EASE** beginning the instruction.

(4) To re-form the platoon in a line formation, the commands are: **FALL OUT** (**pause**); **FALL IN**. The members of the platoon execute in the reverse manner as prescribed above, taking the same number of steps.

b.   When instructing using the line formation at normal interval, it is recommended that the first rank kneels (right knee), second rank executes one *15-Inch Step to the Left* and kneels (left knee), third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes one *15-Inch Step to the Left*. The instructor adjusts any additional ranks as necessary to ensure they are uncovered. This formation can quickly be formed by commanding *Instructional Formation*, **MARCH**. To re-form the unit into a line formation, the command is **FALL IN**. The members of the platoon execute in the reverse manner as prescribed above.

c.   The instructor may find using the extended rectangular formation more suitable for use.

(1) To form the extended rectangular formation, the instructor commands *Extend to the left*, **MARCH**. All right flank Soldiers stand fast and extend their arms at shoulder level, elbows locked, fingers and thumbs extended and joined, palms facing down. All other Soldiers turn to the left and double-time forward. After taking a sufficient number of steps, the Soldiers stop and face to the front and extend their arms in the same manner as the right flank Soldiers, ensuring that there is about 12 inches between all Soldiers. Dress is to the right and cover is to the front. The remainder of the body is in the position of attention.

(2) The instructor then commands *Arms downward*, **MOVE**. The Soldiers lower their arms sharply to the sides as in the position of attention.

(3) The instructor then commands *Left*, **Face**. All Soldiers execute a left face.

(4) The instructor then commands *Extend to the left*, **MARCH**. All Soldiers execute as previously described.

(5) The instructor then commands *Arms downward*, **MOVE**. All Soldiers execute as previously described.

(6) The instructor then commands *Right*, **FACE**. All Soldiers execute a right face.

(7) The instructor then commands *From front to rear*, **COUNT OFF**. (**COUNT OFF** is the entire command of execution). Each member of the first rank turns their head and eyes to the right and counts off with "**ONE**," then faces back to the front. The remaining ranks execute in the same manner as the first rank counting off in the same manner as the first rank until the entire formation has counted off. The members of the last (rear) rank do not turn their head and eyes.

(8) The instructor then commands *Even numbers to the left*, **UNCOVER**. All even numbered Soldiers jump squarely in the center of the interval, resuming the position of attention. The formation is now prepared for instruction.

(9) To return the formation to the original configuration, the instructor commands *Assemble to the right*, **MARCH**. All Soldiers double-time to their original position in formation.

d.   The instructor may find the circular formation more suitable for training.

(1) The instructor positions himself in front of the lead Soldier in the lead squad and commands *Circle formation*, **FOLLOW ME**. The instructor double-times in a circle large

enough for the formation and moves to the center of the circle. The members of the lead squad follow at an arms length plus 6 inches (approximately 40 inches total). The squad leaders of the following squads begin double-timing at the correct distance from the last Soldier in the preceding squad without command. After the entire formation is in a circle, the instructor comes to the position of attention and commands *Quick time*, **MARCH**. The Soldiers begin marching normally. The instructor then gives directives to individual Soldiers and corrects the distance between them until each member is at approximately double arm interval.

(2) The instructor then commands the formation to *Halt* using the appropriate preparatory command.

(3) The instructor then commands *Left*, **FACE**. All personnel face toward the instructor. The formation is now ready for instruction.

(4) To return the formation to its original configuration, the instructor commands the formation to attention and commands **FALL OUT**, and then **FALL IN**. On the command **FALL IN**, all Soldiers return to their original position in formation.

NOTE: When conditions do not warrant this formation, Soldiers may be directed to remain standing and to uncover. To assemble the unit, the command **FALL IN** is given.

2-5. INSTRUCTORS

When acting as instructors or assistant instructors, officers and noncommissioned officers go wherever they are needed. They correct mistakes and ensure steadiness and proper performance in ranks. When an individual shows that he is unable to execute the proper movements or assume the proper position, the instructor may physically assist the Soldier.

2-6. CADENCE COUNTING

To enable Soldiers to learn or maintain cadence and develop rhythm, the instructor should have them count cadence while marching.

a. To count cadence while marching at quick time, the instructor gives the preparatory command, *Count Cadence*, as the left foot strikes the marching surface, and the command of execution, **COUNT**, the next time the left foot strikes the marching surface. The Soldier begins to count the next time the left foot strikes the marching surface and counts as each foot strikes the marching surface—**ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR; ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR**. To count cadence while double-timing, the procedures are basically the same, except the Soldier only counts each time the left foot strikes the marching surface. To maintain cadence when marching, Soldiers will be allowed to sing, or a drummer's beat may provide cadence.

b. For stationary movements of two or more counts, the instructor commands *In Cadence, Right*, **FACE**. The Soldier simultaneously executes the first count of the movement on the command of execution and sounds off, **ONE**; as he executes the second count he sounds off, **TWO**.

NOTE: To halt execution of movements in cadence, the instructor commands *Without Cadence,* and resumes normal drill methods. For example, *Without Candence,* **MARCH** when marching at *Count Cadence* or *Without Cadence*, *Left*, **FACE** for stationary movements.

    c. As Soldiers begin to master the art of drill, instructors try to create a spirit of competition among individuals and between units. Although repetition is necessary when teaching drill, instructors use competitive drill exercises to ensure that drill does not become boring or monotonous.

    d. Mass commands are used to develop confidence and promote enthusiasm. They are effective in developing a command voice when instructing a leadership course. Procedures for using mass commands are discussed in Chapter 3.

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Chapter 3

COMMANDS AND THE COMMAND VOICE

"The spirit of discipline, as distinct from its outward and visible guises, is the result of association with martial traditions and their living embodiment."

B. H. Liddell Hart, Thoughts on War, 1944

Section I. COMMANDS

A drill command is an oral order of a commander or leader. The precision with which a movement is executed is affected by the manner in which the command is given.

3-1. RULES

The following rules for giving commands apply to the commander when the unit drills as a separate unit and not as part of a larger formation.

a. When at the *Halt,* the commander faces the troops when giving commands. On commands that set the unit in motion (marching from one point to another), the commander moves simultaneously with the unit to maintain correct position within the formation. (See Chapter 4, paragraphs 4-5c and 4-14, for more information on facing in marching.)

b. When marching, the commander turns his head in the direction of the troops to give commands.

c. Exceptions to these rules occur during ceremonies, which are discussed in Chapter 10.

d. When elements drill as part of a larger unit, the rules for supplementary commands apply (paragraph 3-4).

e. The commander gives the command **AS YOU WERE** to revoke a preparatory command that he has given. The command **AS YOU WERE** must be given before the command of execution. The commander cannot cancel the command of execution with **AS YOU WERE**. If an improper command is not revoked, the personnel execute the movement in the best manner possible.

3-2. TWO-PART COMMANDS

Most drill commands have two parts: the preparatory command and the command of execution. Neither part is a command by itself, but the parts are termed commands to simplify instruction. The commands ***Ready, Port,*** **ARMS,** and ***Ready, Aim,*** **FIRE,** are considered to be two-part commands even though they contain two preparatory commands.

a. The preparatory command states the movement to be carried out and mentally prepares the Soldier for its execution. In the command ***Forward,*** **MARCH,** the preparatory command is ***Forward.***

b. The command of execution tells when the movement is to be carried out. In ***Forward,*** **MARCH**, the command of execution is **MARCH**.

c. To change direction of a unit when marching, the preparatory command and command of execution for each movement are given so they begin and end on the foot in the direction of the turn: ***Right Flank,*** **MARCH** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface, and ***Left Flank,*** **MARCH** as the left foot strikes the marching surface. The interval between the preparatory command and the command of execution is **always** one step or count. The preparatory command and command of execution are **always** given when the same foot strikes the marching surface.

3-3. COMBINED COMMANDS

In some commands, the preparatory command and the command of execution are combined; for example, **FALL IN, AT EASE,** and **REST.** These commands are given without inflection and at a uniformly high pitch and loudness comparable to that for a normal command of execution.

3-4. SUPPLEMENTARY COMMANDS

Supplementary commands are oral orders given by a subordinate leader that reinforce and complement a commander's order. They ensure proper understanding and execution of a movement. They extend to the lowest subordinate leader exercising control over an element affected by the command as a separate element within the same formation.

a. A supplementary command may be a preparatory command, a portion of a preparatory command, or a two-part command. It is normally given between the preparatory command and the command of execution. However, when a command requires an element of a unit to execute a movement different from other elements within the same formation, or the same movement at a different time, subordinate leaders give their supplementary commands at the time prescribed by the procedures covering that particular movement.

EXAMPLE:

The platoon is in column formation, and the platoon leader commands ***Column of Twos From the Left*** (pause), **MARCH.** The first and second squad leaders command ***Forward;*** the third and fourth squad leaders command **STAND FAST**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the first and second squads march forward. At the appropriate time, the squad leader (third squad) nearest the moving element commands ***Column Half Left,*** **MARCH** (for both remaining squads). As the third and fourth squad leaders reach the line of march, they automatically execute a *Column Half Right* and obtain normal distance behind the first and second squads.

b. A subordinate leader gives all supplementary commands over his right shoulder except when his command is based on the actions of an element on his left or when the subelement is to execute a *Column Left (Half Left)* or *Left Flank.* Giving commands over the left shoulder occurs when changing configuration or a formation, such as forming a file or a column of fours and re-forming. (See Chapter 7, paragraph 7-14, for more information on forming a file and re-forming.)

EXAMPLE:

The platoon is in column formation and is going to form a file to the left. The left flank squad leader will give the supplementary command *Column,* **LEFT** over the left shoulder, since the movement will be to the left. The other squad leaders will give the supplementary command **STAND FAST** over the left shoulder as their movement will be to the left and is based on an element to the left.

NOTE: When in formation at present arms and the preparatory command *Order* of *Order,* **ARMS** is given, subordinate leaders terminate their salute before giving their supplementary command.

c.   Supplementary commands are not given by a subordinate leader for the combined commands **FALL IN, AT EASE, REST** or for mass drill when his element forms as part of a massed formation. However, supplementary commands are given when forming a mass or when forming a column from a mass. (See Chapter 4, note following paragraph 4-3d.)

d.   Except for commands while in mass formation, platoon leaders give supplementary commands following all preparatory commands of the commander. When the preparatory command is *Company,* the platoon leaders immediately come to *Attention* and command *Platoon.* The company commander allows for all supplementary commands before giving the command of execution.

e.   When no direction is given, the response is understood to be *Forward*; when no rate of march is given, the response is *Quick Time.* Normally, when a direction or rate of march is included in the preparatory command, only the direction or rate of march is given as a supplementary command.

3-5. DIRECTIVES

Directives are oral orders given by the commander that direct or cause a subordinate leader to take action.

a.   The commander gives directives rather than commands when it is more appropriate for subordinate elements to execute a movement or perform a task as independent elements of the same formation.

b.   Directives are given in sentence form and are normally prefaced by the terms **HAVE YOUR UNITS** or **BRING YOUR UNITS**.

EXAMPLE:

Have your units open ranks and stack arms; bring your units to present arms.

c.   **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR UNITS** is the only directive on which a commander relinquishes his command and on which salutes are exchanged.

Section II. THE COMMAND VOICE

A correctly delivered command will be understood by everyone in the unit. Correct commands have a tone, cadence, and snap that demand willing, correct, and immediate response.

3-6. VOICE CONTROL

The loudness of a command is adjusted to the number of Soldiers in the unit. Normally, the commander is to the front and center of the unit and speaks facing the unit so that his voice reaches everyone.

a. The voice must have carrying power, but excessive exertion is unnecessary and harmful. A typical result of trying too hard is the almost unconscious tightening of the neck muscles to force sound out. This produces strain, hoarseness, sore throat, and worst of all, indistinct and jumbled sounds instead of clear commands. Ease is achieved through good posture, proper breathing, correct adjustment of throat and mouth muscles, and confidence.

b. The best posture for giving commands is the position of *Attention.* Soldiers in formation notice the posture of their leader. If his posture is unmilitary (relaxed, slouched, stiff, or uneasy), the subordinates will imitate it.

c. The most important muscle used in breathing is the diaphragm—the large muscle that separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity. The diaphragm automatically controls normal breathing and is used to control the breath in giving commands.

d. The throat, mouth, and nose act as amplifiers and help to give fullness (resonance) and projection to the voice.

3-7. DISTINCTIVENESS

Distinctiveness depends on the correct use of the tongue, lips, and teeth, which form the separate sounds of a word and group the sounds into syllables. Distinct commands are effective; indistinct commands cause confusion. All commands can be pronounced correctly without loss of effect. Emphasize correct enunciation (distinctiveness). To enunciate clearly, make full use of the lips, tongue, and lower jaw.

To develop the ability to give clear, distinct commands, practice giving commands slowly and carefully, prolonging the syllables. Then, gradually increase the rate of delivery to develop proper cadence, still enunciating each syllable distinctly.

3-8. INFLECTION

Inflection is the rise and fall in pitch and the tone changes of the voice.

a. The preparatory command is the command that indicates movement. Pronounce each preparatory command with a rising inflection. The most desirable pitch, when beginning a preparatory command, is near the level of the natural speaking voice. A common fault with beginners is to start the preparatory command in a pitch so high that, after employing a rising inflection for the preparatory command, it is impossible to give the command of execution with clarity or without strain. A good rule to remember is to begin a command near the natural pitch of the voice (Figure 3-1).

b. The command of execution is the command that indicates when a movement is to be executed. Give it in a sharper tone and in a slightly higher pitch than the last syllable of the preparatory command. It must be given with plenty of snap. The best way to develop a command voice is to practice.

c. In combined commands, such as **FALL IN** and **FALL OUT**, the preparatory command and command of execution are combined. Give these commands without inflection and with the uniform high pitch and loudness of a normal command of execution.
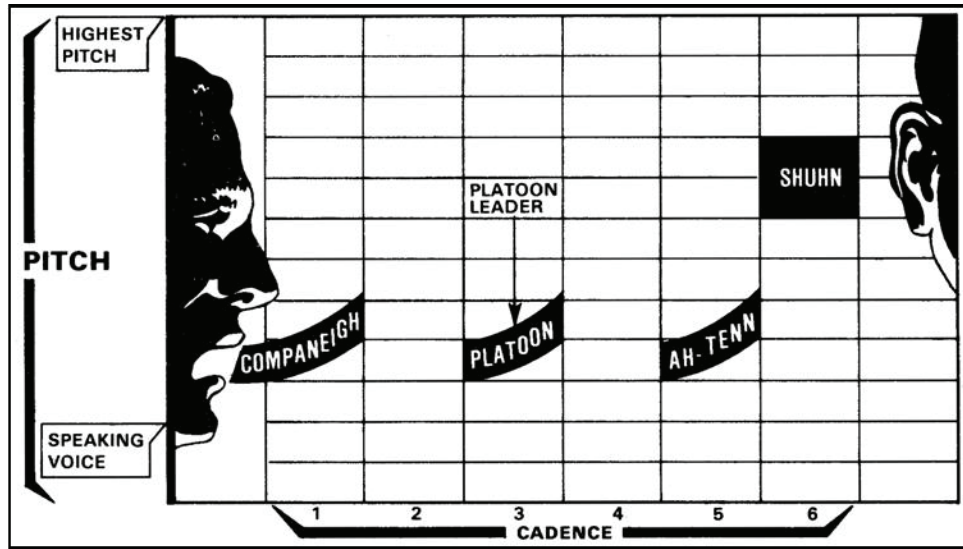
Figure 3-1. Diagram of a command

3-9. CADENCE

Cadence, in commands, means a uniform and rhythmic flow of words. The interval between commands is uniform in length for any given troop unit. This is necessary so that everyone in the unit will be able to understand the preparatory command and will know when to expect the command of execution.

a. For the squad or platoon in *March,* except when supplementary commands need to be given, the interval of time is that which allows one step (or count) between the preparatory command and the command of execution. The same interval is used for commands given at the *Halt.* Longer commands, such as **Right flank,** **MARCH**, must be started so that the preparatory command will end on the proper foot, and leave a full count between the preparatory command and command of execution.

b. When supplementary commands are necessary, the commander should allow for one count between the preparatory command and the subordinate leader's supplementary command, and an additional count after the subordinate command but before the command of execution.

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Chapter 4

INDIVIDUAL DRILL

"Maintain discipline and caution above all things, and be on the alert to obey the word of command. It is both the noblest and the safest thing for a great army to be visibly animated by one spirit."

Archidamus of Sparta: To the Lacaedaenwnian
expeditionary force departing for Athens, 431 B.C.

NOTE: The explanation of a movement that may be executed toward either flank is given in this chapter for only one flank. To execute the movement toward the opposite flank, substitute left for right or right for left in the explanation.

Section I. STATIONARY MOVEMENTS

This section contains most of the individual positions and stationary movements required in drill. These positions and the correct execution of the movement, in every detail, should be learned before proceeding to other drill movements.

Movements are initiated from the position of attention. However, some rest movements may be executed from other rest positions.

4-1. POSITION OF ATTENTION

Two commands can be used to put personnel at the *Position of Attention*:

- **FALL IN** is used to assemble a formation or return it to its original configuration.
- The two-part command for *Attention* is used for Soldiers at a rest position. Assume the *Position of Attention* on the command **FALL IN** or the command ***Squad (Platoon),* ATTENTION**.

a. To assume this position, bring the heels together sharply on line, with the toes pointing out equally, forming a 45-degree angle. Rest the weight of the body evenly on the heels and balls of both feet. Keep the legs straight without locking the knees. Hold the body erect with the hips level, chest lifted and arched, and the shoulders square.

b. Keep the head erect and face straight to the front with the chin drawn in so that alignment of the head and neck is vertical.

c. Let the arms hang straight without stiffness. Curl the fingers so that the tips of the thumbs are alongside and touching the first joint of the forefingers. Keep the thumbs straight along the seams of the trouser leg with the first joint of the fingers touching the trousers (Figure 4-1, page 4-2).

d. Remain silent and do not move unless otherwise directed.

NOTE: This position is assumed by enlisted Soldiers when addressing officers, or when officers are addressing officers of superior rank.

Figure 4-1. Position of Attention

4-2. REST POSITIONS AT THE HALT

Any of the positions of rest may be commanded and executed from the *Position of Attention*.

a. **Parade Rest.** *Parade Rest is* commanded only from the *Position of Attention.* The command for this movement is ***Parade,* REST**.

(1) On the command of execution **REST**, move the left foot about 10 inches to the left of the right foot. Keep the legs straight without locking the knees, resting the weight of the body equally on the heels and balls of the feet.

(2) Simultaneously, place the hands at the small of the back and centered on the belt. Keep the fingers of both hands extended and joined, interlocking the thumbs so that the palm of the right hand is outward (Figure 4-2).

(3) Keep the head and eyes as in the *Position of Attention.* Remain silent and do not move unless otherwise directed. *Stand at Ease, At Ease,* and *Rest* may be executed from this position.

NOTE: Enlisted Soldiers assume this position when addressing all noncommissioned officers or when noncommissioned officers address noncommissioned officers of superior rank.

Figure 4-2. Parade Rest

b. **Stand At Ease.** The command for this movement is ***Stand at,*** **EASE**. On the command of execution **EASE**, execute *Parade Rest,* but turn the head and eyes directly toward the person in charge of the formation. *At Ease* or *Rest* may be executed from this position.

c. **At Ease.** The command for this movement is **AT EASE**. On the command **AT EASE**, the Soldier may move; however, he must remain standing and silent with his right foot in place. The Soldier may relax his arms with the thumbs interlaced. *Rest* may be executed from this position.

d. **Rest**. The command for this movement is **REST**. On the command **REST**, the Soldier may move, talk, smoke, or drink unless otherwise directed. He must remain standing with his right foot in place. **AT EASE** must be executed from this position to allow Soldiers to secure canteens, other equipment, and so forth.

NOTE: On the preparatory command for *Attention,* immediately assume *Parade Rest* when at the position of *Stand at Ease, At Ease,* or *Rest*. If, for some reason, a subordinate element is already at attention, the members of the element remain so and do not execute parade rest on the preparatory command, nor does the subordinate leader give a supplementary command**.**

4-3. FACING AT THE HALT

Five facing movements can be executed from the *Position of Attention: **Left (Right),** **FACE,** **Half Left (Half Right),** **FACE,** and **About, FACE.***

NOTE: *Half Left (Half Right),* **FACE** should only be used in situations when a 90-degree facing movement would not face an element in the desired direction (for example, for a stationary element to face the direction of the flag to render honors [reveille or retreat]).

a. *Facing to the Flank* is a two-count movement. The command is ***Left (Right),* FACE.**

(1) On the command of execution **FACE,** slightly raise the right heel and left toe, and turn 90 degrees to the left on the left heel, assisted by a slight pressure on the ball of the right foot. Keep the left leg straight without stiffness and allow the right leg to bend naturally.

(2) On count two, place the right foot beside the left foot, resuming the *Position of Attention.* Arms remain at the sides, as in the *Position of Attention,* throughout this movement (Figure 4-3).

Figure 4-3. Left Face

    b. *Facing to the Rear* is a two-count movement. The command is ***About,* FACE.**

        (1) On the command of execution **FACE,** move the toe of the right foot to a point touching the marching surface about half the length of the foot to the rear and slightly to the left of the left heel. Rest most of the weight of the body on the heel of the left foot and allow the right knee to bend naturally.

        (2) On count two, turn to the right 180 degrees on the left heel and ball of the right foot, resuming the *Position of Attention.* Arms remain at the sides, as in the *Position of Attention,* throughout this movement (Figure 4-4, page 4-6).

Figure 4-4. About Face

NOTE: Throughout these movements, the remainder of the body remains as in the *Position of Attention.*

4-4. HAND SALUTE

The *Hand Salute* is a one-count movement. The command is ***Present,* ARMS.** The *Hand Salute* may be executed while marching. When marching, only the Soldier in charge of the formation salutes and acknowledges salutes. When double-timing*,* an individual Soldier must come to *Quick Time* before saluting.

   a. When wearing headgear with a visor (with or without glasses), on the command of execution **ARMS,** raise the right hand sharply, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing down, and place the tip of the right forefinger on the rim of the visor slightly to the right of the right eye. The outer edge of the hand is barely canted downward so that neither the back of the hand nor the palm is clearly visible from the front. The hand and

wrist are straight, the elbow inclined slightly forward, and the upper arm horizontal (1, Figure 4-5).

　　b.　When wearing headgear without a visor (or uncovered) and not wearing glasses, execute the *Hand Salute* in the same manner as previously described, except touch the tip of the right forefinger to the forehead near and slightly to the right of the right eyebrow (2, Figure 4-5).

　　c.　When wearing headgear without a visor (or uncovered) and wearing glasses, execute the *Hand Salute* in the same manner as previously described, except touch the tip of the right forefinger to that point on the glasses where the temple piece of the frame meets the right edge of the right brow (3, Figure 4-5).

　　d.　*Order Arms* from the *Hand Salute* is a one-count movement. The command is **Order, ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** return the hand sharply to the side, resuming the *Position of Attention.*

　　e.　When reporting or rendering courtesy to an individual, turn the head and eyes toward the person addressed and simultaneously salute. In this situation, the actions are executed without command. The *Salute* is initiated by the subordinate at the appropriate time (six paces) and terminated upon acknowledgment. (See Appendix A for more information on saluting.)

Figure 4-5. Hand Salute

Section II. STEPS AND MARCHING

This section contains all of the steps in marching of the individual Soldier. These steps should be learned thoroughly before proceeding to unit drill.

4-5. BASIC MARCHING INFORMATION

This basic marching information pertains to all marching movements.

　　a.　All marching movements executed from the *Halt* are initiated from the *Position of Attention.*

　　b.　Except for *Route Step March* and *At Ease March,* all marching movements are executed while marching at *Attention.* Marching at *Attention* is the combination of the *Position of Attention* and the procedures for the prescribed step executed simultaneously.

　　c.　When executed from the *Halt,* all steps except *Right Step* begin with the left foot. (See Chapter 3, paragraph 3-1a and paragraph 4-15a.)

d.   For short-distance marching movements, the commander may designate the number of steps forward, backward, or sideward by giving the appropriate command: *One step to the right (left),* **MARCH;** or, *Two steps backward (forward),* **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH,** step off with the appropriate foot, and halt automatically after completing the number of steps designated. Unless otherwise specified, when directed to execute steps forward, the steps will be 30-inch steps.

e.   All marching movements are executed in the cadence of *Quick Time* (120 steps per minute), except the 30-inch step, which may be executed in the cadence of 180 steps per minute on the command *Double Time,* **MARCH.**

f.   A step is the prescribed distance from one heel to the other heel of a marching Soldier.

g.   All 15-inch steps are executed for a short distance only.

4-6. THE 30-INCH STEP

To march with a 30-inch step from the *Halt,* the command is *Forward,* **MARCH.**

a.   On the preparatory command *Forward,* shift the weight of the body to the right foot without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH,** step forward 30 inches with the left foot and continue marching with 30-inch steps, keeping the head and eyes fixed to the front. The arms swing in a natural motion, without exaggeration and without bending at the elbows, approximately 9 inches straight to the front and 6 inches straight to the rear of the trouser seams. Keep the fingers curled as in the *Position of Attention so* that the fingers just clear the trousers.

b.   To Halt while marching, the command *Squad (Platoon),* **HALT** is given. The preparatory command *Squad (Platoon)* is given as either foot strikes the marching surface as long as the command of execution **HALT** is given the next time that **same foot** strikes the marching surface. The *Halt* is executed in two counts. After **HALT** is commanded, execute the additional step required after the command of execution and then bring the trail foot alongside the lead foot, assuming the *Position of Attention* and terminating the movement.

4-7. CHANGE STEP

This movement is executed automatically whenever a Soldier finds himself out of step with all other members of the formation. It is only executed while marching forward with a 30-inch step. To change step, the command *Change Step,* **MARCH** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH,** take one more step with the left foot, then in one count place the right toe near the heel of the left foot and step off again with the left foot. The arms swing naturally. This movement is executed automatically whenever a Soldier finds himself out of step with all other members of the formation.

4-8. MARCHING TO THE REAR

This movement is used to change the direction of a marching element 180 degrees in a uniform manner. It is only executed while marching forward with a 30-inch step. To *March to the Rear*, the command *Rear,* **MARCH** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more step with the

left foot, pivot 180 degrees to the right on the balls of both feet, and step off in the new direction taking a 30-inch step with the trail foot. Do not allow the arms to swing outward while turning.

4-9. REST MOVEMENT, 30-INCH STEP

Rest movements with the 30-inch step include *At Ease March* and *Route Step March*.

a. **At Ease March.** The command *At Ease,* **MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH,** the Soldier is no longer required to retain cadence; however, silence and the approximate interval and distance are maintained. *Quick Time,* **MARCH** and *Route Step,* **MARCH** are the only commands that can be given while marching at ease.

b. **Route Step March.** *Route Step March* is executed exactly the same as *At Ease March* except that the Soldier may drink from his canteen and talk.

NOTE: To change the direction of march while marching at *Route Step* or *At Ease March*, the commander informally directs the lead element to turn in the desired direction. Before precision movements may be executed, the unit must resume marching in cadence. The troops automatically resume marching at *Attention* on the command *Quick Time,* **MARCH**, as the commander reestablishes the cadence by counting for eight steps. If necessary, Soldiers individually execute change step to get back in step with the unit.

4-10.   THE 15-INCH STEP, FORWARD/HALF STEP

Use the following procedures to execute the 15-inch step, forward/half step.

a. To march with a 15-inch step from the *Halt,* the command is *Half step,* **MARCH.** On the preparatory command *Half step,* shift the weight of the body to the right foot without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH,** step forward 15 inches with the left foot and continue marching with 15-inch steps. The arms swing as in marching with a 30-inch step.

b. To alter the march to a 15-inch step while marching with a 30-inch step, the command is *Half step,* **MARCH.** This command may be given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH,** take one more 30-inch step and then begin marching with a 15-inch step. The arms swing as in marching with a 30-inch step.

c. To resume marching with a 30-inch step, the command *Forward,* **MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH,** take one more 15-inch step and then begin marching with a 30-inch step.

d. The *Halt* while marching at the *Half Step* is executed in two counts, the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.

e. While marching at the *Half Step,* the only commands that may be given are: *Mark Time,* **MARCH;** *Forward,* **MARCH;** *Normal Interval,* **MARCH;** and **HALT.**

4-11.   MARCHING IN PLACE

To march in place, use the following procedures.

a.   To march in place, the command *Mark Time,* **MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface and only while marching with a 30-inch or 15-inch step forward. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more step, bring the trailing foot alongside the leading foot, and begin to march in place. Raise each foot (alternately) 2 inches off the marching surface; the arms swing naturally, as in marching with a 30-inch step forward.

NOTE: While marking time in formation, the Soldier adjusts position to ensure proper alignment and cover. The proper distance between Soldiers while marching is one arm's length plus 6 inches (approximately 40 inches).

b.   To resume marching with a 30-inch step, the command *Forward,* **MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more step in place and then step off with a 30-inch step.

c.   The *Halt* from *Mark Time* is executed in two counts, the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.

4-12.   THE 15-INCH STEP, RIGHT/LEFT

To march with a *15-Inch Step Right (Left)*, use the following procedures:

a.   To march with a *15-Inch Step Right (Left)*, the command is *Right (Left) Step,* **MARCH**. The command is given only while at the halt. On the preparatory command of *Right (Left) Step,* shift the weight of the body without noticeable movement onto the left (right) foot. On the command of execution **MARCH**, bend the right knee slightly and raise the right foot only high enough to allow freedom of movement. Place the right foot 15 inches to the right of the left foot, and then move the left foot (keeping the left leg straight) alongside the right foot as in the *Position of Attention.* Continue this movement, keeping the arms at the sides as in the *Position of Attention*.

b.   To *Halt* when executing *Right* or *Left Step,* the command is *Squad (Platoon),* **HALT**. This movement is executed in two counts. The preparatory command is given when the heels are together; the command of execution **HALT** is given the next time the heels are together. On the command of execution **HALT**, take one more step with the lead foot and then place the trailing foot alongside the lead foot, resuming the *Position of Attention.*

4-13.   THE 15-INCH STEP, BACKWARD

To march backward using the 15-inch step, use the following procedures:

a.   To march with a *15-Inch Step Backward*, the command is *Backward,* **MARCH**. The command is given only while at the *Halt.* On the preparatory command *Backward,* shift the weight of the body without noticeable movement onto the right foot. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take a 15-inch step backward with the left foot and continue marching backward with 15-inch steps. The arms swing naturally.

b.   The *Halt* from *Backward March* is executed in two counts, the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.

4-14.   THE 30-INCH STEP, DOUBLE TIME

To *Double-Time* using the 30-inch step, use the following procedures:

a.   To march in the cadence of 180 steps per minute with a 30-inch step, the command is *Double Time,* **MARCH**. It may be commanded while at the *Halt* or while marching at *Quick Time* with a 30-inch step.

b.   When at the *Halt* and the preparatory command *Double Time* is given, shift the weight of the body to the right foot without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH**, raise the forearms to a horizontal position, with the fingers and thumbs closed, knuckles out, and simultaneously step off with the left foot. Continue to march with 30-inch steps at the cadence of *Double Time.* The arms swing naturally to the front and rear with the forearms kept horizontal. (When armed, Soldiers will come to *Port Arms* on receiving the preparatory command of *Double Time.*) Guides, when at *Sling Arms,* will *Double-Time* with their weapons at *Sling Arms* upon receiving the directive **GUIDE ON LINE.**

c.   When marching with a 30-inch step in the cadence of *Quick Time,* the command *Double Time,* **MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more 30-inch step at *Quick Time,* and step off with the trailing foot, double-timing as previously described.

d.   To resume marching with a 30-inch step at *Quick Time,* the command *Quick time,* **MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take two more 30-inch steps at *Double Time,* lower the arms to the sides, and resume marching with a 30-inch step at *Quick Time.*

NOTE: *Quick Time, Column Half Left (Right)*, and *Column Left (Right)* are the only movements that can be executed while double-timing. Armed troops must be at *Port Arms* before the command *Double Time,* **MARCH** is given.

4-15.   FACING IN MARCHING

Facings in Marching from the *Halt* are important parts of the following movements: alignments, column movements, inspecting Soldiers in ranks, and changing from *Normal Interval* to *Double Interval* or *Double Interval* to *Normal Interval.*

a.   For instructional purposes only, the command *Face to the Right (Left) in Marching,* **MARCH** may be used to teach the individual to execute the movement properly. On the preparatory command *Face to the Right (Left) in Marching,* shift the weight of the body without noticeable movement onto the right foot. On the command of execution **MARCH**, pivot to the right (left) on the ball of the right foot (90 degrees) and step off in the indicated direction with the left foot. Execute the pivot and step in one count, and continue marching in the new direction. (See paragraph 4-5c and Chapter 3, paragraph 3-1a.)

b.   *Facing* to the *Half-Right (Half-Left) in Marching* from the *Halt* is executed in the same manner as *Facing to the Right (Left) in Marching* from a *Halt,* except the facing movement is made at a 45-degree angle to the right (left).

c.   The *Halt* from *Facing in Marching* is executed in two counts, the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.

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Chapter 5

INDIVIDUAL DRILL WITH WEAPONS

"Feed 'em up and give 'em hell. Teach 'em where they are. Make 'em so mad they'll eat steel rather than get dressing from you. Make 'em hard but don't break 'em."

Laurence Stallings: What Price Glory? 1926

NOTE: For individual movements with weapons other than the M16-series rifle, see the following appendixes:

- M4-series carbine—Appendix B.
- M14 rifle—Appendix C.
- M1903/M1917—Appendix D.
- Specialty weapons (M203, M249, shotgun, pistol)—Appendix E.
- Sword and saber—Appendix F.

Section I. MANUAL OF ARMS—M16-SERIES RIFLE

This section contains procedures for executing the manual of arms with the M16-series rifle (Figure 5-1) in conjunction with individual and unit drill movements.
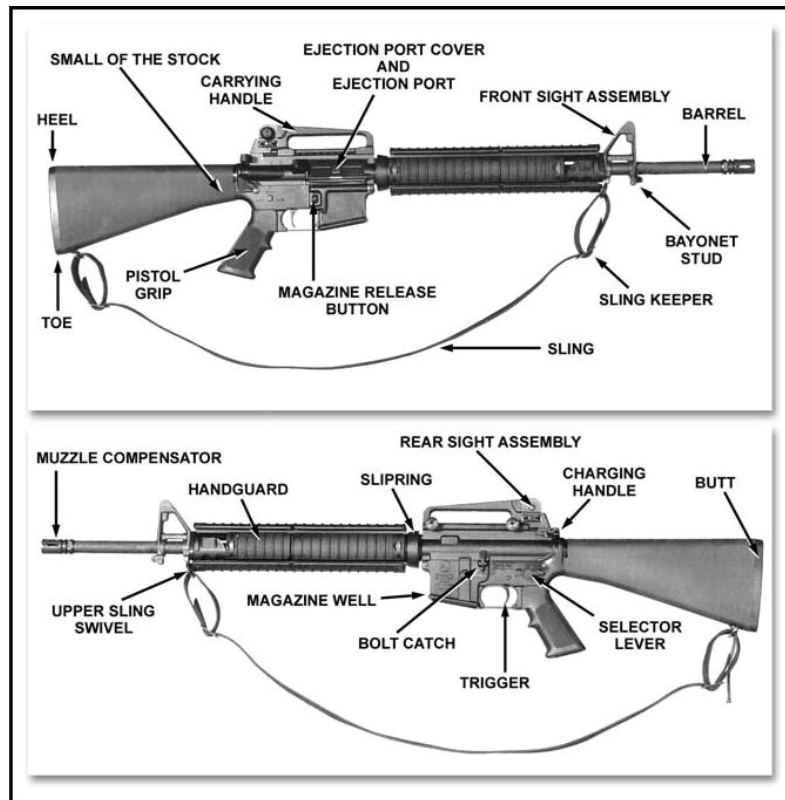
Figure 5-1. Nomenclature, M16-series rifle

5-1. BASIC PROCEDURES

The following are basic procedures that apply to the M16-series rifle.

a. At the *Halt,* all movements are initiated from *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms,* which are the *Positions of Attention* with the rifle.

b. All precision movements are executed in quick-time cadence.

c. For drill purposes, the magazine is not carried in the rifle. When performing duty requiring the use of the magazine, the rifle is carried at *Sling Arms.*

d. The command **Port,** **ARMS** must be given before the command for *Double Time.*

e. *Facings,* alignments, and short-distance marching movements are executed from *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms.* When these movements are commanded while at *Order Arms,* automatically raise the rifle about 1 inch off the marching surface on the command of execution. When the movement has been completed, automatically return the rifle to *Order Arms.*

f. *Facing* movements are executed from *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms.* When a *Facing* is necessary to establish the direction of march, the *facing* movement is executed before the command for the manual of arms. After a marching movement has been completed, ***Order,* ARMS** or ***Sling,* ARMS** is commanded before the command for the *facing* movement.

g. ***Ready, Port,* ARMS** must be commanded following *Inspection Arms* and before any other movements can be commanded.

h. *Port Arms* is the key position assumed in most manual of arms movements from one position to another except *Right Shoulder Arms* from *Order Arms* and *Order Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms.*

i. Manual of arms movements are a combination of the *Position of Attention* and the procedures for the prescribed movement. Most manual of arms movements are executed with the head, eyes, and body as in the *Position of Attention.*

j. *Sling Arms* is the appropriate position assumed to carry the rifle while marching in most situations. *Port Arms* is only used when slings are unavailable or unless specifically required by local conditions.

NOTES: 1. Paragraphs 5-2 through 5-10 refer to slings tight. However, all individual and unit drill movements may be executed with slings loose except when executing *Fix* and *Unfix Bayonets.*

2. The manual of arms movements for the M14, M1903/M1917, and M4 carbine are basically the same as for the M16. The movements for the M14 are fully described in Appendix B; the movements for the M1903/M1917 are fully described in Appendix C. The movements for the M4 carbine are fully described in Appendix D.

5-2. ORDER ARMS

To execute *Order Arms* use the following procedures:

a. Assume *Order Arms* on the command **FALL IN** or from *Parade Rest* on the command of execution **ATTENTION** (Figure 5-2).

b. At *Order Arms,* maintain the *Position of Attention* with the rifle. Place the butt of the rifle on the marching surface, centered on the right foot, with sights to the rear. The

toe of the butt touches the foot so that the rear sight and pistol grip form a straight line to the front. Secure the rifle with the right hand in a "U" formed by the fingers (extended and joined) and thumb. Hold the rifle above the front sight assembly with the right thumb and forefinger pointed downward, and on line with the flat surface of the handguard. Keep the right hand and arm behind the rifle so that the thumb is straight along the seam of the trouser leg.

Figure 5-2. Order Arms and Parade Rest

5-3. REST POSITION

The *Rifle Rest Positions* are commanded and executed the same as individual drill with the following additions:

    a. On the command of execution **REST** of *Parade,* **REST**, thrust the muzzle forward, simultaneously changing the grip of the right hand to grasp the barrel, keeping the toe of the butt of the rifle on the marching surface and the right arm straight.

    b. Execute *Stand at Ease* in the same manner as *Parade Rest* except turn the head and eyes toward the commander.

c. On the command **AT EASE** or **REST,** keep the butt of the rifle in place as in *Parade Rest.*

5-4. PORT ARMS

To execute *Port Arms* (Figure 5-3) use the following procedures:

a. *Port Arms* from *Order Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is ***Port, ARMS.***

b. On the command of execution **ARMS**, grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand and raise the rifle diagonally across the body, keeping the right elbow down (without strain). With the left hand, simultaneously grasp the handguard just forward of the slip ring so that the rifle is about 4 inches from the waist.

c. On count two, regrasp the rifle at the small of the stock with the right hand. Hold the rifle diagonally across the body, about 4 inches from the waist, the right forearm horizontal, and the elbows close to the sides.
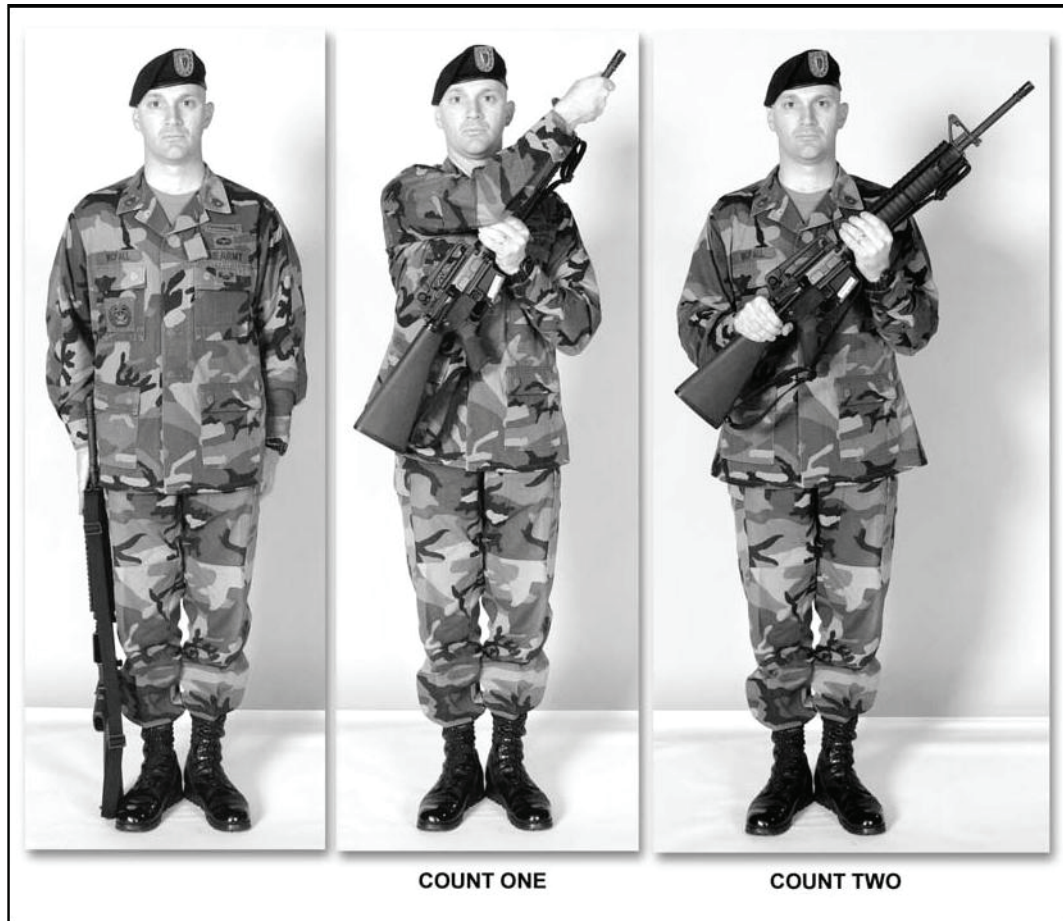
Figure 5-3. Port Arms from Order Arms

b. *Order Arms* from *Port Arms* is a three-count movement (Figure 5-4). The command is **Order, ARMS.**

(1) On the command of execution **ARMS,** release the grasp of the right hand and move the right hand up and across the body to the right front of the front sight assembly, grasp the barrel firmly without moving the rifle, and keep the right elbow down without strain.

(2) On count two, move the left hand from the handguard and lower the rifle to the right side until it is about 1 inch from the marching surface. Guide the rifle to the side by placing the forefinger of the left hand at the flash suppressor, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm to the rear.

(3) On count three, move the left hand sharply to the left side, lower the rifle gently to the marching surface, and resume the position of *Order Arms*.

COUNT ONE　　　　　COUNT TWO　　　　　COUNT THREE
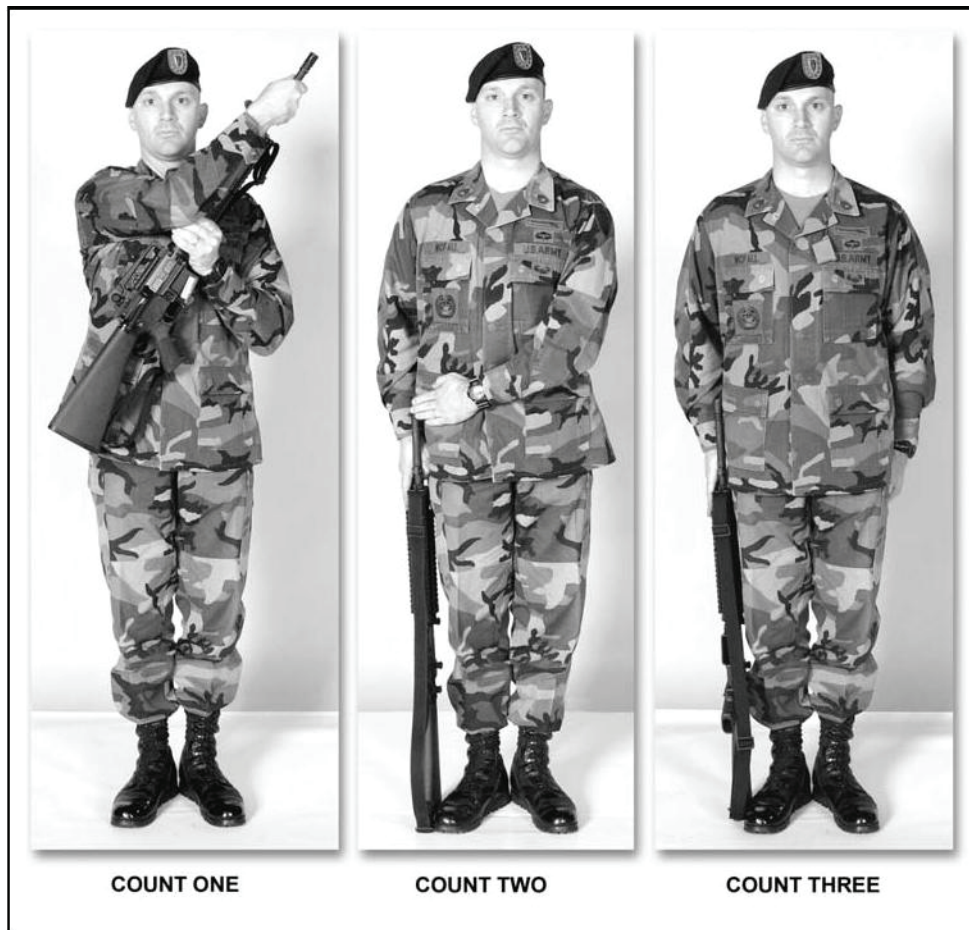
Figure 5-4. Order Arms from Port Arms

5-5. PRESENT ARMS

To execute *Present Arms* (Figure 5-5, page 5-6) use the following procedures:

a. *Present Arms* from *Order Arms* is a three-count movement. The command is ***Present ARMS.*** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute *Port Arms* in two counts. On count three, twist the rifle with the right hand so that the magazine well is to the front, and move the rifle to a vertical position with the carrying handle about 4 inches

in front of and centered on the body. Lower the rifle until the left forearm is horizontal; keep the elbows in at the sides.

b. *Order Arms* from *Present Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is **Order, ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** return the rifle to *Port Arms.* Counts two, three, and four are the same as *Order Arms* from *Port Arms.*

c. *Port Arms* is assumed en route to or from *Present Arms* when going to or from *Right Shoulder* or *Left Shoulder Arms. Present Arms* from or to *Port Arms* is a one-count movement.

d. When rendering reports or courtesy to an individual from *Order Arms,* execute *Present Arms* and turn the head and eyes toward the individual addressed. *Order Arms* is executed automatically upon acknowledgment of the *Salute.*

e. When rendering courtesy to an individual with the rifle at *Right Shoulder, Left Shoulder,* or *Port Arms* and not in formation, execute *Present Arms.* Upon acknowledgment of the *Salute,* automatically return to the original position.

f. To render courtesy with the rifle at the *Carry* position, execute *Present Arms* from either the *Right-* or *Left-Hand Carry* position. Bring the rifle in the most convenient manner to *Port Arms,* and then execute *Present Arms* in one count. To assume the *Carry* position from *Present Arms,* execute *Port Arms* in one count and then return the rifle in the most convenient manner to the *Carry* position.

g. When double-timing (not in formation), come to *Quick Time* before rendering the courtesy.

Figure 5-5. Present Arms

5-6. INSPECTION ARMS

To execute *Inspection Arms* (Figure 5-6) use the following procedures:

    a. *Inspection Arms* from *Order Arms* is a seven-count movement. The command is ***Inspection,* ARMS.**

        (1) On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute *Port Arms* in two counts.

        (2) On count three, move the left hand from the handguard and grasp the pistol grip, thumb over the lower portion of the bolt catch.

        (3) On count four, release the grasp of the right hand, unlock the charging handle with the thumb, and sharply pull the charging handle to the rear with the thumb and forefinger. At the same time, apply pressure on the lower portion of the bolt catch, locking the bolt to the rear.

        (4) On count five, without changing the grasp of the right hand, sharply push the charging handle forward until it is locked into position; then regrasp the rifle with the right hand at the small of the stock.

        (5) On count six, remove the left hand, twist the rifle with the right hand so that the ejection port is skyward, regrasp the handguard with the left hand just forward of the slip ring, and visually inspect the receiver through the ejection port.

        (6) On count seven, with the right hand, twist the rifle so that the sights are up and assume *Inspection Arms*.
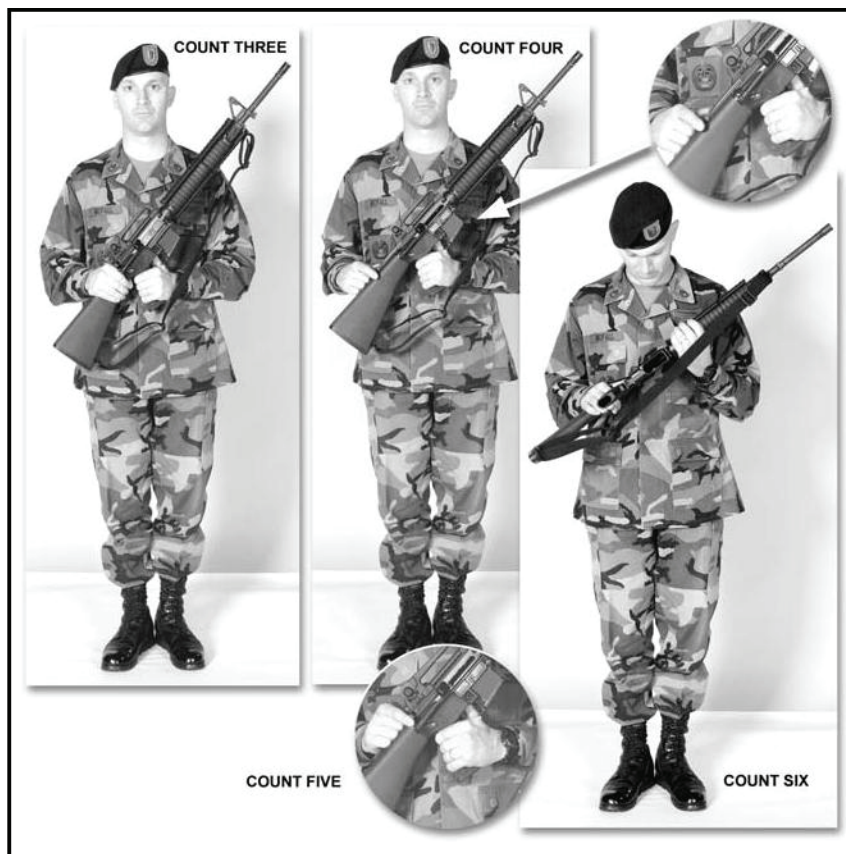
Figure 5-6. Inspection Arms

NOTE: The method for inspecting the rifle by an inspecting officer is explained in Chapter 8.

   b. ***Ready, Port,* ARMS** is the only command given from *Inspection Arms.*

   (1) On the command ***Ready,*** move the left hand and regrasp the rifle with the thumb and fingers forming a "U" at the magazine well and trigger guard, the thumb (without pressure) on the upper part of the bolt catch, fingertips placed below or under the ejection port cover.

   (2) On the command ***Port,*** press the bolt catch and allow the bolt to go forward. With the fingertips, push upward and close the ejection port cover. Grasp the pistol grip with the left hand and place the left thumb on the trigger. On the command **ARMS,** pull the trigger and resume *Port Arms.*

5-7. RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS

To execute *Right Shoulder Arms* (Figure 5-7) use the following procedures:

   a. *Right Shoulder Arms* from *Order Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is ***Right Shoulder,* ARMS.**

   (1) On the command of execution **ARMS,** grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand and raise it diagonally across the body, keeping the right elbow down without strain. With the left hand, grasp the handguard just forward of the slip ring, ensuring that the weapon is about 4 inches from the waist.

   (2) On count two, move the right hand from the barrel and grasp the heel of the butt between the first two fingers with the thumb and forefinger touching at the first joint.

   (3) On count three (without moving the head), release the grasp of the left hand (without changing the grasp of the right hand), twist the rifle so that the sights are up, and place the weapon onto the right shoulder, moving the left hand to the small of the stock to guide the rifle to the shoulder. Keep the fingers and thumb (left hand) extended and joined with the palm turned toward the body. The first joint of the left forefinger touches the rear of the charging handle. Keep the left elbow down, and keep the right forearm horizontal with the right upper arm against the side and on line with the back.

   (4) On count four, sharply move the left hand back to the left side as in the *Position of Attention*.

COUNT TWO   COUNT THREE   COUNT FOUR

Figure 5-7. Right Shoulder Arms

b. *Order Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is ***Order,* ARMS.**

(1) On the command of execution **ARMS,** without moving the head and without changing the grasp of the right hand, press down quickly and firmly on the butt of the rifle with the right hand and twist the weapon (with the sights up), guiding it diagonally across the body and about 4 inches from the waist. Grasp the rifle with the left hand at the handguard just forward of the slip ring.

(2) On count two, move the right hand up and across the body, approaching from the right front of the front sight assembly, and firmly grasp the barrel without moving the rifle; keep the right elbow down without strain.

(3) Counts three and four are the same as from *Port Arms* to *Order Arms* (Figure 5-4, page 5-5).

5-8. LEFT SHOULDER ARMS

To execute *Left Shoulder Arms* (Figure 5-8) use the following procedures:

a. *Left Shoulder Arms* from *Order Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is ***Left Shoulder,* ARMS.**

(1) On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute *Port Arms* in two counts.

(2) On count three, release the grasp of the left hand and (without moving the head) place the rifle on the left shoulder with the right hand (with the sights up), keeping the right elbow down. At the same time, regrasp the rifle with the left hand with the heel of the butt between the first two fingers and with the thumb and forefinger touching. The left forearm is horizontal, and the left upper arm is against the side and on line with the back.

(3) On count four, move the right hand to the right side as in the *Position of Attention.*

COUNT TWO   COUNT THREE   COUNT FOUR
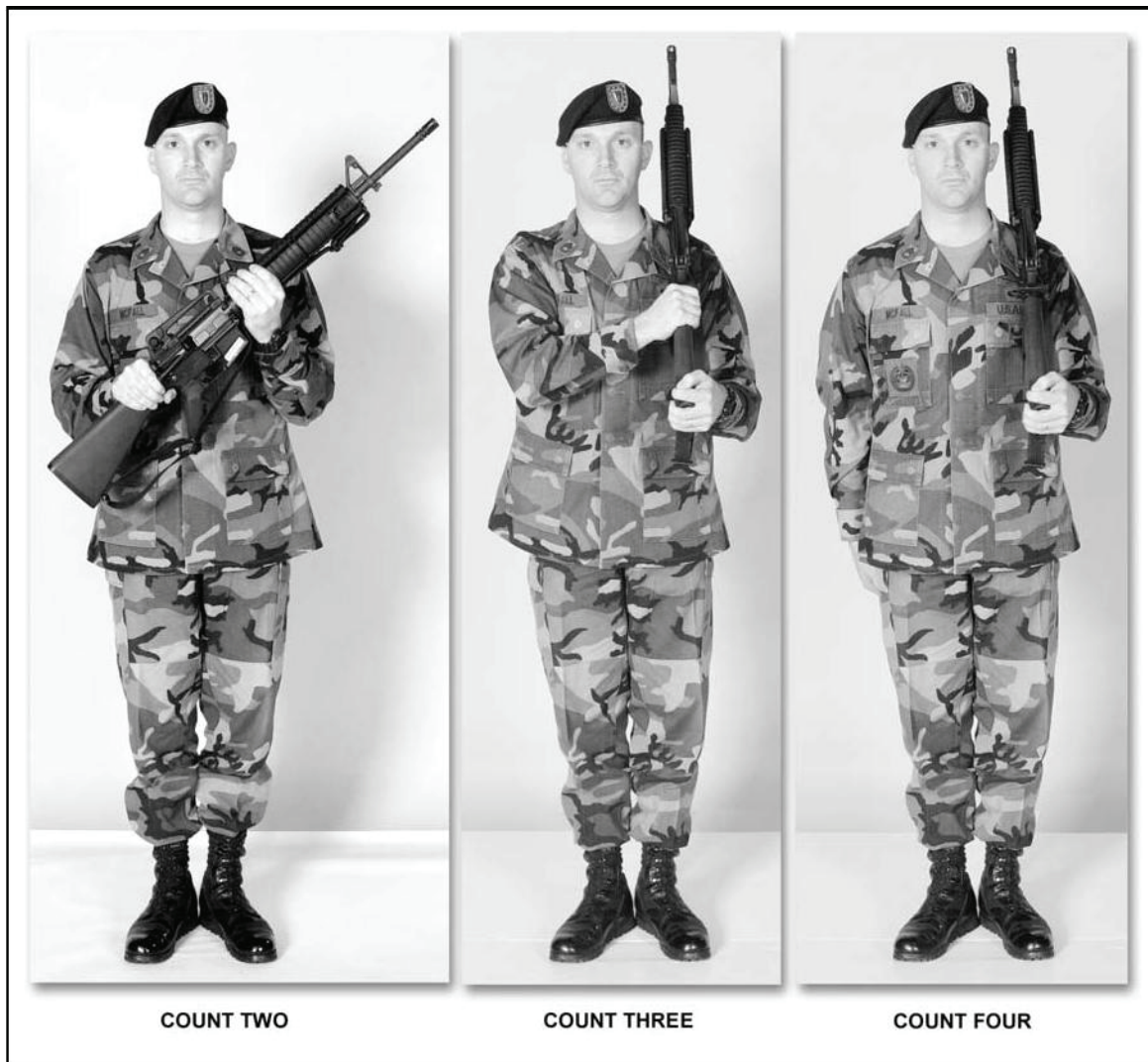
Figure 5-8. Left Shoulder Arms

b. *Order Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms* is a five-count movement. The command is *Order,* **ARMS.**

(1) On the command of execution **ARMS**, move the right hand up and across the body and grasp the small of the stock, keeping the right elbow down.

(2) On count two (without moving the head), release the grasp of the left hand and with the right hand move the rifle diagonally across the body (sights up) about 4 inches from the waist. At the same time, regrasp the handguard just forward of the slip ring with the left hand, and resume *Port Arms.*

(3) Counts three, four, and five are the same as *Order Arms* from *Port Arms* (Figure 5-4, page 5-5).

5-9. CHANGING POSITIONS

To change position with the M16-series rifle use the following procedures:

a. *Right Shoulder Arms* from *Port Arms* is a three-count movement. The command is *Right Shoulder,* **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** release the grasp of the right hand and regrasp the rifle with the heel of the butt between the first two fingers, with the thumb and forefinger touching. Counts two and three are the same as counts three and four from *Order Arms.* When marching, the command is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface.

b. *Port Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is *Port,* **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute count one of *Order Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms.* On count two, release the grasp of the right hand and regrasp the rifle at the small of the stock and come to *Port Arms.* When marching, the command is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface.

c. *Left Shoulder Arms* from *Port Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is *Left Shoulder,* **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute *Left Shoulder Arms* in the same manner as counts three and four from *Order Arms.* When marching, the command is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface.

d. *Port Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is *Port,* **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute the first two counts of *Order Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms.* When marching, the command is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface.

e. *Left Shoulder Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is *Left Shoulder,* **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute the first count the same as executing *Order Arms.* On count two, remove the right hand from the butt of the rifle and regrasp the small of the stock *(Port Arms).* Counts three and four are the same movements as from *Port Arms.* When marching, the command is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface.

f. *Right Shoulder Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms* is a five-count movement. The command is *Right Shoulder,* **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute *Port Arms* in two counts. Counts three, four, and five are the same as from *Port Arms.* When *marching,* the command is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface.

g. *Present Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* or *Left Shoulder Arms,* while in formation, is executed from the *Halt* only. The command is *Present,* **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** come to *Port Arms* from either shoulder and then execute *Present Arms* (in one count) from *Port Arms.*

h. To resume *Right (Left) Shoulder Arms* from *Present Arms,* the command is ***Right (Left) Shoulder,* ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute *Port Arms* in one count and then execute the counts as prescribed from *Port Arms.*

NOTE: Experienced Soldiers should be able to execute the 15-count manual of arms in unison from *Order*, to *Right Shoulder,* to *Left Shoulder,* to *Present,* to *Order Arms*. The command is ***Fifteen-Count Manual*, ARMS.**

5-10. FIX AND UNFIX BAYONETS

The command to *Fix* or *Unfix Bayonets* is given from *Order Arms* only. The movement is executed in a military manner but not in cadence.

NOTE: The bayonet scabbard is worn on the left side with the tip of the scabbard on line with the trouser leg seam and the barrel ring to the front.

a. To *Fix Bayonets,* the command is ***Fix,* BAYONETS**. On the command of execution **BAYONETS,** grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand, raise the rifle slightly, and place the butt of the rifle between the feet, with the magazine well to the front. Grasp the rifle barrel with the left hand and move the muzzle to the left front. With the right hand, unsnap the scabbard securing strap and withdraw the bayonet. Keeping the eyes on the bayonet point, turn the point skyward and attach the bayonet to the rifle. To engage the bayonet stud on the rifle with the base of the bayonet, grasp the handle, apply downward pressure until a click is heard, and then apply limited upward pressure to ensure that the bayonet is seated securely. Resnap the scabbard securing strap with the right hand and then come to *Order Arms*.

b. To *Unfix Bayonets,* the command is ***Unfix,* BAYONETS.** On the command of execution **BAYONETS,** grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand at the handle of the bayonet and place the rifle butt between the feet with the magazine well to the front. Move the muzzle to the left with the left hand and secure it. Unsnap the scabbard securing strap with the right hand, then grasp the bayonet handle with the left hand and release the bayonet from the rifle muzzle with the left hand. Keeping the eyes on the bayonet point, return the bayonet to the scabbard and insert it with the barrel ring facing to the front. Resnap the scabbard securing strap and come to *Order Arms.* For safety, if the bayonet is difficult to remove from the rifle, stick the bayonet point into the marching surface, bend over, and depress the catch mechanism with the left hand while pulling upward on the rifle with the right hand.

Section II. SLING ARMS—M16-SERIES RIFLE

This section contains the procedures for executing manual of arms movements while at *Sling Arms*.

5-11. BASIC PROCEDURES

These procedures apply to all movements while at *Sling Arms*.
a. Remain at *Sling Arms* during all rest movements.

b.   All individual and unit drill movements can be executed at *Sling Arms* except *Double Time*, *Stack Arms* and *Fix* and *Unfix Bayonets*, which are executed from *Order Arms*.

c.   When in formation at *Sling Arms*, execute the hand salute on the command ***Present, ARMS.***

d.   Platoon leaders and platoon sergeants carry their rifles at *Sling Arms* during all drills and ceremonies, and from this position they execute *Present Arms* only. They do not execute *Unsling Arms*. This also applies to squad leaders when squads drill as separate units.

e.   When all members of a unit are carrying their rifles at *Sling Arms*, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants execute *Present Arms* only. They do not execute *Unsling Arms*.

5-12.   SLING ARMS

To execute *Sling Arms* use the following procedures:

a.   From *Order Arms* with the sling(s) loose, the command for *Sling Arms* is ***Sling, ARMS*** (Figure 5-9, page 5-14). On the command of execution **ARMS,** grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand and raise it vertically. Grasp the sling near the upper sling swivel with the left hand, and release the right hand. Place the right hand and arm between the sling and rifle and place the sling over the right shoulder. Regrasp the sling with the right hand so that the wrist is straight, the right forearm is horizontal, the elbow is tight against the side, and the rifle is vertical. Release the grasp of the left hand and move it sharply to the left side as in the *Position of Attention*.

Figure 5-9. Sling Arms

b. To return the rifle to *Order Arms* with the sling tight, the command is ***Adjust,*** **SLINGS** (Figure 5-10). On command of execution **SLINGS,** remove the rifle from the shoulder. Then, grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand and raise it vertically. With the left hand, place the butt of the rifle on the right hip and cradle it in the crook of the right arm. Use both hands to tighten the sling on the ejection port side. Grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand and guide the rifle to the *Order Arms* position (as previously described).

c. From *Order Arms* with sling(s) tight, the command is ***Sling,*** **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand and raise the rifle vertically. With the left hand, place the rifle butt on the right hip, cradle the rifle in the crook of the right arm, and use both hands to adjust the sling. Grasp the sling with the left hand near the upper sling swivel and execute *Sling Arms* (as previously described).

d. If an element is at *Order Arms* with the sling loose and the commander wants the sling to be tightened, he commands ***Adjust*** **SLINGS.** On the command of execution **SLINGS,** tighten the sling and guide the rifle to *Order Arms* (as previously described).

NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, armed elements of a formation fall-in at *Order Arms* with slings loose.

Figure 5-10. Adjust Slings

e. To return the rifle to *Order Arms* with the sling loose, the command is ***Unsling,*** **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** reach across the body with the left hand and grasp the sling at the right shoulder. Release the right hand grasp of the sling and remove the rifle from the shoulder. Grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand, release the left hand grasp of the sling, and guide the rifle to the *Order Arms* position (as previously described).

5-13. SALUTE AT SLING ARMS

To execute S*alute* while at *Sling Arms* (Figure 5-11, page 5-16) use the following procedures:

a. To *Salute* while at *Sling Arms,* the command is ***Present,*** **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** 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.*

b. To terminate the *Hand Salute,* the command is ***Order,*** **ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** lower the right hand sharply to the side as in the *Position of Attention* and then regrasp the sling at the original position. After grasping the sling with the right hand, release the left hand and return it sharply to the left side as in the *Position of Attention.*

c. When rendering reports or courtesy to an individual, the same rules apply for the *Hand Salute* (as explained in individual drill).

Figure 5-11. Salute while at Sling Arms

NOTE: Individuals performing duty in congested areas, which would require frequent salutes, should carry the weapon at *Sling Arms*.

5-14. PORT ARMS FROM SLING ARMS

To execute *Port Arms* from *Sling Arms* (Figure 5-12) use the following procedures:

a. The command for this movement is ***Port*, ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** 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 (left hand) and regrasp the weapon just forward of the slip ring. Ensure that the rifle is 4 inches from the belt and held diagonally across the body. Keep the elbows in at the sides and the right forearm horizontal.

b. To resume *Sling Arms,* the command is ***Sling*, ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** grasp the sling near the upper sling swivel with the left hand. Release the right hand and swing the rifle back onto the shoulder by placing the right arm between the sling and rifle, immediately resume the position of *Sling Arms.*

REACHING ACROSS

Figure 5-12. Port Arms from Sling Arms

5-15.   INSPECTION ARMS FROM SLING ARMS

To execute *Inspection Arms* from *Sling Arms* use the following procedures:

a.   The command for this movement is ***Inspection,* ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** execute *Port Arms* and then execute counts three through seven in the same manner as for *Inspection Arms* from *Order Arms.*

b.   ***Ready, Port,* ARMS** is executed in the same manner as explained in the manual of arms.

c.   To resume *Sling Arms,* the procedures are the same as from *Port Arms.*

d.   To execute *Inspection Arms* when the magazine is in the rifle, remove the magazine (just before count three) with the left hand and place it between the waist (left front) and the clothing. Return the magazine immediately after pulling the trigger and before resuming *Port Arms.* If the pistol belt is worn, the magazine will be placed between the pistol belt and the clothing (left front).

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Chapter 6

SQUAD DRILL

"The [Soldiers] must learn to keep their ranks, to obey words of command, and signals by drum and trumpet, and to observe good order, whether they halt, advance, retreat, are upon a march, or engaged with an enemy."

Niccolo Machiavelli: Arte della Guerra, 1520

Section I. FORMATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

This section describes the formations and movements of a squad. Individual drill movements and the manual of arms are executed as previously prescribed while performing as a squad member.

6-1. BASIC INFORMATION

The squad has two prescribed formations—line and column. However, the squad may be formed into a column of twos from a column formation. When the squad is in line, squad members are numbered from right to left; when in column, from front to rear. The squad normally marches in column, but for short distances it may march in line.

When the squad drills as a separate unit, the squad leader carries his weapon at *Sling Arms.* When the squad is in a line formation, the squad leader assumes a post three steps in front of and centered on the squad; when in a column or a column of twos, three steps to the left and centered on the squad. When the squad drills as part of a larger unit, the squad leader occupies the number one (base) position of the squad. He carries his weapon in the same manner as prescribed for other riflemen in the squad.

6-2. FORMING THE SQUAD

The squad normally forms in a line formation; however, it may re-form in column when each member can identify his exact position (equipment grounded) in the formation (Figure 6-1, page 6-2).

a. To form at normal interval, the squad leader comes to the *Position of Attention* and commands **FALL IN.** On the command **FALL IN,** the following actions occur simultaneously:

(1) Each member double-times to his position in the formation.

(2) The right flank man positions himself so that when the squad is formed it is three steps in front of and centered on the squad leader.

(3) The right flank man comes to the *Position of Attention* and raises his left arm laterally at shoulder level, elbow locked, fingers and thumb extended and joined, and palm facing down. He ensures that the left arm is in line with the body.

(4) The man to the immediate left of the right flank man comes to the *Position of Attention,* turns his head and eyes to the right, and raises his left arm in the same manner as the right flank man. He obtains proper alignment by taking short steps forward or backward until he is on line with the right flank man. He then obtains exact interval by taking short steps left or right until his shoulder touches the extended fingertips of the

right flank man. As soon as the man to the left has obtained *Normal Interval,* each man individually lowers his arm to his side, sharply turns his head and eyes to the front, and assumes the *Position of Attention.*

        (5) The right flank man then sharply returns to the *Position of Attention.*

        (6) All other members of the squad form in the same manner except that the left flank man does not raise his left arm.

NOTE: The right flank man raises his arm and looks straight to the front unless the squad is to align on an element to its right. If he is to align on an element to the right he turns his head and eyes to the right and aligns himself with that element.

    b. To form at *Close Interval,* the formation is completed in the manner prescribed for *Normal Interval,* except that the command is ***At Close Interval,* FALL IN**. Squad members obtain *Close Interval* by placing the heel of the left hand on the left hip even with the waist, fingers and thumb joined and extended downward, and with the elbow in line with the body and touching the arm of the man to the left.
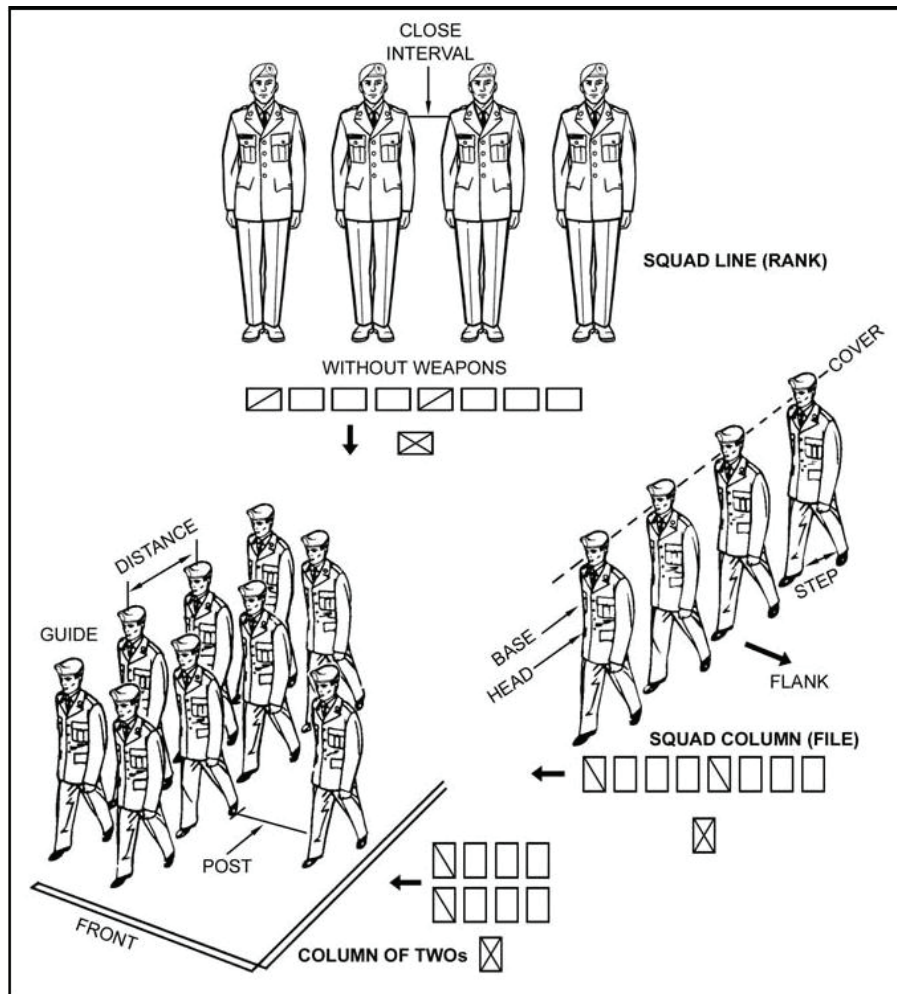
Figure 6-1. Squad formation

c. To form in column, the squad leader faces the proposed flank of the column and commands *In Column,* **FALL IN**. On the command of execution **FALL IN**, squad members double-time to their original positions (grounded equipment) in formation and cover on the man to their front.

NOTE: The correct distance between Soldiers in column formation is approximately 36 inches. This distance is one arm's length plus 6 inches

d. When armed, squad members fall in at *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms.* For safety, the commands *Inspection,* **ARMS;** *Ready, Port,* **ARMS;** and *Order (Sling),* **ARMS** are commanded at the initial formation of the day or when the last command is **DISMISSED** (Figure 6-1).

6-3. COUNTING OFF

The squad may count off in line or column formation. The command is *Count,* **OFF**.

a. When the squad is in a line formation, the counting is executed from right to left. On the command of execution **OFF**, each member, except the right flank man, turns his head and eyes to the right, and the right flank man counts off **"ONE."** After the man on the right counts off his number, the man to his left counts off with the next higher number and simultaneously turns his head and eyes to the front. All the other members execute count off in the same manner until the entire squad has counted off.

b. When the squad is in column formation, the counting is executed from front to rear. On the command of execution **OFF,** the Soldier at the head of the column turns his head and eyes to the right and counts over his shoulder, **"ONE."** After counting off his number, he immediately comes to the *Position of Attention.* All other members count their numbers in sequence in the same manner as the number one man; the last man in the file does not turn his head and eyes to the right.

6-4. CHANGING INTERVAL WHILE IN LINE

To change interval while in line, use the following procedures:

NOTE: To ensure that each member understands the number of steps to take, the squad leader should command *Count,* **OFF** before giving any commands that cause the squad to change interval. Members do not raise their arms when changing interval.

a. To obtain *Close Interval* from *Normal Interval,* the command is *Close Interval,* **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH,** the right flank man (number one man) stands fast. All men to the left of the number one man execute *Right Step March,* take one step less than their number (for example, number five man takes four steps), and *Halt.*

NOTE: The squad leader takes the correct number of steps to maintain his position of three steps in front of and centered on the squad.

b. To obtain *Normal Interval* from *Close Interval,* the command is ***Normal Interval,*** **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH,** the right flank man stands fast. All men to the left of number one man execute *Left Step March,* take one step less than their number (for example, number nine man takes eight steps), and *Halt.*

c. To obtain *Double Interval* from *Normal Interval,* the command is ***Double Interval,*** **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH,** the right flank man stands fast. All men to the left of number one man face to the left as in marching, take one 30-inch step less than their number (for example, number seven man takes six steps), *Halt,* and execute *Right Face.*

d. To obtain *Normal Interval* from *Double Interval,* the command is ***Normal Interval,*** **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH,** the right flank man stands fast. All men to the left of the number one man face to the right as in marching, take one 30-inch step less than their number (for example, number three man takes two steps), *Halt,* and execute *Left Face.*

6-5. ALIGNING THE SQUAD

To align the squad, use the following procedures:

NOTE: The squad leader commands the squad to the appropriate interval before giving the command for alignment.

a. To align the squad at *Normal Interval,* the commands are ***Dress Right,*** **DRESS** and ***Ready,*** **FRONT.** These commands are given only when armed Soldiers are at *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms.* On the command of execution **DRESS,** the right flank man stands fast. Each member, except the right flank man, turns his head and eyes to the right and aligns himself with the man on his right. Each member, except the left flank man, extends his left arm laterally at shoulder level, elbow locked, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing down. He ensures his left arm is in line with his body and positions himself by short steps right or left until his right shoulder touches the fingertips of the man on his right. On the command of execution **FRONT,** each member returns sharply to the *Position of Attention* (Figure 6-2).

Figure 6-2. Alignment (Normal Interval)

NOTE: If the squad leader wants exact alignment, on the command of execution DRESS, he faces to the Half Left in marching and marches by the most direct route to a position on line with the squad, halts one step from the right flank man, and faces down the line. From his position, he verifies the alignment of the squad, directing the men to move forward or backward, as necessary, calling them by name or number: **"Private Jones, forward 2 inches"; "Number eight, backward 4 inches."** The squad leader remains at attention, taking short steps to the right or left as necessary to see down the squad. Having aligned the squad, he centers himself on the right flank man by taking short steps left or right. He then faces to the *Half Right* in marching, returns to his position (center of the squad), halts perpendicular to the formation, faces to the left, and commands ***Ready,*** **FRONT**. These procedures also apply when aligning the squad at close or *Double Interval*.

    b. To align the squad at *Close Interval,* the commands are ***At Close Interval, Dress Right,*** **DRESS** and ***Ready,*** **FRONT.** The movement is executed in the same manner prescribed for alignment at *Normal Interval* except that the squad members obtain *Close Interval* (Figure 6-3, page 6-6).

Figure 6-3. Alignment (Close Interval)

c. To align the squad at *Double Interval,* the commands are ***At Double Interval, Dress Right,*** **DRESS** and ***Ready,*** **FRONT.** These commands are given only when the troops are unarmed or at *Sling Arms.* On the command of execution **DRESS,** each member (except the right flank man) turns his head and eyes to the right and aligns himself on the man on his right. At the same time, each member (except the right and left flank men) extends both arms and positions himself by short steps right or left until his fingertips are touching the fingertips of the members on his right and left. (The right flank man raises his left arm; the left flank man raises his right arm.)

d. To align the squad in column, the commands are **COVER** and **RECOVER.** On the command **COVER**, each member (except the number one man) raises his left arm to a horizontal position, elbow locked, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing down, and obtains an arm's length plus about 6 inches (from the fingertips) to the back of the man to his front. At the same time, each man aligns himself directly behind the man to his front. To resume the *Position of Attention,* the command **RECOVER** is given. On this command, each member sharply returns to the *Position of Attention.*

6-6. MARCHING THE SQUAD

To march the squad, use the following procedures:

a. For short distances only, the squad may be marched forward while in a line formation.

b. When marching long distances, the squad is marched in column.

c. To form a column formation from a line formation, the command is ***Right,*** **FACE**.

d. When a column formation is originated from a line formation at *Close Interval,* the squad may be marched for short distances at the *Half Step* with less than correct

distance. To obtain correct distance while marching with less than correct distance, the command is *Extend,* **MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the number one man takes one more 15- inch step and then steps off with a 30-inch step. Each squad member begins marching with a 30-inch step at the approximate point where the number one man stepped off, or as soon as correct distance has been obtained.

NOTE: See Chapter 4 for more information on marching movements.

6-7. CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF A COLUMN

To change the direction of a column, use the following procedures:

a.   From the *Halt,* the command to start the squad in motion and simultaneously change the direction of march 90 or 45 degrees is *Column Right (Left),* **MARCH** or *Column Half Right (Left),* **MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the lead man faces to the right (left) as in marching by pivoting to the right (left) on the ball of the right foot and steps off in the indicated direction taking a 30-inch step with the left foot and continues to march. The number two man adjusts his step by lengthening or shortening as necessary to reach the approximate pivot point of the lead man. When he reaches the approximate pivot point of the lead man, he pivots to the right (left) on the ball of the lead foot taking a 30-inch step with the trail foot in the new direction. All other members step off with the left foot and continue to march forward taking 30-inch steps and execute in the same manner as the number two man in approximately the same place until the entire squad has executed the column movement.

b.   To change the direction of march 90 or 45 degrees when marching, the preparatory command *Column Right (Left)* or *Column Half Right (Half Left)* is given as the foot (in the desired direction) strikes the marching surface. The command of execution **MARCH** is given the next time the foot in the desired direction strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the lead man takes one additional step, pivots in the commanded direction as the pivot foot strikes the marching surface, and continues to march in the new direction. Other members continue to march forward and execute the pivot as prescribed from the *Halt.*

c.   To avoid an obstacle in the line of march, the squad leader directs, **INCLINE LEFT (RIGHT).** The lead man inclines left (right) around the obstacle and resumes the original direction. All other members follow the lead man.

6-8. MARCHING TO THE FLANK

The squad may be marched to the flank (for short distances only) when marching in column. The command for this movement is *Right (Left) Flank,* **MARCH.** The preparatory command is given as the foot in the desired direction strikes the marching surface, and the command of execution is given the next time the foot in the desired direction strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH,** all members take one more step, pivot 90 degrees in the commanded direction on the ball of the lead foot, and step off in the new direction with the trailing foot. As the members begin to march in the new direction, they glance out of the corner of the right eye and dress to the right.

6-9. FORMING A COLUMN OF TWOS AND RE-FORMING

To form a column of twos and re-form, use the following procedures:

a. Forming a column of twos from a file is executed only from the *Halt.* The command is *Column of Twos to the Right (Left),* **MARCH.** On the preparatory command, the lead team leader commands **STAND FAST.** The trailing team leader commands *Column Half Right (Left).* On the command of execution **MARCH,** the trailing team leader executes a *Column Half Right (Left),* inclines to the left or right when the correct interval is obtained, and commands *Mark time,* **MARCH** and *Team,* **HALT** to *Halt* abreast of the lead team leader.

b. Forming a file from a column of twos is executed only from the *Halt.* The command is *File from the Left (Right),* **MARCH.** On the preparatory command, the lead team leader commands **FORWARD**. The trailing team leader commands **STAND FAST**. On the command of execution **MARCH,** the lead team marches forward. The trailing team leader commands *Column Half Left (Right)* when the second man from the rear of the lead team is abreast. He gives the command **MARCH** when the last man of the lead team is abreast of him and his right foot strikes the marching surface. He then inclines right or left to follow the lead team at the correct distance.

NOTE: Commands are given over the team leader's right shoulder if the direction of movement is to the right or if the team is following an element to its right. Commands are given over the left shoulder if the direction of movement is to the left or if the team is following an element to its left.

6-10. DISMISSING THE SQUAD

The squad is dismissed with the members at *Attention.* With armed troops, the commands are *Inspection,* **ARMS;** *Ready, Port,* **ARMS;** *Order (Sling),* **ARMS;** and **DISMISSED.** With unarmed troops, the command is **DISMISSED.**

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated (by the person in charge in his instructions before the command **DISMISSED**), the command **DISMISSED** terminates only the formation, not the duty day (JP 1-02).

Section II. STACK AND TAKE ARMS (M16-SERIES RIFLE)

The squad members execute *Stack Arms* from their positions in line formation (at *Normal Interval*) from *Order Arms.* When in line formation, the squad leader commands *Count,* **OFF** and then designates the stack men by numbers (2-5-8).

NOTES: 1. M4-series carbines are not compatible with the M16-series rifles when stacking arms. The two types of weapons must be stacked separately or grounded in a manner that will not damage the sights. (See Appendix D for a detailed explanation of stack arms and take arms for the M4-series carbine.)

2. When the squad is part of a larger unit, stack arms may be executed in a column formation (when the formation consists of three or more files and

the squads are at normal interval). Second or third squad is designated as the stack squad.

6-11.   PREPARE SLINGS

After the stack men are designated, the squad leader commands *Prepare,* **SLINGS.** On the command of execution **SLINGS,** each stack man (or stack squad) grasps the barrel of his rifle with the right hand and raises the rifle vertically. With his left hand, he places the rifle butt on his right hip and cradles the rifle in the crook of his right arm. Using both hands, he adjusts the sling keeper so that a 2-inch loop is formed from the sling keeper to the upper sling swivel. As soon as the loop is prepared, he returns to *Order Arms.*

6-12.   STACK ARMS

When all stack men have returned to *Order Arms,* the squad leader commands *Stack,* **ARMS**.

a.   On the command of execution **ARMS,** each stack man grasps the barrel of his rifle with his right hand and places the rifle directly in front of and centered on his body with the sights to the rear. The rifle butt is placed on the marching surface so that the heel of the rifle butt is on line with the toes of his footgear. The stack man bends slightly forward at the waist and grasps his rifle with his left hand at the upper portion of the handguard (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 stack man reaches across the front of the rifle with his right hand, grasps the outer part of the loop, and holds it open for insertion of other rifles.

b.   On the command of execution **ARMS,** the men to the right and left of the stack man perform the following movements simultaneously:

(1)   The man on the stack man's right grasps the barrel of his rifle with his right hand and raises and centers his rifle with the magazine well facing to the front, wrist held shoulder high, elbow locked. With his left hand, he then grasps the handguard (midway), releases his right hand, and regrasps the rifle at the small of the stock. He lowers both arms, with elbows locked (holding the rifle in a horizontal position with the muzzle to the left and the magazine well to the front).

(2)   The man on the stack man's left grasps the barrel of the rifle with his right hand and raises and centers his rifle with magazine well facing to the front, wrist held shoulder high, elbow locked. Using his left hand, he then grasps the rifle at the small of the stock, releases the right hand, and regrasps the handguard midway. He then lowers both arms, with elbows locked holding the rifle in a horizontal position with the muzzle to the right and magazine well to the front.

c.   As soon as the stack man has placed his rifle in position, both men move the foot nearest the stack man half way *(Half Right* or *Half Left)* toward the stack man. The man on the stack man's left inserts the muzzle of his rifle into the loop to a point about halfway between the flash suppressor and the front sight assembly. He holds his rifle in this position until the man on the stack man's right inserts the muzzle of his rifle in a similar manner and above the other rifle muzzle.

d.   Without moving the feet, both riflemen swing the butt of their rifles out and then down to the marching surface, making the stack tight with the rifle butts on line and about

2 feet from the base line. When the stack has been completed, all three men resume the *Position of Attention.*

e.   Additional rifles are passed to the nearest stack on the right (right or left if stacked in column). The men with additional rifles grasp the rifle barrel with the right hand and raise the rifle vertically with the magazine well to the front, wrist held shoulder high, elbow locked, and right arm extended to the right front. Throughout the pass, the rifle is held vertical with the magazine well to the front.

(1)   The man to the left of the stack man then grasps the rifle midway at the handguard with his left hand. The man passing the additional rifle then releases the rifle and sharply returns to the *Position of Attention.* The man to the left of the stack man then moves the rifle to the right until it is centered on his body, and he grasps the rifle barrel with his right hand, wrist held shoulder high and elbow locked. He then releases the left hand and sharply returns his left hand to the left side as in the *Position of Attention.* He then moves the rifle to his right front.

(2)   The stack man receives the rifle and centers it in the same manner as previously described. The man to the left of the stack man sharply returns to the *Position of Attention* after he releases the rifle. Once the stack man has centered the rifle and grasped the barrel with the right hand, he bends forward at the waist and places the rifle in the stack so that it is secure (without damaging the front sight assembly). If there are two additional rifles, the second rifle is passed in the same manner as the first.

NOTE: See Appendix B for a figure showing *Stack Arms* using the M4-series carbine.

6-13.   TAKE ARMS

To *Take Arms,* the command is ***Take,* ARMS.** On the command of execution **ARMS,** the men return the additional rifles in the same manner as the rifles were received. The stack man secures the stack and holds the loop in the same manner as for stacking rifles. The men on the left and right step toward the stack man in the same manner as when stacking arms. Each man reaches down and regrasps his rifle (one hand at the small of the stock and one hand midway of the handguard) and brings it to the horizontal position. The man on the right frees his rifle first and resumes *Order Arms.* The man on the left frees his rifle and resumes *Order Arms.* The stack man cradles his rifle and adjusts the sling and sling keeper to its original position and then resumes *Order Arms.*

Chapter 7
PLATOON DRILL

"If in training Soldiers commands are habitually enforced, the army will be well-disciplined; if not, its discipline will be bad."
                                        Sun Tsu, On the Art of War, trans. 1910

Section I. FORMATIONS

The platoon has two prescribed formations—line and column (Figure 7-1, page 7-2). However, the platoon may be formed into a file or a column of twos from a column formation. When in a line formation, the elements (squads) of a platoon are numbered from front to rear; in a column formation, from left to right. (Appendix G contains an explanation of the symbols used in figures.)

7-1. BASIC INFORMATION

For the most part, platoon drill merely provides the procedures for executing drill movements in conjunction with other squads formed in the same formation. Individual drill movements and the manual of arms are executed as previously described while performing as a squad member during the conduct of platoon drill. For continuity purposes in this chapter, "platoon sergeant" may also denote "platoon leader" when the platoon sergeant is executing drill from his post.
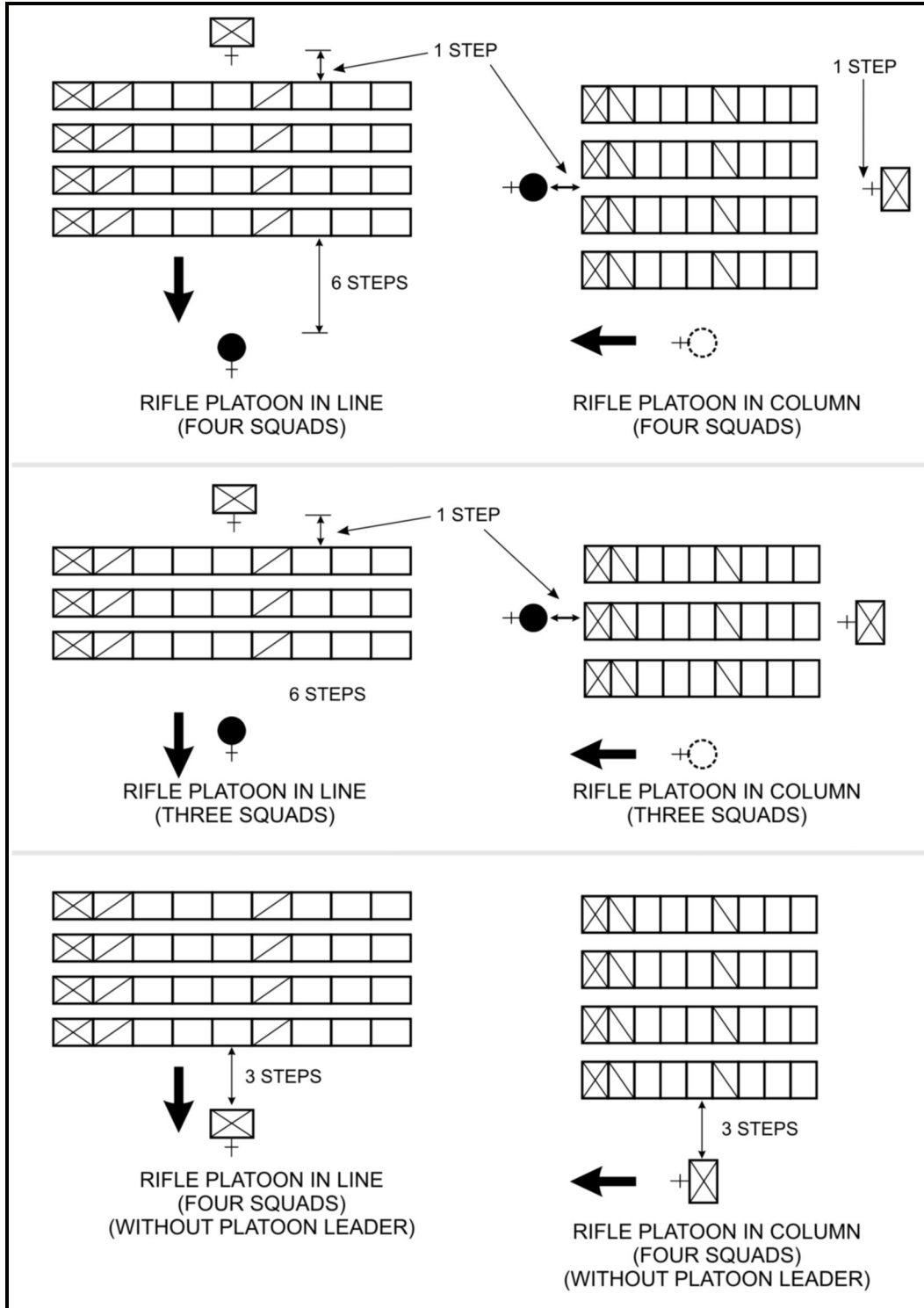
Figure 7-1. Platoon formations

a.   During all drill and ceremonies, the platoon leader and platoon sergeant carry their rifles at *Sling Arms*. When the platoon drills as part of a larger unit, the platoon leader and

platoon sergeant remain at *Sling Arms* during all manual of arms movements except when executing the *Hand Salute* while at *Sling Arms*.

b. When the platoon drills as a separate unit or as part of a larger unit in a line formation, without officers present, the post for the platoon sergeant is three steps in front of and centered on the platoon. When in column formation, the post for the platoon sergeant is three steps to left flank of and centered on the platoon.

c. The post for the platoon sergeant with the platoon leader present is one step to the rear and centered on the platoon in line or column formation.

d. When assuming his post in column from a line formation with the platoon leader present, the platoon sergeant faces to the left in marching (on the command of execution **FACE**) and marches in the most direct route to his post. He then halts and faces to the right. When assuming his post in line from a column formation, he faces to the right in marching (on the command of execution **FACE**) and marches in the most direct route to his post, halts centered on the platoon, and faces to the left.

NOTE: When the files (columns) are uneven, the platoon sergeant normally directs the men in longer files to move to another file to balance the formation; or he may fill the vacancy himself as the last man in the right file.

e. When control of the formation is being exchanged between the platoon sergeant and the platoon leader, the platoon sergeant will **always** travel around the **right flank** (squad leader) of the formation when marching from post to post. The platoon leader will **always** travel around the **left flank** of the formation when marching post to post.

f. On the command ***Open Ranks,* MARCH; *Backward,* MARCH**; ***Right (Left) Step,* MARCH; *Forward,* MARCH** and on commands that cause the platoon to change interval in line, he moves at the same time (with the appropriate step) so as to maintain proper position.

g. The leader of the first squad serves as the base when the platoon is a line formation. The leader of the fourth squad serves as the base when the platoon is in a column formation.

h. If for some reason the platoon is authorized a guidon or phase banner (in training units for example), the bearer's post is one step in front of and two 15-inch steps to the right of and facing the person forming the platoon. When the formation is faced to the right for a marching movement, he executes in the same manner as explained in Appendix H, except that his post is three steps in front of and centered on the squad leaders. If the platoon leader is present and at his post, the bearer's post is one step to the rear and two 15-inch steps to the left of the platoon leader.

i. When the platoon drills as a separate unit, in a line formation, the post for the platoon leader is six steps in front of and centered on the platoon; when in a column formation, the platoon leader is six steps to the left flank and centered on the platoon. When marching as part of a larger formation, his post is one step in front of and centered on the squad leaders.

j. When the platoon leader commands ***Open Ranks,* MARCH; *Backward,* MARCH; *Right (Left) Step,* MARCH; *Forward,* MARCH** or causes the platoon to change interval,

he moves at the same time (with the appropriate step) so as to maintain proper position.

(1)   When assuming his post in column from a line formation, the platoon leader faces to the right in marching (on the command of execution **FACE**) and marches in the most direct route to his post, halts*,* and faces to the left.

(2)   When assuming his post in line from a column formation, the platoon leader faces to the left in marching (on the command of execution **FACE**) and marches in the most direct route to his post, halts perpendicular to the formation, and faces to the right.

7-2. FORMING THE PLATOON

The platoon normally forms in a line formation; however, it may re- form in a column when each man can identify his exact position (equipment grounded) in the formation.

a.   The platoon forms basically the same as a squad. The platoon sergeant assumes the *Position of Attention* and commands **FALL IN** *(At Close Interval,* **FALL IN** or *In Column,* **FALL IN).** On the command **FALL IN** *(At Close Interval,* **FALL IN),** the squad leader and the first squad (when formed) is three steps in front of and centered on the platoon sergeant. Other squad leaders cover on the first squad leader at the correct distance, which is obtained by estimation. The members of the first squad fall in on their squad leader as prescribed for squad drill. Members of the other squads fall in on their squad leader, assume the *Position of Attention,* and turn their heads and eyes to the right. They obtain correct distance by taking short steps forward or backward and align themselves on the man to their right. They then sharply turn their heads and eyes to the front as in the *Position of Attention* and obtain proper interval by taking short steps left and right to cover on the man to their front. Members of all squads, other than the first squad, will not raise their left arms unless the man to their immediate left has no one to his front in the formation on which to cover.

b.   When armed, members fall in at *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms.* For safety, the commands *Inspection,* **ARMS;** *Ready, Port,* **ARMS;** *Order (Sling),* **ARMS** are given at the initial formation of the day and just before the last command, **DISMISSED.**

c.   When a report is appropriate, the platoon sergeant commands **REPORT.** The squad leaders, in succession from front to rear, turn their heads and eyes toward the platoon sergeant and salute (holding the *Salute* until returned) and report. The squad leaders do not state the unit. For example:

> *Situation 1*. When all squad members are in formation, the report is **"All present."**
>
> *Situation 2*. When squad members are absent, the Soldiers and reasons for absence are reported:
>
>> *Pvt. Smith - CQ runner.*
>> *Pvt. Jones - sick call.*
>> *Pvt. Williams - AWOL.*

d.   The platoon sergeant turns his head and eyes toward the reporting squad leader, receives the report, and returns the salute. After receiving the report from the squad leaders, the platoon sergeant faces about and awaits the arrival of the platoon leader or a directive from the first sergeant to **REPORT**. When the platoon leader has halted at his post, the platoon sergeant salutes and reports, **"*Sir, All present*"**; or **"*Sir, All accounted for*";**

or **"*Sir, (so many) men absent.*"** The platoon leader returns the *Salute.* After the *Salute* has been returned, the platoon sergeant faces to the right in marching*,* inclines around the squad leaders, halts at his post, and faces to the right. If reporting to the first sergeant, the platoon sergeant turns his head and eyes toward the first sergeant, salutes, and reports.

　　e.　If the platoon leader is not present for the formation, and the commander is in charge of the formation, the platoon sergeant steps forward three steps (after receiving the squad leader's report) and, on the command **POST**, assumes the duties of the platoon leader.

　　f.　When appropriate, the platoon may be formed by the platoon leader rather than by the platoon sergeant. The procedures are the same as previously described except that the first squad forms six steps in front of and centered on the platoon leader, and the platoon sergeant forms at his post to the rear of the platoon. For continuity purposes in this chapter, "platoon sergeant" may also denote "platoon leader" when the platoon leader is executing drill from his post.

7-3. BREAKING RANKS

When the situation requires one or more individuals to leave the formation or to receive specific instructions from the platoon sergeant, the platoon sergeant directs: **"*Private Doe (pause), front and center*";** or, **"*The following personnel front and center—Private Doe (pause), Private Smith.*"** When the individual's name is called, he assumes the position of *attention* and replies, **"*Here, Sergeant (Sir).*"** He then takes one (15-inch) step backward, halts, faces to the right (left) in marching*,* and exits the formation by marching to the nearest flank. *The Soldier does not look left or right.* Once the individual has cleared the formation, he begins to double-time and halts two steps in front of and centered on the platoon sergeant.

NOTE:　　When a group of individuals are called from the formation, the group forms centered on the platoon sergeant. The platoon sergeant should direct (point) the first man into position so that the rank will be centered when the last man has joined the group.

7-4. COUNTING OFF

The platoon counts off in the same manner as the squad. When in a line formation, the squads count in unison from right to left; each squad leader sounds off, **"ONE."** When in a column formation, the men abreast of each other count in unison from front to rear; each squad leader sounds off, **"ONE."**

7-5. CHANGING INTERVAL

The platoon changes interval in a line formation in the same manner as the squad.

　　a.　To change interval when the platoon is in a column at the *Halt,* the right file stands fast and serves as the base. All other members (abreast of each other) execute the movement as previously described. To obtain *Close Interval* from *Normal Interval,* the third squad takes one right step, the second squad takes two right steps, and the first squad takes three

right steps. To obtain *Normal Interval,* the procedures are the same except that the squads execute the same number of left steps.

b. To change interval when the platoon is marching in a column, the preparatory command ***Close Interval*** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface, and the command of execution **MARCH** is given the next time the right foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH,** the base squad (right file) takes one more 30-inch step and then executes the *Half Step.* All other men take one more step, simultaneously execute a *Column Half Right,* and march until *Close Interval* is obtained. They execute a *Column Half Left* and assume the *Half Step* when abreast of the corresponding man of the base squad. On the command ***Forward,* MARCH,** all men resume marching with a 30-inch step. The commands ***Mark Time,* MARCH** and ***Platoon,* HALT** may also be given.

c. To resume marching at *Normal Interval,* the preparatory command ***Normal Interval*** is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface, and the command of execution **MARCH** is given the next time the left foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH,** the platoon members obtain *Normal Interval* in the same manner prescribed for *Close Interval* except that they each execute *Column Half Left* and then *Column Half Right.*

d. To obtain *Double Interval* from *Normal Interval,* the procedures are the same as from *Close Interval* to *Normal Interval.*

e. To obtain *Normal Interval* from *Double Interval* (closing the formation in column from *Open Ranks*), the procedures are the same as obtaining *Close Interval* from *Normal Interval.*

7-6. ALIGNING THE PLATOON

The platoon is aligned similar to the squad.

a. On the command of execution **DRESS,** the first squad leader stands fast and serves as the base. Other squad leaders obtain correct distance by estimation. The members of the first squad execute in the same manner as in squad drill to obtain exact interval. All other squads execute as the first squad, except that each squad member raises the left arm only for uniformity, actually covering (glancing out the corner of the left eye) on the man to the front.

b. If the platoon sergeant wants exact alignment, he faces to the *Half Left (Half Right)* in marching and marches (on the command of execution **DRESS**) by the most direct route to a position on line with the first squad, halts one step from the squad leader or left flank man, and faces down the line. From this position, he verifies the alignment of the first squad, directing the men to move forward or backward, as necessary, calling them by name or number: **"*Private Jones, forward 2 inches; Number eight, backward 4 inches.*"** The platoon sergeant remains at *Attention,* taking short steps to the right or left as necessary, to see down the squad.

(1) Having aligned the first squad, the platoon sergeant, after centering himself on the first squad, faces to the left (right) in marching, taking two (three if at open ranks) short steps to the next squad, halts, faces down the line, and aligns the squad in the same manner.

(2) After the last squad is aligned, the platoon sergeant centers himself on the squad leader by taking short steps left or right, faces to the right (left) in marching, returns to his position (centered on the platoon), halts perpendicular to the formation, faces to the left (right), and commands *Ready,* **FRONT**.

NOTE: When the platoon dresses as part of a larger formation, all squad leaders turn their heads and eyes to their right and align themselves on the unit to their right. The platoon sergeant aligns the platoon from the left flank rather than from the right flank when his platoon is not formed as the right flank platoon.

c. To align the platoon in column, the commands are **COVER** and **RECOVER**. On the command **COVER**, the fourth squad leader stands fast and serves as base. The squad leaders with the exception of the left flank squad leader, raise their arms laterally and turn their heads and eyes to the right. The members of the fourth squad raise their left arms horizontally (as in squad drill) to the front and cover the man to their front at correct distance (one arm's length plus 6 inches). Squad members of the third, second, and first squads raise their left arms horizontally to the front (for uniformity only), cover on the man to their front, and, at the same time, glance out of the corner of their right eyes aligning on the man to their right. To resume the *Position of Attention*, the command is **RECOVER**. On this command, each man sharply returns to the *Position of Attention*.

NOTE: When the platoon is aligned in column as part of a larger unit but is not the lead platoon, the squad leaders do not raise their arms or turn their heads and eyes but cover on the squad to their front. The platoon sergeant must wait until the platoon to his front has been given the command **RECOVER** before giving the command **COVER.** If the platoon leader is at his post, he must wait until the platoon leader of the platoon to his front has commanded **RECOVER** before he faces about and gives the command **COVER**.

7-7. OPENING AND CLOSING RANKS

To open or close ranks, use the following procedures:

a. *Open Ranks,* **MARCH** is executed from a line formation while at the halt. It may be executed while at any of the prescribed intervals. The command for this movement is *Open Ranks,* **MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the front rank takes two steps forward, the second rank takes one step forward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes two steps backward. If additional ranks are present, the fifth rank takes four steps backward, and the sixth rank takes six steps backward.

NOTE: After taking the prescribed steps, the men do not raise their arms. If the platoon sergeant wants exact interval or alignment, he commands *At Close Interval (At Double Interval)*, *Dress Right,* **DRESS**. If the platoon is to align on an element to the right, the squad leaders turn their head and eyes to the right and align themselves with that element.

b. To *Close Ranks,* the command is ***Close Ranks,* MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH** , the first rank takes four steps backward, the second rank takes two steps backward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes one step forward. On the command of execution **MARCH,** the platoon leader and platoon sergeant take the appropriate number of steps to maintain their posts.

7-8. RESTING THE PLATOON

The platoon rests in the same manner prescribed for the squad.

7-9. DISMISSING THE PLATOON

The procedures for dismissing the platoon are basically the same as prescribed for the squad.

a. If the platoon sergeant so desires, the squads may be released to the control of the squad leaders. The platoon sergeant commands **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR SQUADS,** and *Salutes* are exchanged. The platoon sergeant is no longer part of the formation.

NOTE: Without leaving their positions, the squad leaders turn their heads and eyes over the left shoulder and command **FALL OUT**. The squad leaders move to a position in the immediate area, and command **FALL IN**. Then, they carry out the previous instructions and or give any instructions for actions before the next duty formation.

b. At times the platoon sergeant may want to turn the formation over to a subordinate; for example, to have the subordinate march the platoon to a different location.

(1) The platoon sergeant calls on an individual and the individual breaks rank (paragraph 7-3). The designated Soldier posts two steps from and facing the platoon sergeant. The platoon sergeant passes on any additional instructions and *Salutes* are exchanged. After exchanging *Salutes*, the platoon sergeant moves to a position where he can observe, or he may resume his post at the rear of the formation.

(2) The subordinate steps forward two steps, and assumes the post of the platoon sergeant. The platoon sergeant is no longer part of the formation; however, he may march along side of, or behind, the formation to make any corrections or to give further guidance, if necessary.

c. If the platoon leader is at his post, he commands **PLATOON SERGEANT.** The platoon sergeant faces to the left in marching and inclines around the squad leaders' left flank, halts three steps in front of and centered on the platoon, and faces to the right. The platoon leader then commands **TAKE CHARGE OF THE PLATOON,** and *Salutes* are exchanged. The platoon leader is no longer part of the formation. The platoon sergeant remains at his post, faces about, and carries out the platoon leader's instructions.

Section II. MOVEMENTS

The platoon marches in the same manner prescribed for the squad. When the platoon is marching in a line, the first squad leader serves as the guide, and when the platoon is

marching in a column, the fourth squad leader serves as the guide. When marching in line, each member of each squad (glancing out of the corner of his right eye) maintains alignment on the man to his right. When marching in column, each member of the first, second, and third squads maintains alignment on the man to his right.

7-10.   EYES RIGHT

The platoon renders courtesy during ceremonies or when marching past the Colors by executing *Eyes Right.* The commands for this movement are *Eyes,* **RIGHT** and *Ready,* **FRONT.**

a.   At the *Halt,* all men (on the command of execution, **RIGHT**), while keeping their shoulders parallel to the front, turn their heads and eyes to the right at a 45-degree angle. They focus on and follow the person passing to the front until they are again looking forward, at which time their heads and eyes remain fixed to the front. Only the platoon leader renders the *Hand Salute.*

b.   When marching, the preparatory command *Eyes* is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface and the command of execution **RIGHT** is given the next time the right foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **RIGHT,** all men, except the right file, turn their heads and eyes to the right and align themselves on the right file while continuing to march. Men in the right file do not turn their heads and eyes but continue looking straight to the front and maintain correct distance. Only the platoon leader salutes. To terminate the courtesy, the preparatory command *Ready* is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface, and the command of execution **FRONT** is given the next time the left foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution, the men turn their heads and eyes sharply to the front and the platoon leader terminates the *Hand Salute.*

7-11.   CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF A COLUMN

The platoon changes the direction of marching basically the same as the squad.

a.   During a column movement, the base element is the squad on the flank in the direction of the turn.

b.   To change the direction 90 degrees, the command is *Column Right (Left),* **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH,** the base squad executes the movement as in squad drill except that the squad leader takes one 30-inch step and then takes up the *Half Step.* The squad leader continues marching with the *Half Step* until the other squad leaders come abreast. The other squad leaders, while maintaining correct (offset) interval, execute a 45-degree pivot and continue marching in an arc. As they come on line (abreast) with the base squad leader, they take up the *Half Step.* When all squad leaders are abreast, they step off with a 30-inch step without command. All other platoon members march forward on the command of execution and execute the column movement at approximately the same location as their squad leaders and in the same manner.

NOTE: When the platoon sergeant is marching his platoon as a separate unit or when the company is marching without officers in charge, the platoon sergeant stays centered on his platoon. When the platoon leader and platoon sergeant are

marching at their post in column as part of a larger formation, they execute a *Column Half Right (Left)* rather than a 90-degree column movement. After executing the *Column Half Right (Left),* they continue marching in an arc, incline as necessary, and resume their correct positions. After sensing that the squad leaders are abreast of each other, the platoon leader resumes the 30-inch step. At times, the platoon leader may find it necessary to shorten or lengthen his step in order to maintain correct distance from the unit to his front.

c. To change the direction 45 degrees, the command is ***Column Half Right (Left),*** **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH,** the platoon executes the movement in the same manner as a 90-degree turn except that the base squad leader, as well as the other squad leaders, execute a *Column Half Right (Left).*

NOTE: When executing a column movement at *Double Time,* elements adjust the length of their steps so that interval and distance are maintained through and beyond the pivot point.

d. The platoon marches in the opposite direction *(Rear,* **MARCH)** in the same manner as the squad.

e. The platoon inclines in the same manner as the squad. The squad nearest the direction of the turn serves as the base. To avoid an obstacle in the path of the march, the platoon leader directs **INCLINE AROUND LEFT (RIGHT).**

f. When space is limited and the platoon sergeant wants to march his unit in the opposite direction (reverse), with the squad leaders at the head of their squads, he commands ***Counter Column,*** **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH** (at the *Halt),* the first squad marches forward three steps, executes a *Column Right,* marches across the front of the platoon, and executes another *Column Right* just beyond the fourth squad. The second squad steps forward one step, executes a *Column Right,* marches forward, and executes another *Column Right* between the third and fourth squads. The third squad executes two short *Column Lefts* from the *Halt* and marches between the remainder of the third squad and the second squad. The fourth squad marches forward two steps, executes a *Column Left,* marches across the front of the platoon, and executes another *Column Left* between the first and second squads (Figure 7-2).
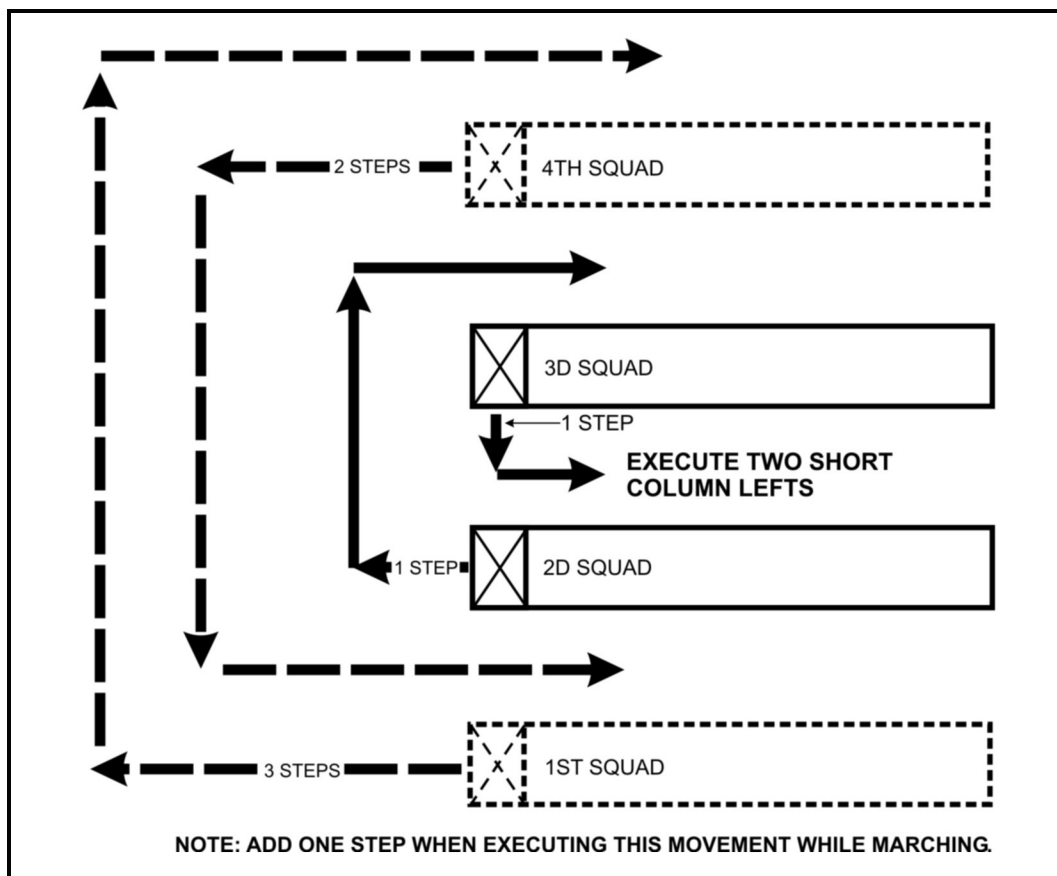
Figure 7-2. Counter-Column March at the Halt

g. As the third squad leader marches past the last man in the third squad, he and his squad begin to march at the *Half Step.* After marching past the last man in each file, all other squads incline to the right and left as necessary, obtain *Normal Interval* on the third squad, and begin to march with the *Half Step.* When all squads are abreast of each other, they begin marching with a 30-inch step without command.

h. During the movement, *without the platoon leader present,* the platoon sergeant marches alongside the first squad. *With the platoon leader present,* the platoon sergeant marches one step to the rear and centered between the second and third squads (Figure 7-1, page 7-2) and the platoon leader marches alongside the first squad.

i. When marching, the preparatory command ***Counter-Column*** is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface and the command of execution **MARCH** is given the next time the left foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the platoon executes the movement basically the same as from the *Halt,* except that the squad takes one additional step to ensure that the pivot foot is in the correct position to execute the movement.

NOTES: 1. When there are only three squads in the column, the first squad takes two steps before executing.

2. When the platoon leader and platoon sergeant are marching at their posts as part of a larger formation, the platoon leader takes three steps forward and executes a column right, marches across the front of the platoon, executes another column right (just beyond fourth squad), marches to his post in the most direct manner, takes up the *Half Step,* and then steps off with a 30-inch step when the squad leaders come on line. The platoon sergeant inclines to the right, follows the third squad until the movement is completed, and then resumes his post.

7-12.   MARCHING TO THE FLANKS

The platoon marches to the flank in the same manner as the squad.

7-13.   FORMING A FILE AND RE-FORMING

The platoon forms a single file, from the right, left, or as designated, only when in column and at the *Halt.* The commands are *File from the left (right),* **MARCH** or *File in sequence three-two-four-one,* **MARCH**.

NOTE: If the squad's direction of travel is to the left, or the squad is immediately following an element on the left, then *all* supplementary commands will be given over the left shoulder. If the squad's direction of travel is forward or to the right, or is immediately following a squad on the right, *all* supplementary commands will be given over the right shoulder. The squad leaders give the appropriate command so that they are following the last Soldier in the preceding squad at the correct distance.

a.   On the preparatory command, the squad leader of the designated squad gives the supplementary command *Forward.* The other squad leaders command **STAND FAST**. On the command of execution **MARCH** (given by the platoon sergeant), the lead squad marches forward. The squad leader next to the lead element (or as designated) looks over the shoulder nearest the moving element and commands *Column Half Left (Right)* when the second from the last man is abreast of him and his right foot strikes the marching surface. The *squad leader* gives the command of execution **MARCH** as the right foot of the last man strikes the marching surface when abreast of him. On the command of execution, the squad leader executes the *Column Half Left (Right),* then inclines without command to the right (left), and follows the last man of the preceding squad at correct distance. Other members of the squad march forward and execute the same movements as the squad leader. The remaining squads form the file in the same manner as the squad immediately behind the lead element.

b.   The platoon may form a file and execute a column movement simultaneously from a column formation. The command for this movement is *File from the left (right), Column Left (Right),* **MARCH**. Following the platoon sergeant's preparatory command, the squad leader of the lead element commands *Column Left (Right),* instead of *Forward.* The other squad leaders command **STAND FAST**. On the platoon leader's command of execution **MARCH**, the lead squad executes the *Column Left (Right).* The other squad leaders command *Column Left (Right)* at the appropriate time.

NOTES: 1. At this point the platoon is executing platoon drill. The platoon sergeant will not release control of the squads to the squad leaders. The platoon sergeant will rest personnel on an as needed basis; for example, when filing into a building.

2. The squad leaders give the command of execution **MARCH** as the right foot of the last man strikes the marching surface at the pivot *(Column Left),* or the first time the last man's right foot strikes the marching surface after the pivot *(Column Right).*

c. The platoon re-forms to the original column formation only from the *Halt.* The command is ***Column of fours to the right (left),* MARCH.**

NOTE: To re-form the platoon to its original column formation when the file was formed on the command ***In sequence ,* MARCH**, the commands **FALL OUT** and **FALL IN** must be given.

(1) On the preparatory command, the squad leader of the base squad commands **STAND FAST.** All other squad leaders command ***Column Half Right (Left).*** On the platoon sergeant's command of execution **MARCH,** the base squad stands fast; all other squads execute the *Column Half Right (Left)* simultaneously.

(2) As each of the moving squad leaders reach a point (line) that ensures correct interval on the element to their left (right), they automatically incline to the left (right) and command ***Mark Time,* MARCH** and ***Squad,* HALT** so that their squad is abreast of the base (other) squad when halted.

7-14. FORMING A COLUMN OF TWOS AND RE-FORMING

The platoon forms a column of twos from the right or left when in a column of fours at the *Halt.* The command is ***Column of twos from the left (right),* MARCH.**

a. On the preparatory command, the squad leaders of the two lead squads command ***Forward.*** The other squad leaders command **STAND FAST.**

(1) On the platoon sergeant's command of execution **MARCH,** the two lead squads march forward. The squad leader (second or third) next to the lead element gives the command to start both of the remaining squads in motion. Looking over the shoulder nearest the moving elements, the squad leader gives the preparatory command ***Column Half Left (Right)*** (when the second from the last man is abreast of him) and then gives the command of execution **MARCH** as the right foot of the last man strikes the marching surface abreast of him.

(2) On the platoon sergeant's command of execution, both squad leaders execute the *Column Half Left (Right),* incline to the right (left) without command, and follow the last men of the preceding squads at correct distance (do not close the space if the files of the two leading squads are not even). Other members of the remaining squads march forward and execute the same movements as their squad leaders.

b. The platoon may form a column of twos and execute a column movement simultaneously from a column formation. The command for this movement is ***Column of twos from the left (right), Column left (right),* MARCH.**

(1)   The squad leaders of the lead squads command ***Column Left (Right)*** instead of ***Forward***. The squad leader of the second (third) squad gives the command ***Column Left (Right)***; however, he executes *Column Half Left (Right)*. The remaining two squad leaders command **STAND FAST.**

(2)   On the platoon sergeant's command of execution **MARCH,** the lead squads execute the *Column Left (Right)*. The squad leader (second or third) next to the lead elements gives the command to start both squads in motion. Looking over the shoulder nearest the moving elements, the squad leader gives the preparatory command ***Column Left (Right)*** when the second from the last man is abreast of him. Then he gives the command of execution **MARCH** as the right foot of the last man strikes the marching surface at the pivot *(Column Left)* or the first time the last man's right foot strikes the marching surface after the pivot *(Column Right)*. Although the command is ***Column Left (Right),*** the outside squads (fourth or first) execute *Column Half Left (Right)*.

c.   The platoon re-forms to the original column formation only from the *Halt.* The command is ***Column of fours to the right (left),*** **MARCH.**

(1)   When re-forming into a column of fours *without the platoon leader present*, the platoon sergeant remains at his post centered on the platoon. When re-forming into a column of fours *with the platoon leader present*, the platoon leader faces as in marching and resumes his original position in the column. The platoon sergeant follows the rear element and resumes his post in the formation when the element has halted.

(2)   On the preparatory command, the squad leaders of the base squads command **STAND FAST.** The trailing squad leaders command ***Column Half Right (Left).*** On the platoon sergeant's command of execution **MARCH,** the base squads stand fast. The trailing squad leaders execute slightly more than the *Column Half Right (Left)* simultaneously. As the trailing squad leaders reach a point (line) that will ensure correct interval on the element to their left (right), they automatically incline to the left (right). The squad leader nearest the stationary squads (second or third) commands ***Mark Time,*** **MARCH** and ***Squads,*** **HALT.**

Section III. INSPECTIONS

Inspections at platoon level are typically conducted by the platoon sergeant. If the platoon leader wants to inspect, he conducts the inspection from his post. For continuity purposes, this section will address the platoon sergeant's actions only.

7-15.   BASIC INFORMATION

Consider the following when conducting inspections.

a.   The platoon has one prescribed formation for inspecting personnel and equipment in ranks—the line formation. When inspecting crew-served weapons and vehicles, the personnel are normally positioned to the rear of the formation with the operator (gunner) standing by his vehicle (weapon).

b.   The platoon leader or platoon sergeant may conduct an in-quarters (barracks) inspection to include personal appearance, individual weapons, field equipment, displays, maintenance, and sanitary conditions. The platoon leader or platoon sergeant will follow local guidelines.

c.   When field equipment is to be inspected, it should be displayed as shown in Chapter 8, Figure 8-5 (as a guide). Additional equipment not shown or different models of the equipment should be arranged in a uniform manner established by the local commander. The squad leaders may carry and use materials to record deficiencies if the local chain of command authorizes it.

7-16.   IN-RANKS INSPECTION

To conduct in-ranks inspections, use the following procedures:

a.   With the platoon in line formation, the platoon sergeant commands *Count,* **OFF.** On the command of execution **OFF**, all personnel with the exception of the right flank personnel turn their head and eyes to the right and the right flank personnel count off with "**ONE.**" After the right flank Soldiers have counted their number, the Soldiers to their left count off with the next higher number and simultaneously turn their head and eyes to the front. All other members of the formation count off in the same manner until the entire formation has counted off.

b.   After the platoon has counted off, the platoon sergeant commands *Open Ranks,* **MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the front rank takes two steps forward, the second rank takes one step forward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes two steps backward. If additional ranks are present, the fifth rank takes four steps backward, and the sixth rank takes six steps backward.

NOTE: After taking the prescribed number of steps, the men do not raise their arms. If the platoon leader wants exact interval or alignment, he commands *At Close Interval (At Double Interval)*, *Dress Right,* **DRESS**. (See paragraph 7-6 for more information on aligning the platoon.)

c.   At this point, the platoon is ready to be inspected. Typically, the squads are inspected by the squad leaders; however they may be inspected by the platoon sergeant or platoon leader. (See paragraphs 7-17 and 7-18.)

7-17.   SQUAD LEADERS' INSPECTION

If the platoon sergeant wants the squad leaders to inspect their squads, he will direct **INSPECT YOUR SQUADS.** *Salutes* are not exchanged.

a.   The squad leader marches forward and to the left, inclines as necessary until he is at a point 15 inches in front of and centered on the first man.

NOTE: If the members of the platoon are armed, the squad leaders will sling their weapons diagonally across the back with the muzzle down and to the right. This movement will be executed without command and prior to the squad leader stepping off. (For more information on how to inspect personnel with weapons and how to manipulate the weapon, see paragraph 7-17, c-f.)

b.   The squad leader remains at a modified *Position of Attention* moving his head and eyes only. After inspecting at the center position, he takes a short step forward and to the

left and inspects, returns to the center and steps forward and to the right and inspects, and returns to the center position.

c. Having inspected the first man, the squad leader faces to the right as in marching and takes one (two if at normal interval) step, halts, and faces the next man at the appropriate distance. The squad leader conducts the inspection for the rest of the Soldiers in the squad.

d. After inspecting the last Soldier in the squad, the squad leader faces to the right as in marching and marches around behind the squad, inclining as necessary. While the squad leader marches back to his post, he inspects the squad from the rear.

e. After resuming his post, the squad leader turns his head and eyes over his left shoulder and commands his squad to assume *At Ease.*

f. The platoon sergeant remains at his post (inspects the guidon bearer if appropriate). After the last squad has been inspected and is at *At Ease*, the platoon sergeant commands the platoon to *Attention*.

g. After commanding the platoon to *Attention,* the platoon sergeant commands **Close Ranks, MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH**, the first rank takes four steps backward, the second rank takes two steps backward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes one step forward. On the command of execution **MARCH,** the platoon leader and platoon sergeant take the appropriate number of steps to maintain their posts.

h. If the platoon is being inspected as part of a larger formation and control of the platoon has not been turned over to the platoon sergeant, he faces about, executes *At Ease*, and awaits further instructions from the first sergeant.

7-18.   PLATOON SERGEANT'S/PLATOON LEADER'S INSPECTION

If the platoon sergeant is not going to inspect the entire platoon, he directs the squad leaders of the appropriate squads to inspect their squads. All others will be inspected by the platoon sergeant. When armed, the platoon sergeant slings his weapon in the same manner as the squad leaders.

a. The platoon sergeant faces to the *Half Left* as in marching and marches by the most direct route to a point 15 inches in front of and centered on the first squad leader (or the squad leader of the squad to be inspected). As soon as the platoon sergeant halts in front of the squad leader, he commands the other squads to *At Ease* and inspects the squad leader.

b. The platoon sergeant remains at a modified *Position of Attention* moving his head and eyes only. After inspecting at the center position, he takes a short step forward and to the left and inspects, returns to the center and steps forward and to the right and inspects, and returns to the center position.

c. Having inspected the squad leader, the platoon sergeant faces to the right as in marching and takes one (two if at normal interval) steps, halts, and faces the next man at the appropriate distance. After the platoon sergeant steps off, the squad leader takes a half step forward and faces about. When moving from man to man, the squad leader and platoon sergeant move simultaneously.

d. Having inspected the last Soldier in the squad, the platoon sergeant faces to the right as in marching and marches around behind the squad, inclining as necessary, and inspects the squad from the rear.

e.   As the platoon sergeant begins to inspect the first squad from the rear, he commands the next squad to *Attention*. The squad leader returns to his post. After the platoon sergeant arrives in front of the next squad leader, he commands the first squad to *At Ease* over the right shoulder.

f.   The platoon sergeant and squad leader execute in the same manner as in inspecting the first squad until the entire platoon has been inspected. After inspecting the rear of the last squad, the platoon sergeant marches by the most direct route to his post, halts, faces to the left and commands the platoon to *Attention*.

g.   After commanding the platoon to *Attention,* the platoon sergeant commands **Close Ranks,** **MARCH.** On the command of execution **MARCH**, the first rank takes four steps backward, the second rank takes two steps backward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes one step forward. On the command of execution **MARCH,** the platoon leader and platoon sergeant take the appropriate number of steps to maintain their posts.

h.   If the platoon is being inspected as part of a larger formation and control of the platoon has been not been turned over to the platoon sergeant, he faces about, executes *At Ease*, and awaits further instructions from the first sergeant.

7-19.   IN-QUARTERS (STAND BY) INSPECTION

When the platoon sergeant wants to conduct an in-quarters inspection, he uses the following procedures:

a.   The squad members are positioned on line with their equipment or as near it as possible. The squad leader positions himself in the path of the inspector at a point near his area of responsibility. At the approach of the inspector, the squad leader commands, **Squad,** **ATTENTION,** and reports**, "*Sergeant, the platoon is prepared for inspection.*"**

NOTE: When the situation dictates, the squad leader may report to the inspector outside of the quarters. A designated individual commands the members to **ATTENTION** as the inspector enters the area.

b.   The squad leader then guides the inspector along a route dictated by the physical arrangement of the personnel and equipment. Upon entering the area, the highest ranking Soldier present commands **AT EASE**. As the inspector approaches each individual or his equipment, the individual automatically assumes the *Position of Attention*. When the inspector has moved to the next man, the last man inspected resumes the position of *At Ease*. As the inspector begins to exit the area after completing the inspection, **CARRY ON** is commanded.

NOTE: When inspecting Soldiers' rooms, *Attention* is not commanded. The individuals automatically assume the *Position of Attention* as the inspector enters the room. The inspector then commands **AT EASE**. As the inspector approaches each Soldier, the Soldier assumes the *Position of Attention* and resumes *At Ease* after he has been inspected.

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Chapter 8

COMPANY DRILL

"The fundamentals of drill are established daily ... If these maneuvers are all accurately observed and practiced every day then the army will remain virtually undefeatable and always awe inspiring..."

Frederick the Great: "History of My Own Times,"
translated to English in 1789

Section I. PROCEDURES AND PERSONNEL

The procedures used and personnel required to conduct company drill are described in this section. (Appendix G contains an explanation of the symbols used in figures.)

8-1. BASIC INFORMATION

This paragraph discusses basic information that applies to conducting company drill.

a. Individual drill movements, manual of arms, and squad and platoon drills are executed as previously described while conducting company drill.

b. For the most part, company drill provides the procedures for executing platoon drill in conjunction with other platoons in the same formation.

c. For drill purposes, a company consists of a company headquarters and two or more platoons. The company headquarters personnel are attached to the platoons to equalize platoon strength without interfering with the permanent squad organization; however, the commander may form the headquarters personnel into a separate platoon at either flank of the company. When headquarters personnel form as a separate element, the senior sergeant serves as the platoon sergeant, and the company executive officer serves as the platoon leader.

d. When in a line or a mass formation, the right platoon serves as the base; when in a column formation, the lead platoon serves as the base.

e. The company may be formed by the commander and the platoon leaders or the first sergeant and the platoon sergeants. If the commander is not scheduled to receive or inspect the company, the first sergeant and platoon sergeants remain at their posts and execute company drill from their posts. For continuity purposes, the term "first sergeant" may be used to denote "commander," just as "platoon sergeant" may be used to denote "platoon leader" when the first sergeant and platoon sergeants are conducting company drill from their posts.

f. When the first sergeant directs that the company open or close ranks, align, stack or take arms, extend march, close on the leading platoon, or prepare for inspection, the movements are executed on the command of the platoon sergeants and not on the directives of the first sergeant. The platoon sergeants command the movement in sequence beginning with the base platoon.

g. During all drills and ceremonies, the first sergeant and executive officer carry their weapons at *Sling Arms*. They remain at *Sling Arms* during all manual of arms movements except when they execute the *Hand Salute* while at *Sling Arms*.

h.   The members of a company break ranks in the same manner as in platoon drill except that the individuals called from the formation form on the first sergeant rather than on the platoon sergeant.

i.   The company marches, rests, and executes *Eyes Right* in the same manner as the platoon.

j.   The company has four prescribed formations: company in line with platoons in line; company in column with platoons in column; company in column with platoons in line (used primarily for ceremonies); and company mass formation. However, the company may be formed into a column of twos in the same manner as the platoon.

8-2. POSTS FOR KEY PERSONNEL

Key personnel assume their posts as follows:

a.   **Company Commander**. The company commander's post is normally 12 steps in front of the front rank of troops and centered on the company. The only exceptions to this rule are when the company forms as part of a larger unit in a column formation (with the company and platoons in column) or when the company is formed in a mass formation. In these situations, the company commander's post is 6 steps in front of and centered on the front rank of troops and 12 steps behind the last rank of troops of the element to his front.

b.   **Guidon Bearer**. The guidon bearer's post is two 15-inch steps to the rear and two 15-inch steps to the left of the company commander (Figure 8-1). (The manual of the guidon is discussed in further detail in Appendix H.)
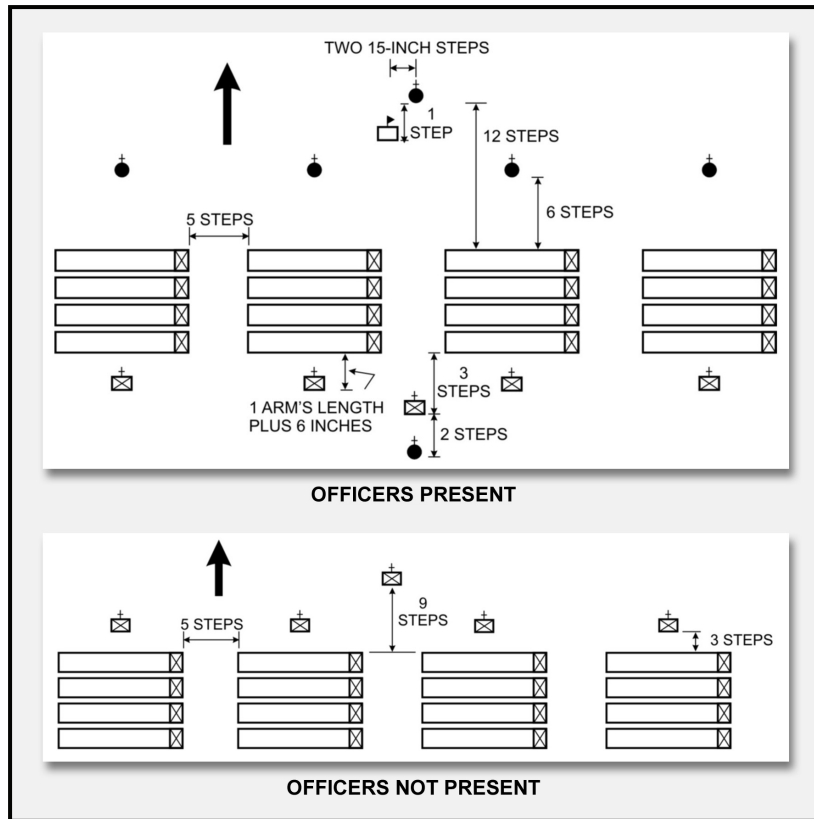

Figure 8-1. Company in line with platoons in line

NOTE: The company commander should inconspicuously direct the guidon bearer to remain in position and move with the commander when the company is to be faced to the right and marched for only a short distance.

c. **Executive Officer**. When the company is in a line formation, the executive officer's post is two steps to the rear of the first sergeant; in a column or a mass formation, he is three steps to the rear of the last rank and off center (one 15-inch step to the right) of the company.

d. **Platoon Leaders**. When the company is in line formation with the platoons in line, the post for the platoon leader is six steps in front of and centered on his platoon. When the company is in column formation with the platoons in column or the company is in column with the platoons in line, the post for the platoon leader is one step in front of and centered on the platoon. When the company is in mass formation, the post for the platoon leaders is one step in front of and evenly spaced across the company front. If the commander is not present, the platoon leaders are not part of the formation.

e. **First Sergeant**. When the company is in a line formation, the first sergeant's post is three steps to the rear of the last rank and centered on the company; in a column or a mass formation, he is three steps to the rear of the last rank and off center (one 15-inch step to the left) of the company (Figure 8-2, page 8-4).

(1) When the company is in mass formation, *without the commander present*, the post for the first sergeant is five steps in front of and centered on the formation. When the company is in line formation with the platoons in line *without the commander present*, the post for the first sergeant is nine steps in front of and centered on the company. When the company is in column formation with the platoons in column *without the commander present*, the post for the first sergeant is nine steps to the left flank of and centered on the company.

(2) When marching the company in mass formation with the commander at his post, the first sergeant remains at his post to provide cadence and control.

f. **Platoon Sergeant**. When the company is in any of the four formations and the officers are present, the platoon sergeant's post is one step to the rear and centered on his platoon.

(1) When the company is in mass formation, the post for the platoon sergeants is one step to the rear of the company and evenly spaced across the frontage. When the company is in mass formation, *without the officers present*, the post for the platoon sergeants is one step in front of and evenly spaced across the front.

(2) When the company is in line formation with the platoons in line *without the officers present*, the post for the platoon sergeant is three steps in front of and centered on his platoon. When the company is in column formation with the platoons in column *without the officers present*, the post for the platoon sergeant is three steps to the left flank of and centered on his platoon.

(3) When marching the company *without the officers present*, and the company is in column formation with the platoons in column, the platoon sergeants remain at their posts and provide for cadence and control of their platoons.
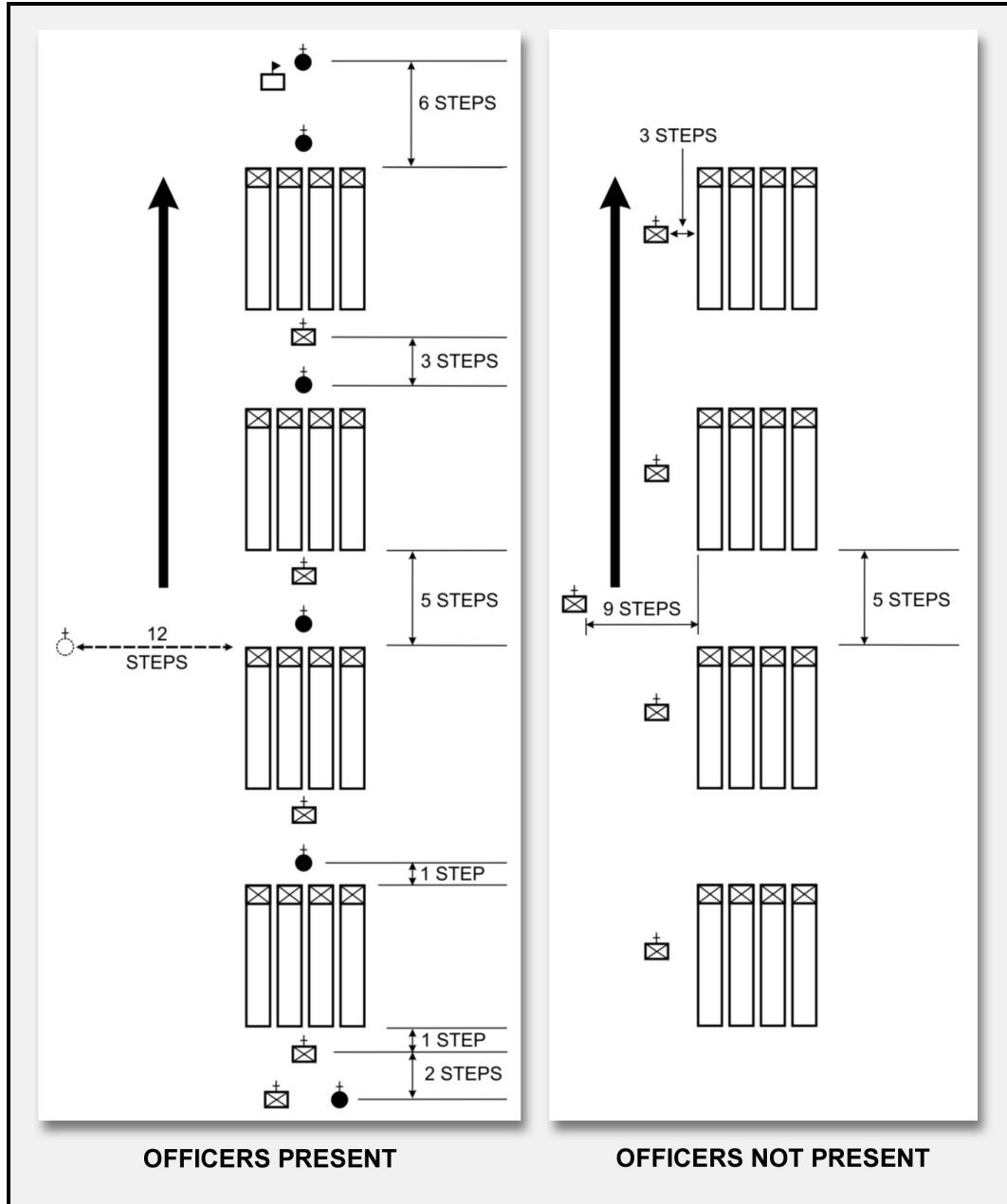
Figure 8-2. Company in column with platoons in column

NOTE: The executive officer inconspicuously gives the necessary commands (*March, Column Half Left, Halt, and Facings*) for himself and the first sergeant when changing from one post to another. Once in motion, they incline as necessary and march to their new posts. When the company changes from a line formation to column formation, the first sergeant and executive officer face with the company but do not march forward. They remain in position until the last platoon has passed. If the company marches forward (column formation) for a short distance only, or if it closes on the base platoon (line formation) at

close interval, the first sergeant and executive officer march forward or face to the right in marching and resume their posts. When the company changes from a column (platoons in column) to a line formation, they face to the right in marching and assume their posts in line. When the company forms a company in column with platoons in line, as the unit is faced, they face to the right in marching and assume their posts to the rear of the last platoon. When the company is formed in mass, they face to the right in marching and assume their posts at the center of the company immediately after halting with the last platoon (Figure 8-3). The off-center position explained for the first sergeant and executive officer should place them at normal interval from each other while covering a file to their front. If either one is not present during a formation, the one present changes posts without command and assumes the post at the center of the company rather than off center (Figure 8-4, page 8-6).
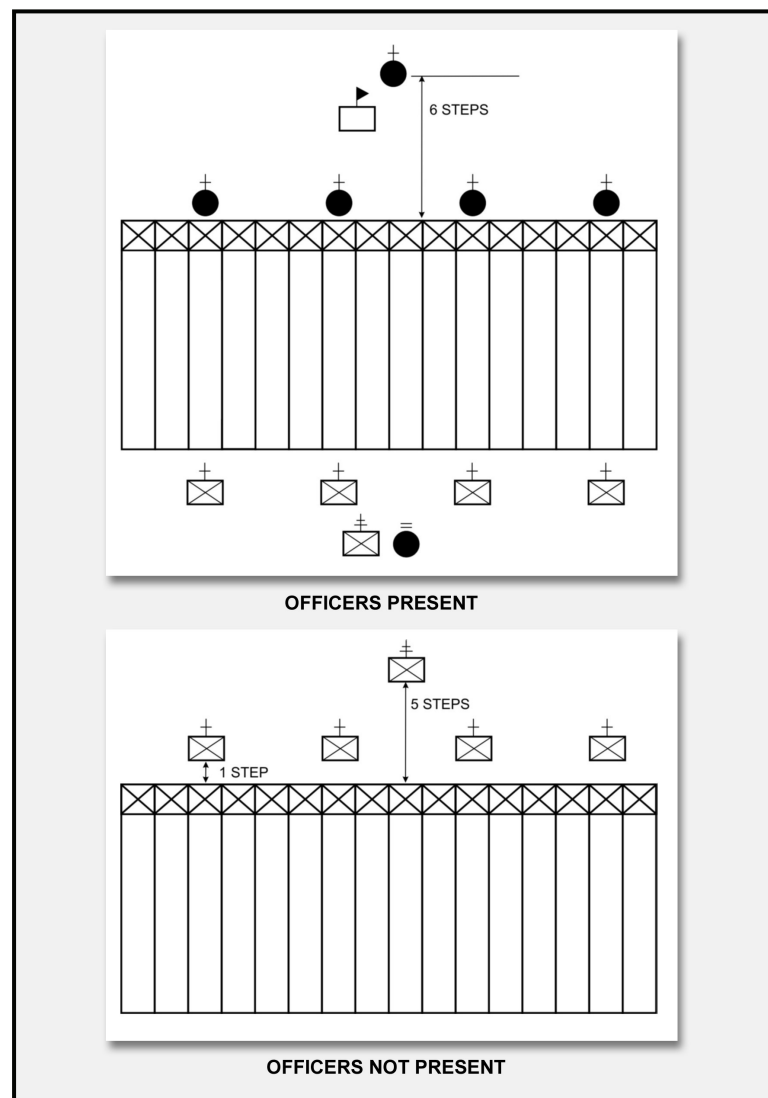
Figure 8-3. Company in mass
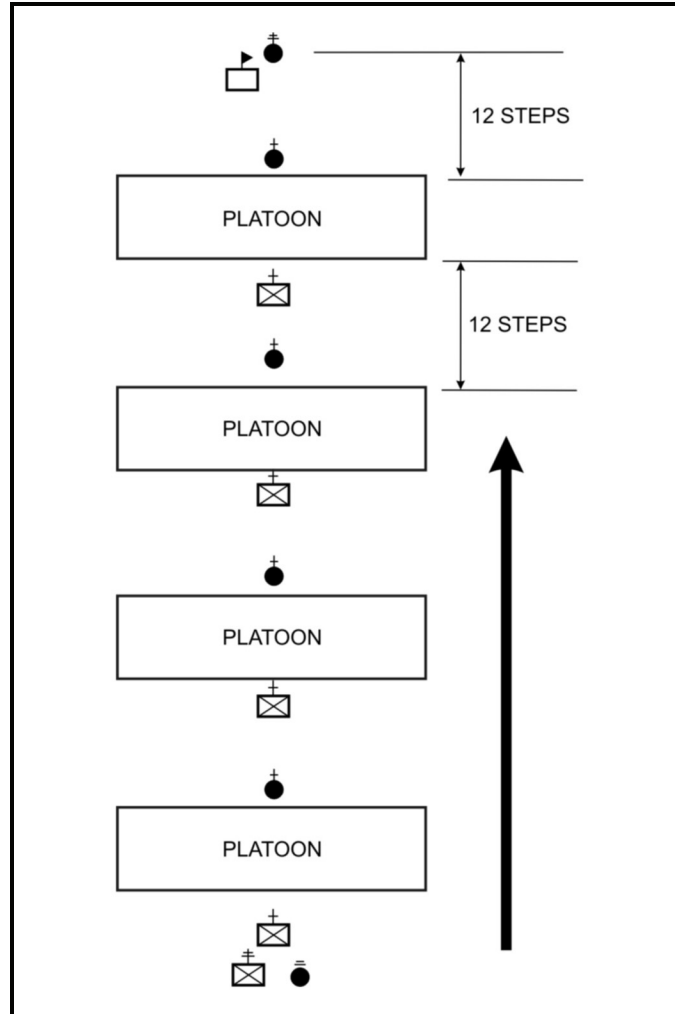
Figure 8-4. Company in column with platoons in line

g. **Additional Officers**. Other officers assigned or attached, who have no prescribed position within the formation, form evenly to the right and left of the executive officer in a line formation; they fall out and form in one or two ranks at correct distance to the rear of the first sergeant and executive officer when the company forms in column (Figure 8-4).

Section II. FORMATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

This section discusses the formations and movements used in conducting a company drill.

8-3. BASIC INFORMATION

This paragraph discusses basic information that applies to the formations and movements used in conducting a company drill.

a.   The company normally forms in a line formation; however, it may re-form in column when each man can identify his exact position (equipment grounded) in the formation.

b.   The company forms basically the same as the platoon. On the command **FALL IN**; *(At Close Interval),* **FALL IN**, the platoons form in line, centered on and facing the person forming the unit, with five-step intervals between platoons.

NOTE: To have the company assemble in a company mass formation the command is *Mass Formation,* **FALL IN**. Before giving the commands the person forming the unit announces the interval and the number of personnel in the front and designates the base man. In this situation, the first sergeant and platoon sergeants travel around the right flank of the formation when moving from post to post. The commander and platoon leaders travel around the left flank of the formation when moving from post to post.

c.   When armed, members fall in at *Order (Sling) Arms*. For safety, the person forming the unit commands *Inspection,* **ARMS**; *Ready, Port,* **ARMS**; *Order (Sling),* **ARMS** at the initial formation of the day, or when the last command is **DISMISSED**.

d.   The company may be formed by the first sergeant and platoon sergeants or by the company commander and platoon leaders. When possible, the platoons assemble near the formation site before the arrival of the first sergeant or company commander. If the company is formed by the noncommissioned officers, the platoon leaders normally observe the procedures from a position to the rear of their platoons.

(1)   When the company is formed by the noncommissioned officers, the following procedures apply.

(a)   The first sergeant posts himself nine steps in front of (center) and facing the line where the front rank of each platoon is to form. He then commands **FALL IN***; (At Close Interval),* **FALL IN**.

(b)   On the command of execution, the platoons form in the same manner prescribed in platoon drill. Each platoon sergeant faces his platoon while the platoons are forming and directs his platoon to adjust (if necessary) and align on the platoon to its right at the correct interval (as described in paragraph 8-5). Once the platoon is formed, the platoon sergeants face about.

NOTE: If the command *At Close Interval,* **FALL IN** is given, the members of the platoon form at close interval; however, the five-step interval between platoons is maintained.

(c)   When all of the platoon sergeants are facing to the front, the first sergeant commands (if appropriate) *Inspection,* **ARMS**; *Ready, Port,* **ARMS**; *Order (Sling),* **ARMS**. He then directs (if appropriate) **RECEIVE THE REPORT**. The platoon sergeants face about and command **REPORT**. The squad leaders report as previously described in Chapter 7. Having received the report, the platoon sergeants face about. When all platoon sergeants are facing to the front, the first sergeant commands **REPORT**. The platoon sergeants turn their head and eyes toward the first sergeant, salute

and report (as previously described in Chapter 7) in succession from right to left. The first sergeant turns his head and eyes toward the reporting platoon sergeant and returns each *Salute* individually. Having received the report from the platoon sergeants, the first sergeant faces about and awaits the arrival of the company commander if the commander is scheduled to receive the company.

NOTE: If the commander is not scheduled to receive or inspect the company, the first sergeant and platoon sergeants remain at their posts and execute company drill from their posts. For continuity purposes, the term commander may also be used to denote the first sergeant, just as platoon leader may be used to denote the platoon sergeant when the commander and platoon leaders are conducting company drill from their posts.

(d) When the company commander has halted at his post, the first sergeant salutes and reports, **"*Sir, all present,*"** or **"*Sir, all accounted for,*"** or **"*Sir, (so many) men absent.*"** The company commander returns the *Salute* and commands **POST**. The first sergeant faces about and marches to his post three steps to the rear and at the center of the company, halts, and faces about. The guidon bearer steps forward three steps. The platoon sergeants face to the right in marching and assume their posts to the rear of their platoons (if the platoon leader is not present, they step forward three steps). The platoon leaders march around the left flank of their platoons and assume their posts by inclining facing to the front. The company executive officer assumes his post two steps to the rear of the first sergeant.

(2) When the company is formed by the company commander, the procedures are the same as forming with the noncommissioned officers except that the platoon leaders form their platoons and the first sergeant, platoon sergeants, and guidon bearer fall in at their posts (Figure 8-1, page 8-2). The command **POST** is not necessary. If a platoon sergeant is to fill the post of platoon leader, he takes a position six steps in front of and centered on the platoon.

8-4. CHANGING INTERVAL

The company changes interval in the same manner as prescribed for the platoon.

a. When the first sergeant wants the company to obtain close interval in a line formation while maintaining a five-step interval, he directs **CLOSE ON THE BASE PLATOON AT CLOSE INTERVAL**. The platoon sergeants face about and command *Count,* **OFF**. After the platoons have counted off, the platoon sergeants command *Close Interval,* **MARCH**. The second, third, and fourth platoon sergeants command *Right,* **FACE** and in succession command *Half Step,* **MARCH**. They halt at the five-step interval and face the platoon to the left. If the directive **CLOSE ON THE THIRD PLATOON AT CLOSE INTERVAL** is given, the platoon sergeants on the right of the designated platoon have their platoons obtain close interval, face their platoons to the left, march (*Half Step*) forward until the five-step interval is obtained, and then halt and face their platoons to the right.

NOTE: When the company is at close interval (line formation), the first sergeant may march the company (in column with less than correct distance) at the Half Step for short distances. If he wants to march with a 30-inch step while marching with less than correct distance, he commands *Extend*, **MARCH**. The first platoon sergeant commands *Extend*, **MARCH**. The other platoon sergeants command **CONTINUE TO MARCH**. As the first platoon begins to march with a 30-inch step, the second platoon sergeant commands *Extend*, **MARCH**. The remaining platoons execute the directive in the same manner as the second platoon.

b. When the first sergeant wants the company to obtain normal interval from close interval in a line formation while maintaining a five-step interval, he directs **EXTEND ON THE BASE PLATOON AT NORMAL INTERVAL**. The platoon sergeants face about and march (*Half Step*) their platoons to a position that ensures the five-step interval between platoons after they have obtained normal interval. After halting and facing the platoons to the left, the platoon sergeants command *Count,* **OFF**. The platoon sergeants then command *Normal Interval*, **MARCH**. If necessary, the platoon sergeant can verify interval as described in the note of paragraph 8-6.

8-5. CHANGING DISTANCE

To increase the distance between elements of a company (or larger unit) while marching in column to normal distance, use the following procedures.

NOTE: This movement is only executed from the half step when a company or larger size element is marching in column at less than normal distance.

a. To increase the distance between elements of a company (or larger unit) while marching in column at the half step to normal distance, the command is *Extend*, **MARCH**. On the preparatory command *Extend* of *Extend*, **MARCH**, the platoon sergeant echoes the preparatory command and all subsequent platoon sergeants issue the supplementary command **CONTINUE TO MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH** of *Extend*, **MARCH**, the front rank of the lead element takes one more 15-inch step, then steps off with a 30-inch step. All other ranks continue to march with a 15-inch step until the rank to their front has stepped off with a 30-inch step and has obtained normal distance (40 inches).

b. Subsequent platoon sergeants issue the command *Extend*, **MARCH** after the entire element to their front has obtained normal distance and has begun marching forward with a 30-inch step.

NOTE: From the *Halt*, the first sergeant directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS EXTEND MARCH**. The lead platoon sergeant gives the command *Extend*, **MARCH**. All subsequent platoon sergeants give the command *Half Step*, **MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH** of *Extend*, **MARCH**, the front rank steps off with a 30-inch step. All other ranks step off with a 15-inch step and execute the movement in the same manner as previously described.

8-6. ALIGNING THE COMPANY

To align the company, use the following procedures:

a. To align the company in a line formation, the first sergeant directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS DRESS RIGHT**.

(1) On the directive, all platoon sergeants face about. The right flank platoon sergeant commands *Dress Right*, **DRESS** and aligns his platoon as described in platoon drill. When the alignment of the first rank of the right platoon has been verified (the platoon sergeant has stepped off to align the second rank), the platoon sergeant to the left commands *Dress Right*, **DRESS**. He then faces to the half right in marching, moves to a position on line with and one step to the left of the left flank man of the first rank, and faces (*Left Face*) down the line.

(2) After aligning the first rank, the platoon sergeant centers himself on the first rank, faces to the right in marching, takes two short steps, halts, executes *Left Face*, and aligns the second rank. The third and fourth ranks are aligned in the same manner as the second rank.

(3) After aligning the fourth rank, the platoon sergeant faces to the left in marching; returns to his position, center of the platoon; halts perpendicular to the formation; faces to the right; commands *Ready*, **FRONT**; and faces about. All platoon sergeants to the left of the second platoon take the same actions as the second platoon sergeant.

NOTE: If necessary, the platoon sergeants to the left of the base platoon command **VERIFY INTERVAL** before commanding *Dress Right*, **DRESS**. On the command **VERIFY INTERVAL**, the base (squad leader of the first squad) faces to the right in marching and moves to the left flank member (first squad) of the platoon to the right, halts, faces about, steps forward five steps, halts, faces to the right, and aligns himself on the element to his right.

b. To align the company in column, the first sergeant directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS COVER**. On this directive, the first platoon sergeant faces about and commands **COVER**. The other platoon sergeants command **STAND FAST**. The first platoon covers as in platoon drill. The other platoons then execute the movement in succession as soon as the platoon to their front has completed the movement.

8-7. OPENING AND CLOSING RANKS

To open and close ranks, use the following procedures:

a. To *Open Ranks*, the first sergeant directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS OPEN RANKS AND DRESS RIGHT**. On the directive, all platoon sergeants face about. The right flank platoon sergeant commands *Open Ranks*, **MARCH**. When the platoon has completed the movement, he then commands *Dress Right*, **DRESS** and aligns the platoon the same as in platoon drill. When the first rank of the right platoon has been aligned, the platoon sergeant to the left commands *Open Ranks*, **MARCH** and then commands *Dress Right*, **DRESS**. Then he aligns his platoon in the same manner described in paragraphs 7-6 and 8-5. All platoon sergeants to the left of the second platoon take the same actions as the second platoon sergeant.

NOTE: When clearing grounded equipment, the company may march in column (right face) from open ranks (*Double Interval*) for short distances. Having cleared the equipment, the first sergeant commands *Normal Interval*, **MARCH**. When returning to the equipment while marching at normal interval, the command *Double Interval*, **MARCH** is given. If the company is marching in reverse order, the commands **FALL OUT** and **FALL IN** should be given.

b. To *Close Ranks*, the first sergeant directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS CLOSE RANKS**. On the directive, all platoon sergeants face about and in sequence from right to left command *Close Ranks*, **MARCH**. The platoons execute the movement the same as in platoon drill. After the platoons have completed the movement, the platoon sergeants face about.

8-8. CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF MARCH OF A COLUMN

To change the direction of march of a column, use the following procedures.

a. The company changes the direction of march basically the same as the squad and platoon. The commands are *Column Right (Left), Column Half Right (Left)*, **MARCH**.

b. The base element during a column movement is the lead platoon and the squad on the flank, in the direction of turn.

c. When at the *Halt*, the leading platoon sergeant repeats the first sergeant's preparatory command. Succeeding platoon sergeants give the supplementary command *Forward*. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes the movement as described in platoon drill; succeeding platoons execute the movement on their platoon sergeant's command at approximately the same location.

d. While marching, the movement is executed as described from the *Halt* except that the succeeding platoon sergeants give the supplementary command *Continue to march* rather than *Forward*.

e. The company executes *Rear March* and inclines in the same manner as the platoon.

f. When executing *Counter-Column March* from the *Halt*, the leading platoon sergeant repeats the preparatory command. Succeeding platoon sergeants give the supplementary command *Forward*.

(1) On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes the movement as described in platoon drill, and marches through the other platoons. Succeeding platoons execute the movement on the platoon sergeant's command at approximately the same location.

(2) When the movement is executed while marching, the command of execution is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface. The movement is executed basically the same as from the *Halt* except that the succeeding platoon sergeants give the supplementary command *Continue to March* rather than *Forward*.

(3) The guidon bearer faces to the left in marching from the *Halt* or executes a *Column Left* in marching, marches by the most direct route outside of the formation, and repositions himself in front of the lead platoon as it clears the rear of the company.

(4)   If the first sergeant gives the command from his post in a separate unit, he moves in the most convenient manner to his new position at the left flank of the unit. If he gives the command while at the head of the company, he moves in the same direction as the guidon bearer.

8-9. CLOSING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN PLATOONS

This movement is only executed when the company is in column with the platoons in column and has been faced to the right for marching with the first sergeant and platoon sergeants at their posts.

a.   The first sergeant directs **CLOSE ON THE LEADING PLATOON**. The leading platoon sergeant commands **STAND FAST**. The leading platoon sergeant then faces to the left as in marching and marches, inclining as necessary, to the trail of the company.

b.   The succeeding platoon's platoon sergeant marches his platoon forward and commands *Mark Time,* **MARCH**. He ensures that he gives the command of execution **MARCH** when the squad leaders are three steps from the last Soldier in the leading platoon so that the Soldiers of the succeeding platoon begin marching in place at the correct distance.

c.   While *Marking Time* in formation, the Soldiers adjust position to ensure proper alignment and cover. The proper distance between Soldiers while marching is one arm's length plus 6 inches (approximately 36 inches). If necessary, the squad leaders take the appropriate number of steps to close any gaps should the trail of the leading platoon be uneven. The rest of the formation adjusts as necessary.

d.   After sensing that the members of the platoon have obtained proper alignment and cover, the platoon sergeant commands *Platoon*, **HALT**. After commanding the platoon to *Halt*, the platoon sergeant faces to the left as in marching and marches, inclining as necessary, to the trail of the company.

e.   The remaining platoons execute in the same manner as the succeeding platoon in order from front to rear. The platoon sergeants wait until the platoon sergeant to their front gives the command *Mark Time*, **MARCH**, before giving the command *Forward*, **MARCH**.

f.   The platoon sergeants form at the trail of the company one step to the rear and evenly spaced. The platoon sergeants are now part of the formation. If the first sergeant wants exact cover and alignment, he commands **COVER**. The first sergeant remains at his post and marches the company.

8-10.   CORRECTING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN PLATOONS

To obtain correct distance (five steps) when the company is marching in column or is in column at the *Halt*, the first sergeant directs **CORRECT ON LEADING PLATOON**.

a.   When at the *Halt*, on the directive **CORRECT ON LEADING PLATOON**, the platoon sergeant of the leading platoon commands (over the right shoulder) **STAND FAST**. The succeeding platoon sergeants command (over the right shoulder) *Forward*, **MARCH** and then command *Mark Time*, **MARCH** and *Platoon*, **HALT** when correct distance is obtained.

b.   While marching, on the directive **CORRECT ON LEADING PLATOON**, the platoon sergeant of the leading platoon commands (over the right shoulder) *Half Step,*

MARCH. The succeeding platoon sergeants command (over the right shoulder) **CONTINUE TO MARCH**, and then command *Half Step*, **MARCH** as soon as the correct distance is obtained.

c. The first sergeant commands *Forward*, **MARCH**; (**HALT**) as soon as all platoons have obtained the correct distance and are marching at the half step.

8-11. FORMING A COLUMN OF TWOS AND RE-FORMING

The company forms a column of twos basically the same as the platoon. The first sergeant must allow sufficient time for the platoon sergeants, and the squad leaders of the lead platoon, to give their supplementary commands before giving the command of execution.

a. The command for this movement is *Column of twos from the right (left)*, **MARCH**. The leading platoon sergeant repeats the preparatory command. Other platoon sergeants give the supplementary command *Stand Fast*. On the first sergeant's command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes the movement as in platoon drill. Other platoons execute the movement on their platoon sergeant's command. Succeeding platoon sergeants give their commands so as to follow with the prescribed five-step distance between platoons.

b. Re-forming into a column of fours is executed only at the *Halt*. The command for this movement is *Column of fours to the left (right)*, **MARCH**. On the first sergeant's command of execution, all platoons execute the movement simultaneously as described in platoon drill. As soon as the platoons are re-formed, the platoon sergeants automatically march the platoons forward and obtain the five-step distance between platoons.

8-12. FORMING A COMPANY MASS

The company may form in mass from a company in column (platoons in column) when halted or while marching. The company must be at *Close Interval* (*Close Interval*, **MARCH**) before the command *Company Mass Left*, **MARCH** is given.

a. On the preparatory command *Company Mass Left*, given at the *Halt*, the leading platoon sergeant commands *Stand Fast*. The platoon sergeants of the succeeding platoons command *Column Half Left*. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon *stands fast*. The other platoons execute the *Column Half Left* and then execute a *Column Half Right* on the command of the platoon sergeants to a point (line) that ensures the platoons will be at *Close Interval* alongside the platoon to their right when halted. As the platoons come abreast of the base platoon, the platoon sergeants command *Mark Time*, **MARCH**. While the platoon is marking time, the members adjust their positions to ensure alignment on the man to their right. The platoon sergeants allow their platoons to *Mark Time* for about eight counts and then command *Platoon*, **HALT**.

b. On the preparatory command *Company Mass Left* while marching, given as the left foot strikes the marching surface, the leading platoon sergeant gives the supplementary command *Mark Time*. The succeeding platoon sergeants command *Column Half Left*. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon begins to march in place. After marking time for about eight counts, the lead platoon sergeant commands *Platoon*, **HALT**. The other platoons form in the same manner as from the *Halt*.

NOTES: 1. If the commander is in charge of the formation, on the command of execution **MARCH**, the first sergeant and guidon bearer halt and immediately face to the right (left) in marching and reposition themselves centered on the company.

2. If the platoon sergeants are marching at their posts on the left flank of their platoons, they must wait until the platoon sergeants to their front have commanded **HALT** and have moved to the front of the company before moving into position.

8-13. ALIGNING A COMPANY IN MASS

To align a company in mass, use the following procedures:

a. As soon as the company has formed in mass, the first sergeant gives the command *Order,* **ARMS** (if appropriate) and then commands *At Close Interval, Dress Right*, **DRESS**.

b. On the command of execution **DRESS**, the platoon sergeant of the right platoon marches by the most direct route to the right flank and verifies the alignment of as many ranks as necessary to ensure proper alignment in the same manner as aligning the platoon. When he has finished the verification, the platoon sergeant returns to a position one step in front of and centered on the third squad, halts, and faces to the right. When the platoon sergeant has returned to his position, the first sergeant commands *Ready,* **FRONT**. Platoon sergeants align themselves to the right. The first sergeant directs the platoon sergeants to move left or right to ensure the platoon sergeants are evenly spaced across the front.

8-14. CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF MARCH OF A MASS FORMATION

The company changes the direction of march in mass basically the same as a platoon column movement. This movement is normally executed with the commander at his post. For clarity purposes, the term "commander" is used.

a. When executed from the *Halt*, the commander has the unit execute *Right Shoulder Arms* (if appropriate), then faces in the desired direction of march, turns his head toward the formation, and commands *Right (Left) Turn*, **MARCH**.

(1) On the command of execution **MARCH**, the platoon leaders face to the half right (left) in marching and continue to march in an arc until parallel to the new direction of march. Then they begin marching with the *Half Step*, dressing on the right (left) flank platoon leader until the command *Forward*, **MARCH** is given.

(2) The right (left) guide (the base squad leader in the direction of turn) faces to the right (left) in marching, takes one 30-inch step in the indicated direction, and then takes up the *Half Step*. All other squad leaders (front rank) face to the half right (left) in marching and continue to march in an arc until they come on line with the guide.

(3) At this time, they begin marching with the *Half Step* and dress (glancing out of the corner of the eye) in the direction of the turn until the command *Forward*, **MARCH** is given. On that command, the dress is automatically to the right. All other members march forward and execute the movement in the same manner as their squad leaders.

b. When executed while marching, the movement is the same as from the *Halt* except that the company commander faces about (marching backward) to give the

command *Right (Left) Turn*, **MARCH**. He then faces about and completes the turning movement himself. After the company has completed the turn, he faces about, commands *Forward*, **MARCH**, and again faces about.

8-15. FORMING A COLUMN FROM A COMPANY MASS

This movement is normally executed with the commander at his post. For clarity purposes, the term "commander" is used. To form a company in column from a company mass at the *Halt*, the command is *Column of Platoons, Right Platoon, Column Right (Column Half Right)*, **MARCH**. The right platoon leader gives the supplementary command of *Forward (Column Right or Column Half Right)*, and the other platoon leaders command *Stand Fast*.

    a. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right platoon marches in the direction indicated. All other platoons follow (in sequence) in column, executing *Column Half Right* and *Column Half Left* on the commands of the platoon leaders.

    b. To execute the movement when marching, the company commander commands *Port*, **ARMS** (unless at *Sling Arms*), and then commands *Column of Platoons, Right Platoon, Double Time*, **MARCH**. On the preparatory command, the right platoon leader gives the supplementary command *Double Time*, and the other platoon leader gives the supplementary command *Continue to March*. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right platoon marches in *Double Time*. Other platoon leaders (in sequence) command *Column Half Right, Double Time*, **MARCH** and *Column Half Left*, **MARCH** to bring the succeeding platoons in column with the leading platoon.

    c. The platoon leader and the platoon sergeant reposition themselves after the supplementary command but before the command of execution.

8-16. FORMING A COMPANY IN COLUMN WITH PLATOONS IN LINE AND RE-FORMING

This movement is normally executed with the commander at his post. For clarity purposes, the term "commander" is used. To form a company in column with platoons in line from a column formation at the *Halt*, the command is *Column of platoons in line*, **MARCH**. The platoon leader of the leading platoon gives the supplementary command *Stand Fast*. The second platoon leader gives the supplementary command *Column Right*. All other platoon leaders give the supplementary command *Forward*.

    a. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon *Stands Fast*, and the second platoon executes a *Column Right*, marches 12 steps past the right file of the first platoon, and executes a *Column Left*. As they come on line with the base platoon, the platoon leader commands *Mark Time*, **MARCH**. After the platoon has marched in place for eight counts, the platoon leader commands *Platoon*, **HALT**. The succeeding platoons execute a *Column Right* at approximately the same location as the platoon to their front and execute a *Column Left* and then halt in the same manner as the second platoon. When the platoons have halted in position, the company commander commands *Left*, **FACE**. On that command, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants face in marching and assume their posts.

    b. When executed while marching, the movements are basically the same as from the *Halt* except that the commander gives the command of execution as the right foot strikes

the marching surface. The leading platoon leader commands *Mark Time*. On the preparatory command, the second platoon leader commands *Column Right*, and the succeeding platoon leaders command *Continue to March*. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes *Mark Time* and marches in place (approximately eight counts) until the platoon leader commands *Platoon*, **HALT**. The other platoons execute the movement in the same manner as from the *Halt*.

c. To re-form in column with platoons in column, the company commander commands *Right, Face; Column of Platoons, Left Platoon*, **MARCH**. On the command *Right, Face*, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants face in marching and resume their posts in column. On the preparatory command *Column of Platoons, Left Platoon*, the left platoon leader commands *Forward, (Column Left [Half Left])*. All other platoon leaders command *Column Half Left*. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the left platoon executes the movement. The other platoon leaders give the appropriate commands so as to follow the lead platoon at correct distance.

NOTE: If necessary, the platoons following the second platoon automatically adjust the length of their step to ensure correct distance from the platoon to their front.

8-17.   DISMISSING THE COMPANY

The company is dismissed while at *Attention*. It is usually dismissed by the first sergeant.

a. The first sergeant commands **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR PLATOONS**. The platoon sergeants salute. The first sergeant returns all *Salutes* with one *Salute*. After *Salutes* are exchanged, the first sergeant and guidon bearer leave the formation. The platoon sergeants then dismiss their platoons as in platoon drill.

b. When the company is dismissed by the company commander, he commands **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR PLATOONS**. The platoon leaders salute. The company commander returns all *Salutes* with one *Salute*. After the *Salutes* are exchanged, the company commander, guidon bearer, first sergeant, and executive officer leave the formation.

   (1)   The platoon leader(s) faces about and commands **PLATOON SERGEANT**. The platoon sergeant faces to the right in marching and marches (inclines) around the squad leader(s), halts three steps in front of and centered on the platoon leader, and faces to the right. Each platoon leader then directs **TAKE CHARGE OF THE PLATOON**. *Salutes* are exchanged. The platoon leaders leave the formation.

   (2)   The platoon sergeants step forward three steps, face about, and dismiss the platoons as in platoon drill.

Section III. INSPECTIONS

This section discusses the procedures used to conduct inspections for a company drill.

8-18.   BASIC INFORMATION

The following basic information applies to conducting inspections for a company drill.

a. The company has one prescribed formation for inspecting personnel and equipment in ranks—company in line with platoons in line. When inspecting crew-served weapons and vehicles, the personnel are normally positioned to the rear of the formation with the operator (gunner) standing by his vehicle (weapon).

NOTES: 1. If the commander is not scheduled to receive or inspect the company, the first sergeant and platoon sergeants remain at their posts and execute company drill from their posts. For continuity purposes, the term "first sergeant" may also be used to denote the commander, just as "platoon sergeant" may be used to denote the platoon leader when they are executing drill from their posts. If the commander is inspecting, he and the platoon leaders execute the same as described below.

2. Manual of arms movements for Soldiers armed with the M249, shotgun, or pistol are outlined in Appendix E.

b. The first sergeant may conduct an in-quarters (barracks) inspection to include personal appearance, individual weapons, field equipment, displays, maintenance, and sanitary conditions.

c. When field equipment is to be inspected, it should be displayed as shown in Figure 8-5, page 8-18, (as a guide). Additional equipment not shown, or different models of the equipment, should be arranged in a uniform manner established by the local commander.
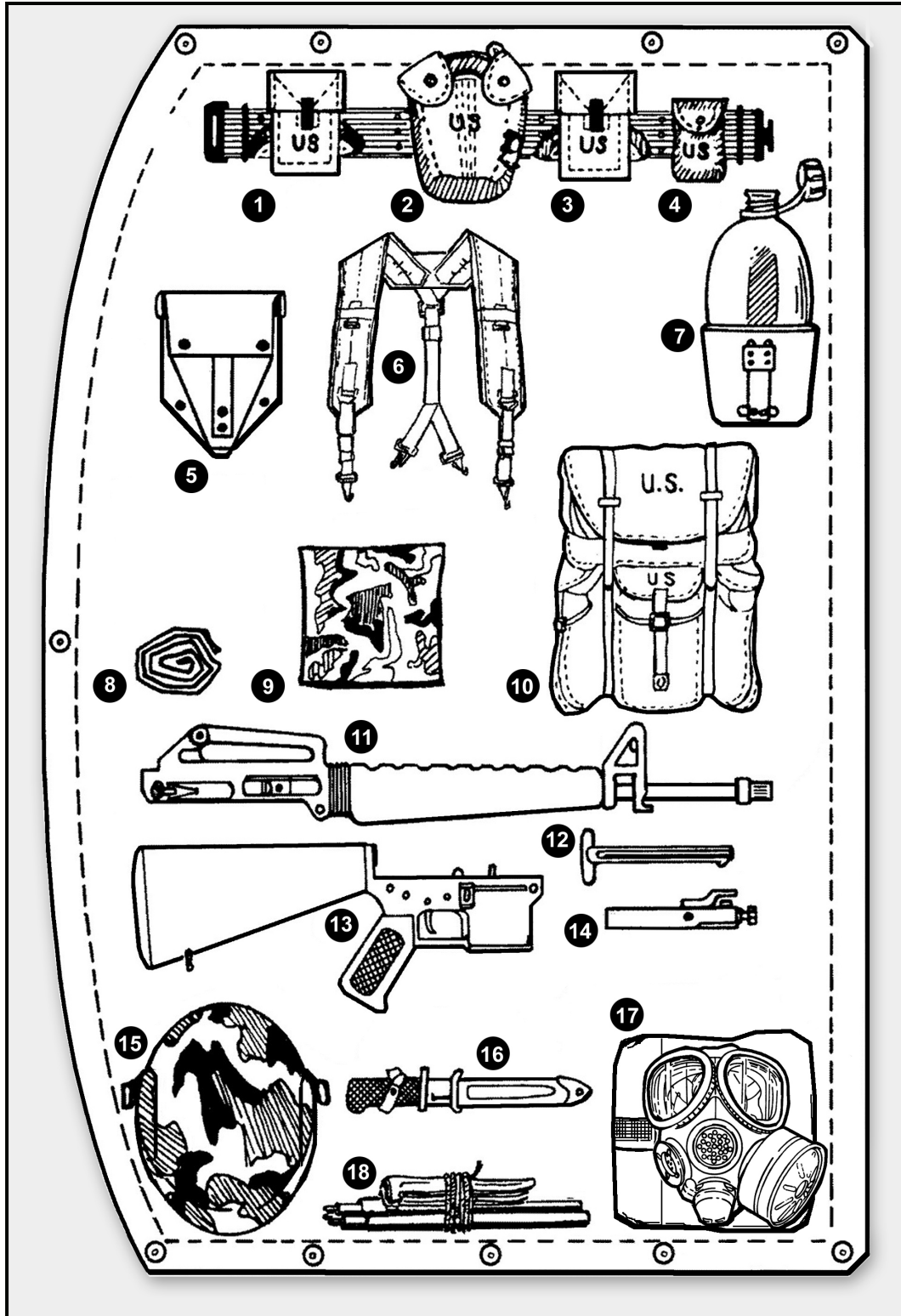
Figure 8-5. Equipment display (guide)

1. PISTOL BELT	10. RUCK SACK
2. AMMUNITION POUCH	11. UPPER RECEIVER
3. CANTEEN COVER	12. CHARGING HANDLE
4. AMMUNITION POUCH	13. LOWER RECEIVER
5. ENTRENCHING TOOL AND CARRIER	14. BOLT CARRIER GROUP
6. FIELD SUSPENDERS	15. HELMET
7. CANTEEN	16. BAYONET AND SCABBARD
8. SLING	17. PROTECTIVE MASK
9. PONCHO	18. TENT STAKES, POLES, AND ROPE

Figure 8-5. Equipment display (guide) (continued)

8-19.   IN-RANKS INSPECTION (LINE FORMATIONS)

Use the following procedures to conduct an in-ranks inspection (line formation).

a.   With the company in line formation, the first sergeant directs **PREPARE FOR INSPECTION**. On that directive, the platoon sergeants face about, open ranks, and align the company as in paragraphs 8-5 and 8-6. When all platoon sergeants are facing the front, the first sergeant commands **AT EASE**.

NOTE: During the inspection, the guidon bearer, officers, and noncommissioned officers not in ranks assume the position of attention as the inspecting officer approaches their positions and resume the at ease position after they have been inspected (they do not execute *Inspection Arms*). The company commander may direct the first sergeant and executive officer to accompany him during the inspection. When so directed, the executive officer and first sergeant take a position at normal interval (close interval if the company is at close interval) to the left of the company commander.

b.   The first sergeant begins the inspection by stepping forward and inspecting the guidon bearer. He then faces to the half left in marching and proceeds to the right of the line. As he approaches the right flank platoon, the platoon sergeant commands (over his right shoulder) ***Platoon*, ATTENTION**. When the first sergeant has halted directly in front of him, he reports, "***First Sergeant, the platoon is prepared for inspection.***" (If the commander is inspecting, *Salutes* are exchanged.) The first sergeant inspects the platoon sergeant. The first sergeant then directs the platoon sergeant to lead him through the inspection, faces to the half left in marching, and halts directly in front of the squad leader of the first squad. As the first sergeant faces to the half left in marching, the platoon sergeant faces to the right in marching, inclines, and halts directly in front of the second man in the first squad and on line with and at *Normal Interval (Close Interval)* to the right of the first sergeant. The other platoon sergeants execute the same actions as the first sergeant approaches their platoons.

NOTE: As soon as the platoon sergeant and first sergeant have halted in front of the first two men, the platoon sergeant commands ***Second, Third, and Fourth***

Squads, **AT EASE**. When moving from man to man during the inspection, the first sergeant and platoon sergeant (executive officer and first sergeant if the commander is inspecting) simultaneously face to the right in marching, take two short steps (one step if the company is at close interval), halt, and face to the left. After the first sergeant has inspected the last man in the front rank, the platoon sergeant hesitates momentarily and allows the first sergeant to precede him as he inspects the front rank from the rear. As the first sergeant begins to inspect the rear of each rank, the platoon sergeant commands the next squad to *Attention*. As they begin to inspect the next rank, the platoon sergeant commands the last rank inspected to stand *At Ease*. Normally, when inspecting the rear of each rank, the first sergeant conducts a walking inspection. As the first sergeant inspects the rear of the last man in each rank, he turns and halts directly in front of the squad leader of the next rank. The platoon sergeant turns and halts directly in front of the second man. If the commander is inspecting, the executive officer and first sergeant march past (behind) the company commander and assume their positions to his left.

c.   As the first sergeant halts and is directly in front of and facing the individual being inspected, the individual executes *Inspection Arms*. If the first sergeant wants to inspect the individual's weapon, he inspects the weapon first, then the individual's uniform and appearance. As soon as the first sergeant grasps the weapon, the individual releases the weapon and resumes the *Position of Attention*. When the first sergeant has finished inspecting the weapon, he returns it in the same manner as it was received. The individual receives the weapon by grasping the center of the handguard just forward of the slip ring with the left hand and the small of the stock with the right hand. He then executes *Ready, Port Arms*; *Order Arms*.

NOTE: In the event the first sergeant does not want to inspect the weapon, the individual remains at *Inspection Arms* until the first sergeant has halted in front of and is facing the next man. The individual then executes *Ready, Port Arms,* and *Order Arms*. As the first sergeant moves to the rear of the rank being inspected, each man, as the first sergeant approaches, unfastens the snap of his scabbard, grasps the point of the scabbard with the left hand, and moves the point slightly forward. The scabbard is held in position until the bayonet has been replaced or, if the bayonet is not inspected, until the first sergeant has moved to the next man. At that time, the securing straps are fastened and the *Position of Attention* is resumed.

d.   The correct method of manipulating a rifle for inspection is as follows:

(1)   When receiving the rifle from the inspected individual, reach forward and grasp the rifle at the upper portion of the handguard with the right hand. Lower the rifle diagonally to the left, twist the rifle slightly, insert the tip of the little finger of the left hand into the ejection port (do not twist the rifle but insert the thumb into the receiver of the M14-series rifle), and look into the barrel. The finger reflects sufficient light for the inspection of the barrel.

(2) Grasp the small of the stock with the left hand and raise the rifle to a horizontal position (sights up) with the muzzle to the right. The rifle is centered on the body with the forearms horizontal and the palms up. Move the rifle horizontally to the left and inspect the upper portion of the rifle beginning with the flash suppressor. Move the rifle slowly to the right inspecting the butt. Return the rifle to the center of the body.

(3) Keeping the rifle horizontal, rotate it 180 degrees (sights toward the body) so that the sights point toward the marching surface. Move the rifle horizontally to the left and inspect the muzzle. Move the rifle slowly to the right and inspect the butt. When moving the rifle across the body, twist the rifle as necessary and inspect the movable parts on the sides of the receiver. Having completed the inspection of the lower parts of the rifle, return it to the center of the body.

(4) Keeping the rifle horizontal, rotate the rifle 180 degrees (sights away from the body) so that the sights are up. Release the left hand and return the rifle in the same manner as received.

(5) When inspecting a weapon other than a rifle, the inspector receives the weapon with his right hand and inspects it in the most convenient manner. Having completed the inspection, the weapon is returned with the right hand in the same manner as received.

e. When the first sergeant has completed the inspection of the platoon, the platoon sergeant commands the platoon to *Attention* and overtakes the first sergeant en route back to the front of the platoon. The platoon sergeant halts at his post facing to the front (*Salutes* are exchanged if the commander is inspecting). The first sergeant (or commander with or without the inspecting party) faces to the right in marching and moves to the next platoon. As soon as the first sergeant has cleared the first platoon, the platoon sergeant faces about, commands ***Close Ranks***, **MARCH** and **AT EASE**, and then faces about and executes *At Ease*. When the first sergeant has completed the inspection of the last platoon (exchanged *Salutes* with the platoon sergeant), he returns to his post at the center of the company and commands the company to *Attention*. He then dismisses the company, as previously described.

f. When the company is inspected by an officer of a higher command, on the approach of the inspecting officer, the company commander commands ***Company***, **ATTENTION**. He then faces about, salutes, and reports, **"*Sir, the company is prepared for inspection.*"** The inspection is conducted as previously described except that the company commander takes a position immediately to the left of the inspecting officer. The inspection is terminated by the company commander in the same manner prescribed for a platoon sergeant.

8-20.   IN-QUARTERS INSPECTION (STAND BY)

When the first sergeant wants to conduct an in-quarters inspection, the members are positioned on line with their equipment (or as near it as possible).

a. The platoon sergeant positions himself in the path of the inspecting officer at a point near his area of responsibility. At the approach of the inspecting officer, the platoon sergeant commands ***Platoon***, **ATTENTION**, salutes, and reports, **"*Sir, the platoon is prepared for inspection.*"**

NOTE: When the situation dictates, the platoon sergeant may report to the inspecting officer outside of the quarters. A designated individual commands the members to *Attention* as the inspector enters the quarters (bay).

   b.   The platoon sergeant then guides the inspector along a route dictated by the physical arrangement of the personnel and equipment. Upon entering the area, the highest ranking Soldier present commands **AT EASE**. As the inspector approaches each individual or his equipment, the individual automatically assumes the *Position of Attention*. When the inspector has moved to the next man, the last man inspected resumes the position of *At Ease*. As the inspector begins to exit the area after completing the inspection, **CARRY ON** is commanded.

NOTE: When inspecting Soldiers' rooms, *Attention* is not commanded. The individuals automatically assume the *Position of Attention* as the inspector enters the room. The inspector then commands **AT EASE**. As the inspector approaches each Soldier, the Soldier assumes the *Position of Attention* and resumes *At Ease* after he has been inspected.