Change Step

The command is **CHANGE STEP, MARCH.** It may be given while marching at quick or double time, marking time, or double-timing in place.

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

**While marching at quick time or double time:**

On **MARCH**, take one more step, 30 or 36 inches, as appropriate.

As your right foot comes forward to the next step, place the toe near the left heel and step out again with the left foot. This changes the cadence count, but not the rhythm.

**While marking quick time:**

On **MARCH**, lift and lower the left foot twice in succession.

The second time it touches the deck, raise the right foot and continue marking time.

**While double timing in place:**

On **MARCH**, hop twice on the left foot.

Continue double timing in place.

March Toward a Flank

**Purpose of the movement:** To march to the right or left flank for a short distance

**Formation:** Any formation

**When the movement may be executed:** Marching at quick time or double time cadence

**Commands to cause the movement to be executed:** *By The Right (Left) Flank, MARCH*

**While Marching at Quick Time.** The base of this movement is the rank in the direction of the flank. Assume you are marching forward at quick time and you receive the command, *By The Right (Left) Flank.*

The preparatory command *By The Right (Left) Flank,* and command of execution **MARCH** are given so they end when the foot in the direction of the turn hits the deck.

At the command of execution **MARCH**, your next step will be a 30-inch step to the front with your left
(right) foot.

Your next step will be to face to the right (left) as in marching, pivoting on the ball of your left (right) foot, and take a 30-inch step with your right (left) foot at a 90 degree angle from your original direction of march.

During the execution of this movement, the arms will continue their natural swing but will not be allowed to swing wide from the body. Continue to march in the right (left) flank until given another command.

When this movement is executed from a column at close interval, the squads in the rear of the base squad take up the half step, after completing the flank movement, until 40-inches distance is obtained between squads.

**While Marching at Double Time.** Assume you are marching forward at double time and you receive the command, *By The Right Flank, MARCH.*

The command of execution will be given as the right (left) foot strikes the deck.

At the command of execution **MARCH**, your next steps will be two more 36-inch steps to the front. Your next steps will be two six-inch vertical alternating steps in place and at the same time turning 90 degrees to the right (left).

During the execution of this movement, the arms will continue their natural swing but will not be allowed to swing wide from the body. Your next step, without loss of cadence, will be a 36-inch step in the new direction at a double time cadence until given another command. When this movement is executed from a column at close interval, the squads in the rear of the base squad continue to double time in place until 40-inch distance is obtained between squads.

**FACE TO THE LEFT (RIGHT) IN MARCHING**

**Purpose of the movement:** It will be used to demonstrate flanking movements from the halt. Flanking movements from the halt are performed in the following movements, Column Right (Left), Close, Extend, Take Interval, and Assemble March.

**Counts:** No Counts

**When the movement may be executed:** Halted at Attention

**Commands to cause the movement to be executed:** For instructional purposes, *By the Right (Left) Flank, MARCH.*

**Face to the Right in Marching.** Assume you are halted at attention and you receive the command, *For instructional pur-poses, By the Right Flank, MARCH.*

On the preparatory command *By The Right Flank* shift the weight of your body to the right leg without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH**, face 90 degrees to the right by pivoting on the ball of the right foot, at the same time taking a 30-inch step in the new direction with the left foot. The arms will began their natural swing, but will not be allowed to swing away from the body. You will continue to march in the new direction at a quick time cadence until given another command.

**Face to the Left in Marching.** Assume you are halted at attention and you receive the command, *For
instructional purposes, **BY THE LEFT FLANK, MARCH.**

On the preparatory command **By The Left Flank** shift the weight of your body to the right leg without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH**, face 90 degrees to the left by pivoting on the ball of the right foot, at the same time taking a 30-inch step in the new direction with the left foot. The arms begin their natural swing but will not be allowed to swing away from the body. You will continue to march in the new direction at a quick time cadence until given another command.

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**Forward March and Halt**

**Forward March**

**Purpose of the movement:** To march forward taking 120, 30-inch steps per minute  
**Number of counts involved in its execution:** No counts  
**When the movement may be executed:** Halted at attention, marking time, marching forward at double time and marching at half step  
**Commands to cause the movement to be executed:** Forward MARCH, Quick Time MARCH  

**From the Halt.**

Assume you are halted at attention and you receive the command, **Forward, MARCH.**

On the preparatory command **Forward**, shift the weight of your body to the right leg without noticeable movement.

On the command of execution **MARCH**, smartly take a 30-inch step to the front with the left foot. Thirty inches being measured from the rear of the left heel to the rear of the right heel.

At the same time begin to swing your arms from the shoulder in their natural arc, **six inches to the front** and **three inches to the rear** of your legs.

You will continue to march without stiffness or exaggeration of movement, taking 120, 30-inch steps per minute, swinging the arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear of your legs, until given another command.

**While Marking Time.**

Assume you are marking time and you receive the command, **Forward, MARCH.**

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

At the command of execution, MARCH given as the left (right) foot strikes the deck, your next step would be one more two-inch vertical step in place with the right (left) foot.

Your next step will be a 30-inch step to the front with your left (right) foot.
Thirty inches are measured from the rear of the left heel to the rear of the right heel. You will continue to march, taking 120, 30-inch steps per minute, swinging your arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear of your legs, until given another command.

**While Marching Forward at Double Time.**

Assume you are marching forward at double time and you receive the command, *Quick Time, MARCH.*

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

At the command of execution *MARCH* as the left (right) foot strikes the deck, your next step would be a 36-inch step to the front with your right (left) foot.

Your next step will be a 30-inch step to the front with your left (right) foot.

Thirty inches are measured from the rear of your left heel to the rear of your right heel.

At the same time you will decrease the cadence to 120 steps per minute, and lower your arms to the quick time position.

You will continue to march, taking 120, 30-inch steps per minute swinging your arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear of your legs, until given another command.

**While Marching at Half Step.**

Assume you are marching at half step and receive the command, *Forward, MARCH.*

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

At the command of execution *MARCH* as the left (right) foot strikes the deck, your next step will be one more 15-inch step to the front with your right (left).

Your next step will be a 30-inch step to the front with your left (right) foot.

Thirty inches are measured from the rear of your left heel to the rear of your right heel.

You will continue to march, taking 120, 30-inch steps per minute swinging your arms six inches to the front and three inches to the rear of your legs, until given another command.

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**Halt**

*Purpose of the movement:* To halt the unit

*Number of counts involved in its execution:* Quick time - 2 counts / Double time - 3 counts

*When the movement may be executed:* Quick time, double time, mark time, half step, back step,
and double time in place

Commands to cause the movement to be executed: Squad, Platoon or Company HALT.
(Preparatory commands are designated by the size of the unit)

To Halt While Marching Forward at Quick Time Cadence.

Assume you are marching forward at quick time and you receive the command, Squad, HALT.

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

On the command of execution HALT as the right (left) foot strikes the deck, your next step and for the first count of HALT, you will take one more 30-inch step with the left (right) foot.

Your next step and for the second count of halt, you would smartly bring your right (left) heel against the left (right) heel and assume the position of attention.

You will remain in this position until given another command.

To Halt While Marching Forward At Double Time Cadence.

Assume you are marching forward at double time and you receive the command, Squad, HALT.

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

On the command of execution HALT as the left (right) foot strikes the deck, your next step and for the first count of halt, would be one more 36-inch step to the front with your right (left) foot.

Your next step and for the second count of halt, would be a 30-inch step to the front with your left (right) foot decreasing the cadence and lowering the arms to the quick time position.

Your next step and for the third count of halt, you would smartly bring the right (left) heel against the left (right) heel and assume the position of attention.

You will remain in this position until given another command.

To Halt While Marking Time.

Assume you are marking time and you receive the command, Squad, HALT.

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

On the command of execution HALT as the right (left) foot strikes the deck, your next step and for the first count of halt, will be one more two-inch vertical step in place with the left (right) foot.

Your next step and for the second count of halt will be a two-inch vertical step in place with the right (left) foot, and smartly bring the right (left) heel against the left (Right) heel, and assume the position of attention.

You will remain in this position until given another command.
To Halt While Double Timing In Place.

Assume you are double timing in place and you receive the command, **Squad, HALT**.

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

On the command of execution **HALT** as the left (right) foot strikes the deck, your next step and for the first count of halt, will be one more six-inch vertical step in place with the right (left) foot.

Your next step and for the second count of halt will be a two-inch vertical step in place with the left (right) foot decreasing the cadence and lowering the arms to the quick time position.

Your next step and for the third count of halt, will be a two-inch vertical step in place with the right (left) foot, bringing the right heel smartly against the left (right) heel and assume the position of attention.

You will remain in this position until given another command.

To Halt While Marching Forward at a Half Step.

Assume you are marching forward at a half step and you receive the command, **Squad, HALT**.

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

On the command of execution **HALT** as the right (left) foot strikes the deck, your next step and for the first count of halt, will be one more 15-inch step to the front with your left (right) foot.

Your next step and for the second count of halt, you will smartly bring the right (left) heel against the left (right) heel and assume the position of attention.

You will remain in this position until given another command.

To Halt While Marching Backward at a Back Step.

Assume you are marching backward at a back step and you receive the command **Squad, HALT**.

The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck.

On the command of execution **HALT** as the right (left) foot strikes the deck, your next step and for the first count of halt, will be one more 15-inch step backward with your left (right) foot.

Your next step and for the second count of halt, you will smartly bring the right (left) heel against the left (right) heel and assume the position of attention.

You will remain in this position until given another command.
To March to the Oblique

To change the line of march for a short distance but not the direction, the command is Right (Left) Oblique, MARCH.

**Requirements:** Marching at Attention; in Any Formation; at Close or Normal Interval; in the Cadence of Quick Time

To maintain alignment while in the Oblique, the base for the movement is the extreme right or left file which has been designated by the command. Members of the formation will keep their shoulders parallel to the base and regulate their steps so that the ranks remain parallel to the original front. The word oblique is pronounced to rhyme with strike.

**Right Oblique:** The command Right Oblique, MARCH is given while marching at a quick time. The command of execution will be given as the right foot strikes the ground, as this involves a movement to the right. At the command of execution, your next step would be one more 30" step to the front with your left foot. Your next step would be to face 45 degrees to the right by pivoting on the ball of the left foot and, at the same time, take a 30" step in the oblique with your right foot. During the execution of this movement, the arms will continue their swing but will not be allowed to swing wide from the body. Continue to march in the right oblique until given another command.

**Left Oblique:** This movement is executed in the same manner to the left by substituting the words Left for Right where appropriate.

Five Movements May be Executed While in the Oblique:

1. **Half Step:** The purpose of this movement is to slow the forward movement but not the cadence. Assume you are marching in the oblique and you receive the command Half Step, MARCH. The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck. Half Step, MARCH. At the command of execution, MARCH, your next step would be one more 30" step in the oblique with your left/right foot. The next step will be a 15" half step with the right/left foot. Continue to march in the oblique until given another command. The only command you may receive while half stepping in the oblique is Resume, MARCH. The command of execution will be given as the left foot strikes the deck. At the command of execution, your next step will be one more 15" step in the oblique with your right foot. Your next step will be a 30" step in the oblique with your left foot. Continue to march in the oblique until given another command.

2. **Mark Time:** While marching in the oblique and you receive the command Mark Time, MARCH. The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck. The purpose of this movement is to stop the forward movement but not the cadence. For this example MARCH is given on the left foot. At the command of execution, MARCH, your next step will be one more 30" step in the oblique with your right foot. Your next step would be to drive the left foot forward along the right foot with a straight left knee as in halting. You would then begin marking time with your right foot by raising the toe 2" and the heel 4" off the deck. Continue to mark time until given another command. The only command you may receive while marking time in the oblique is Resume, MARCH. The command of execution will be given as the left foot strikes the deck. At the command of execution, your next step would be one more 2" vertical step in place with your right foot. Your next step would be a 30" step in the oblique with your left foot. Continue to march in the oblique until given another command.
(3) In Place Halt: The command is **In Place, HALT**. The purpose of this movement is to halt the platoon in the oblique. The command of execution may be given as either foot strikes the deck. For this example **HALT** is given on the left foot. At the command of execution, and for the 1st count of halt, your next step will be one more 30" step in the oblique with your right foot. For the 2nd count of halt, smartly drive the left heel against the right heel with a straight left knee, assuming the position of attention. The only command you may receive from **In Place Halt** is **Resume MARCH**. On the preparatory command, **Resume**, shift the weight of your body to the right leg without noticeable movement. On the command of execution, **MARCH**, step off with your left foot a 30° step in the oblique and continue to march until given another command.

(4) Halt: The command is **HALT**. This command is always preceded by a preparatory command which is designated by the size of the unit, such as **Squad, Platoon, or Company**. The purpose of this movement is to halt the unit facing forward. In a right oblique, the command of execution will be given as the left foot strikes the deck, as this involves a movement to the left. At the command of execution, and for the 1st count of halt, you will take one more 30° step in the oblique with your right foot. For the 2nd count of halt, face 45 degrees to the left, toward your original front, by pivoting on the ball of your right foot. At the same time, smartly bring your left heel against the right heel, assuming the position of attention.

(5) Forward March: The purpose of this movement is to march the unit to its original front. When marching in the right oblique, the command of execution, **MARCH**, will be given as the left foot strikes the deck. At the command of execution, your next step will be one more 30° step in the oblique with your right foot. Your next step is to face 45 degrees to the left by pivoting on the ball of your right foot. Do not allow the arms to swing wide from the body, but continue their natural swing, and continue to march until given another command. When marching in the left oblique, the command is given on the opposite foot as above.

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**Hand Salute**

**Purpose of the movement:** Used as a form of courtesy used between members of the Armed Forces

**Number of counts involved in its execution:** One count

**When the movement may be executed:** Halted at attention or marching at quick time

**Commands to cause the movement to be executed:** HAND SALUTE, READY TWO, PRESENT ARMS and ORDER ARMS

**On Command of Hand Salute.** Assuming you are halted at attention and you receive the command, **HAND, SALUTE**. At the command of execution, and for the count of one, smartly and in the most direct manner raise the right hand until the tip of the right forefinger touches the lower portion of the headdress above and slightly to the right of the right eye (One). The fingers will be extended and joined, the thumb along the hand and the palm down. You should be able to see the entire palm when looking straight ahead. The wrist and forearm are straight. The forearm is inclined at an angle of 45 degrees. The upper arm is parallel to the deck, with the elbow in line with the body. The command to terminate the salute is, **READY, TWO**. On the command **TWO**, smartly and in the most direct manner, return the right hand to the right side and assume the position of attention (Two). You would remain in this position until
On Command Present Arms. The hand salute is executed on the command of PRESENT ARMS when unarmed or when you are armed with a weapon which has no prescribed manual of present arms or when you are armed with a weapon at sling arms.

a. Present Arms. I will explain and demonstrate as though armed with an M-16A2 rifle at sling arms. Assume you are halted at sling arms and you receive the command, PRESENT, ARMS. On the command of execution ARMS, and for the count of one, smartly and in the most direct manner, bring the left hand across the body and grasp the sling of the rifle just above the right hand (One). The palm is turned towards the rear. The fingers are joined. The fingers and thumb are wrapped around the sling. The left wrist and forearm are straight, and the elbow is against the body. For the count of two, release the grasp with the right hand and execute the hand salute (Two).

b. Order Arms. The only command you may receive from this position is, ORDER, ARMS. At the command of execution ARMS, smartly and in the most direct manner, return the right hand to the right side (One). For the count of two, regrasp the sling with the right hand just below the left hand (Two). The palm of the right hand is turned toward the sling. The fingers are joined. The thumb and fingers are wrapped around the sling. The right wrist and forearm are straight and parallel to the deck. The elbow holds the rifle against the body. For the count of three, release the left hand from the sling, and smartly and in the most direct manner return the left hand to the left side, assuming the position of attention at sling arms (Three). You would remain in this position until given another command.

Without Commands. You may salute without command while walking or while seated in a vehicle. The salute is rendered when the person or color to be saluted is at a six pace distance, or at the nearest point of approach if it is not within six paces. The salute will not be rendered if the person or color to be saluted does not approach within thirty paces. Assume you are walking down the street and you meet an officer. When he comes within saluting distance, you would execute a hand salute, at the same time turn your head in the direction of the officer. A hand salute to an officer is always accompanied by an appropriate greeting, such as "Good morning, sir/maam". When you are in a group, but not a formation, the entire group will salute at one time. When you are in a formation the senior man will call the formation to attention if not already at attention, and he will salute for the unit. Assume you are walking down the street and a color approaches. Render a hand salute when the color is at six paces and terminate your salute when the color has passed beyond six paces.

Eyes Right/Left

Purpose of the movement: Used as a courtesy to reviewing officers and dignitaries during parades and ceremonies

Number of counts involved in its execution: One Count

When the movement may be executed: Halted at attention or marching at quick time

Commands to cause the movement to be executed: EYES RIGHT, READY FRONT; EYES LEFT, READY FRONT

Eyes Right

a. At the Halt. Assume you are halted at attention. Upon the approach of the reviewing officer, the unit leader will command, EYES, RIGHT. On the command of execution RIGHT and for the count of one, all members of the formation, to include the platoon guide, will smartly turn their heads and eyes 45 degrees to the right. The shoulders remain square to the front. There is no command to terminate this movement. When the reviewing officer comes into your line of vision, you will follow his movement with your head and eyes until they are straight to the front. At this time, the movement is terminated and you will remain at the position of attention.

b. On the March. Assume you are marching at quick time (Step). The unit leader will give the command
when he is six paces from the reviewing officer. The command of execution will be given as the right foot strikes the deck as this is a movement to the right. **EYES, RIGHT** (Step). On the command of execution **RIGHT** and for the count of one, your next step would be a 30-inch step to the front with your left foot. At the same time all files, except the right file, will smartly turn their head and eyes 45 degrees to the right (Step). The shoulders remain square to the front. The members of the right file will keep their head and eyes to the front. You will continue to march until given the next command. The command to terminate this movement is, **READY, FRONT**. The command of execution is given when the last rank is six paces beyond the reviewing officer and is given as the left foot strikes the deck as this involves a movement to the left. **READY, FRONT** (Step). On the command of execution, your next step is a 30-inch step to the front with your right foot. At the same time, all members who have executed eyes right will turn their head and eyes to the front (Step). You will continue to march until given another command.

**Eyes Left.** The movement of eyes left may only be executed while marching and is normally done during street parades, when the reviewing stand is on the left. Assume you are marching at quick time (Step). The unit leader will give the command when he is six paces from the reviewing officer. The command of execution is given as the left foot strikes the deck, as this involves a movement to the left. **EYES LEFT** (Step). On the command of execution **LEFT** and for the count of one, your next step will be a 30-inch step to the front with your right foot. At the same time, all files, except the left file, will smartly turn their head and eyes 45 degrees to the left (Step). The shoulders remain square to the front. The members of the left file will keep their head and eyes to the front. You will continue to march until given the next command. The command to terminate this movement is, **READY, FRONT**. The command of execution is given when the last rank is six paces beyond the reviewing officer, and is given as the right foot strikes the deck as this involves a movement to the right. **READY, FRONT** (Step). On command of execution, your next step is a 30-inch step to the front with your left foot. At the same time, all members who have executed an eyes left will smartly turn their head and eyes to the front (Step). You will continue to march until given another command.

**Marine/Navy Drill Terminology**

**Element.** An individual, squad, section, platoon, company, or other unit which is part of a larger unit.

**Formation.** Arrangement of elements of a unit in line, in column, or in any other prescribed manner.

**Line.** A formation in which the elements are side by side or abreast of each other. A section or platoon is in line when its squads are in line and one behind the other.

**Rank.** A line of Marines or vehicles placed side by side.

**Column.** A formation in which elements are placed one behind the other. A section or platoon is in column when members of each squad are one behind the other with the squads abreast of each other.

**File.** A single column of Marines or vehicles one behind the other.
Flank. The right or left extremity of a unit, either in line or in column. The element on the extreme right or left of the line. A direction at a right angle to the direction an element or a formation is facing.

Depth. The space from head to rear of an element or a formation. The depth of a man is considered to be 12 inches.

Front. The space occupied by an element or a formation, measured from one flank to the other. The front of a man is considered to be 22 inches.

Distance. Space between elements in the direction of depth. Between individuals, the space between your chest and the person to your front. Between vehicles, the space between the front end of a vehicle and the rear of the vehicle to its front. Between vehicles in formation (either on foot, mounted, or in vehicles), the space from the front of the rear unit to the rear of the unit in front. Platoon commanders, guides, and others whose positions in a formation are 40 inches from a rank are, themselves, considered a rank. otherwise, commanders and those with them are not considered in measuring distance between units. The color guard is not considered in measuring distance between subdivisions of the unit with which it is posted. In troop formations, the distance between ranks is 40 inches.

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

Alignment. The dressing of several elements on a straight line.

Base. The element on which a movement is regulated.

Guide. The individual (base) upon whom a formation, or other elements thereof, regulates its march. To guide: to regulate interval, direction, or alignment; to regulate cadence on a base file (right, left, or center).

Point of Rest. The point toward which all elements of a unit establish their dress or alignment.

Center. The middle element of a formation with an odd number of elements or the left center element of a formation with an even number of elements.

Head. The leading element of a column.

Pace. The length of a full step in quick time, 30 inches.

Step. The distance from heel to heel between the feet of a marching man. The half step and back step are 15 inches. The right and left steps are 12 inches. The steps in quick and double time are 30 and 36 inches, respectively.

Cadence. A rhythmic rate of march at a uniform step.
Quick Time. Cadence at 120 steps (12, 15, or 30 inches in length) per minute. It is the normal cadence for drills and ceremonies.

Double Time. Cadence at 180 steps (36 inches in length) per minute.

Slow Time. Cadence at 60 steps per minute. Used for funerals only.

Left (Right). Extreme left (right) element or edge of a body of troops.

Mass Formation. The formation of a company or larger unit in which the major elements are in column at close interval an abreast at close interval.

Extended Mass Formation. The formation of a company or larger unit in which the major elements are in column at close or normal interval and abreast at a specified interval greater than normal interval.

Piece. An individual firearm such as a rifle.