Introduction to Drill

**PURPOSE**

This lesson reviews the purposes and objectives of close order drill, and introduces you to the roles of leaders and followers in drill. The lesson discusses the different types of commands and the importance of command voice, and it prepares you for the practical application of drill.

The individual positions, stationary movements, facing, and hand salute are the basic skills required in drill. You will learn these positions and movements, and the correct execution of them.

“A true soldier embraces discipline. It is forged by the intensity of the drill.”

Introduction

Before you can become a leader and begin giving commands, it is important that you understand the basics of commands.

In order for drill to be successful, both the leaders and the followers must strive for perfection within their roles.

**Purposes and Objectives of Close Order Drill**

The five purposes of close order drill are:

- Move units from one place to another in a standard and orderly manner, while maintaining the best possible appearance
- Provide the troops an opportunity to handle individual weapons
- Instill discipline through precision and automatic response to orders
- Increase a leader’s confidence through the exercise of command by giving proper commands and drilling troops

When individuals react to commands rather than thought, the result is more than just a good-looking ceremony or parade. It is discipline! Drill has been and will continue to be the backbone of military discipline. In addition to discipline, military drill teaches and develops:

- Teamwork
- Confidence
- Pride
- Alertness
- Attention to detail
- Esprit de corps

**Leaders and Followers**

The instruction and practical application of drill are designed to strengthen your character, knowledge, and skills as an MCJROTC cadet. Drill and the application of basic leadership techniques will help you to develop in these areas.

In order for drill to be successful, individuals must either be in the role of leader or follower. Each of these roles assigns prescribed responsibilities.
Responsibilities of a Follower

The role you play and your responsibilities as a follower in drill are of great importance to the unit. By your obedience to unit leaders, your appearance, and your willingness to contribute to the unit’s mission, you are showing the team spirit of a follower, helping to make the unit what it is, and contributing to its success.

As a follower, you share the same responsibilities of your leaders to uphold the basic values of loyalty to your unit, personal responsibility, and selfless service. It is your duty to complete your job to the best of your ability and to put the needs and goals of the unit before your own.

Responsibilities of a Leader

In your role as a leader, your responsibilities include setting a good example, knowing your job, and being concerned about the welfare of your followers. Further, you must show your obedience to your leaders and, at the same time, demonstrate the initiative of a follower. Finally, you must show ability and willingness to contribute to the success of your unit’s missions.

You must show your leaders and followers that you uphold the same basic values of unit loyalty, personal responsibility, and selfless service. If you rise to the challenge of these responsibilities, you can make your followers feel confident in you, in themselves, and in the unit.

Commands and the Command Voice

The responsibilities of a leader include the proper use of command voice. When leaders give commands properly and with a good command voice, they are helping to ensure that subordinates carry out their orders immediately and correctly.

How often have you heard a command given that demands immediate action? Your mom or dad may have given you that command about something as simple as mowing the lawn or cleaning up your room. Their authority came through loud and clear; the voice said, “Do what I say, NOW!”

The same thing happens in Leadership Lab except the commands come from drill leaders. If you are a leader, learn to give commands so that your followers clearly understand you and respond with immediate action.

Commands

A drill command is an oral order of a commander or leader. The precision with which personnel execute a movement is affected by the manner in which the commander or leader gives the command. Most drills have two parts: the preparatory command and the command of execution. Neither part is a command by itself.

The preparatory command states the movement that the leader wants subordinates to perform and it mentally prepares them for its execution. The command of execution signals when subordinates are to execute the movement. For example, in the command “forward, march,” “forward” is the preparatory command and “march” is the command of execution. (Note: The command “ready, aim, fire” is an example of a two-part command that contains two preparatory commands.)

Once leaders give a preparatory command, they may command “as you were” to revoke that command. However, once they give the command of execution, any revocation is improper, and personnel should execute the movement in the best possible manner.
Some commands require the use of a supplementary command to reinforce other commands and to ensure proper understanding and execution of a movement. Supplementary commands, given by subordinate leaders, may be a preparatory command, a part of a preparatory command, or a two-part command. These commands extend to the lowest subordinate leader who has control over another element of the command within the same formation. The leader giving the initial preparatory command must allow sufficient time for subordinate leaders to give the supplementary commands before giving the command of execution.

Use the following basic rules to help you when giving commands. These rules and accompanying examples may seem very difficult now to understand, but they show the complexity of commands in drill.

- Give all commands from the position of attention.
- While at the halt, face the unit when giving commands.
- For marching commands, move simultaneously with the unit to maintain correct position.
- When marching, give commands in the direction of the troops.
- Subordinate leaders normally give supplementary commands over their right shoulder. However, you will learn several exceptions to this rule in later drill instruction.
- If a company is in formation, platoon leaders give supplementary commands following all preparatory commands of the commander. For example, when the preparatory command is “company,” platoon leaders immediately come to attention and command “platoon.”

The company commander then commands “attention.”

- Squad leaders do not participate in these commands. In addition, if the company commander gives the preparatory command “parade,” platoon leaders repeat it, but the squad leaders do not. The company commander then gives the command of execution “rest.”

- To change the direction of a unit when marching, leaders give the preparatory command and the command of execution for each movement so they begin and end on the same foot in the direction of the turn. For example, give the preparatory command “column right” and the command of execution “march” as the right foot strikes the ground. The interval between the preparatory command and command of execution is normally one count or one step.

- When a command requires the execution of a movement different from the other elements within the same formation, or at a different time, subordinate leaders give their supplementary commands at the time set by the procedures covering the movement. For example, your platoon is in a column formation. After the platoon leader commands “column of twos from the left,” the first and second squad leaders command “forward” and the third and fourth squad leaders command “stand fast.” On the command of execution “march,” the first and second squads execute the movement. At the appropriate time, the third squad leader commands, “column half left, march” for both the third and the fourth squads.

- The only commands that use unit designations such as company or platoon are “attention” and “halt.”
Combined commands, such as “fall in,” “fall out,” “rest,” and “at ease” combine preparatory and execution commands, and do not require a supplementary command. Leaders give these commands with inflection and at a uniformly high pitch and loudness comparable to that of a normal command of execution.

Command Voice

A properly given command should be understood by everyone in the unit. Correct commands have three important elements: tone, cadence, and snap, and they demand a willing, accurate, and immediate response by everyone in the unit.

The Proper Tone of Command Voice

- **Voice Control:** Loudness is the key factor in tone control. The command must be loud enough so that subordinates can hear it and there is no doubt as to the action that the leader requires. To do this, you must project your voice without raising your hand to your mouth.

  In most cases, the leader stands at the front and center of the unit, then, speaks facing the unit so that his or her voice reaches everyone. The command voice should come from the diaphragm -- the large muscle that separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity. The throat, mouth, and nose act as amplifiers to give fullness and to project the voice.

- **Distinctiveness:** Distinctiveness depends on the correct use of the tongue, lips, and teeth to form the separate sounds of a word or group of sounds into syllables. Distinct commands are effective; indistinct commands cause confusion. Leaders can pronounce all commands correctly without loss of effect if they speak their words correctly. To develop the ability to give clear, distinct commands, practice them slowly and carefully, prolonging the syllables. Then gradually increase the rate of delivery to develop proper cadence, but still pronouncing each syllable distinctly.

It is necessary for the voice to 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. You can achieve good voice control through good posture, proper breathing, correct adjustment of throat and mouth muscles, and confidence. The best posture for giving commands is the position of attention.
Inflection: Inflection is the rise and fall in pitch and the tone changes of the voice. Pronounce each preparatory command with a rising inflection. As shown in the diagram of a command, 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, it is impossible to give the command of execution with clarity or without strain. When giving the command of execution, use a sharper tone and a slightly higher pitch than the last syllable of the preparatory command. Remember, the best way to develop a command voice is to practice.

In combined commands such as “fall in” or “fall out,” give them without inflection and with the uniform high pitch and loudness of a normal command of execution.

The Proper Cadence of Command Voice

When giving commands, cadence is the uniform and rhythmic flow of words. Intervals between the words make the preparatory command understandable and signal when to expect the command of execution. These intervals also allow time for subordinate leaders to give any supplementary commands, as illustrated by the platoon leader in the preceding illustration.

When supplementary commands are necessary, the commander or leader should allow one count between the preparatory command and the supplementary command. The leader should also leave a count between the supplementary command and the command of execution.
The Snap of Command Voice and Movement

After the leader gives a command, there is a brief time between the end of the command of execution and the time when subordinates actually execute the move. The inflection of the command voice at the end of the command of execution should draw an immediate, sharp, and precise movement (or snap) to this command. If done properly, everyone in the unit moves at the same time -- creating an impressive, well-drilled, and uniform appearance. Remember, effective leaders depend on the command voice to show confidence in their ability to command.

Proper execution of commands and command voice takes practice. However, when leaders know their responsibilities and prepare for drill, they will discover that being a drill leader is a lot easier.

Stationary Movements

The individual positions and stationary movements are the basic skills required in drill. These basic skills are necessary to master because they are building blocks for other movements used during Leadership Lab. Additionally, they are important for you in developing discipline and self-confidence and for your unit in ensuring uniformity of movement and improving its overall effectiveness and efficiency.

Stationary movements include attention and rest positions, facing, and saluting. These movements, along with marching techniques, make up the squad and platoon movements. In drill, you start most of your movements from the position of attention; however, you will discover that in some instances, you execute certain rest movements from other rest positions.

Position of Attention

You assume the position of attention on the command “fall in” or “squad (platoon, etc.), attention.”

To assume the position of attention, bring your heels together sharply on line, with your toes pointing out equally, in a 45-degree angle. Rest the weight of your body evenly on the heels and balls of both your feet. Keep your legs straight without locking your knees. Hold your body straight with the level of your hips, chest lifted and arched, and shoulders square. Keep your head and face straight to the front, with your chin drawn in so that your head and neck are on a vertical line.

Let your arms hang straight without being stiff. Curl your fingers so that the tips of your thumbs are alongside and touching the first joint of your forefingers. Keep your thumbs straight along the seams of your trouser leg, with the first joint of your fingers touching your trousers. While you are in this position, stand still and remain silent unless otherwise directed.
Positions of Rest

Parade Rest

A drill leader can only give the command for this rest position from the position of attention. The command for it is “parade, rest.”

On the command of execution “rest,” move your left foot about 10 inches to the left of the right foot. Keep your legs straight without locking your knees, and rest the weight of your body equally on the heels and balls of both feet.

At the same time, center your hands at the small of your back on your belt. Keep the fingers of both hands extended and joined, interlocking your thumbs so that the palm of your right hand is outward. Keep your head erect as you would in the position of attention. Remember to remain silent and do not move unless otherwise directed.

From the position of parade rest, you may execute “stand at ease,” “at ease,” and “rest.”

Stand at Ease

The command for this movement is “stand at ease.” On the command of execution “ease,” execute parade rest, but turn your head and eyes directly toward the leader of the formation. You may execute “at ease” or “rest” from this position.

At Ease

The command for this movement is “at ease.” On this command, you may move; however, you must remain standing and silent with your right foot in place. You may execute “rest” from this position.

Rest

The command for this movement is “rest.” On this command, you may move and talk unless otherwise directed. However, you must remain standing with your right foot in place. You may execute “at ease” from this position.

Facing

Facing, left or right, is a two-count movement. The command is “left (right), face.” On the command of execution “face,” slightly raise your right heel and left toe and turn 90 degrees to the left on your left heel, assisted by a slight pressure on the ball of the right foot. Keep your left leg straight without stiffness and allow your right leg to bend naturally. On the second count, place your right foot beside the left foot, resuming the position of “attention.” Your arms remain at your sides, as in the position of attention, throughout this movement.
The Hand Salute

The hand salute is a one-count movement. The command is “present, arms.”

When a drill leader commands “order, arms,” you may release the salute. “Order, arms” is a one-count movement. On the command of execution “arms,” return your hand sharply to your side, resuming the position of attention. You execute the hand salute while marching alone; however, if you are a member of a unit, the leader salutes for the entire unit. If you are alone and at a double time, you must first come to quick time before you can execute the salute.

When reporting or showing courtesy to an individual, turn your head and eyes toward the person and salute at the same time. Subordinates initiate the salute at the appropriate time and terminate it upon acknowledgment.

Terminology

The chart that follows is a summary of relevant terms when studying close order drill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>File</td>
<td>2 or more cadets covered one behind the other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>2 or more cadets aligned shoulder to shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line</td>
<td>Members or units aligned abreast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Column</td>
<td>Members or units organized into a file or files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Formation</td>
<td>Platoons at close interval to form columns 6 or more files in a company or larger formation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interval</td>
<td>One arm measured shoulder to shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close</td>
<td>4” measured shoulder to shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance</td>
<td>40” measured back to chest between ranks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Ranks</td>
<td>70” measured back to chest between ranks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Cadence
Number of steps per minute

### Quick Time
120-30 inch steps per minute

### Double Time
180-36 inch steps per minute

### Half Step
15-inch step measured from heel to toe

### Back Step
15 inch step backwards

### Side Step
12 inch step to the side measured between heels

### Flank
90 degree pivot to the left while marching

### Oblique
45 degree pivot to the left while marching

### To the Rear
180 degree pivot to the rear while marching

### Parade Rest
Relaxed position of attention and the hands are placed on the small of the back with the right hand on top of the left hand, fingers are straight with the thumbs interlocked

### At Ease
Right foot remains in place, no talking allowed

### Rest
Right foot remains in place, talking is allowed

### Fall Out
Break ranks and go to the area designated by the leader

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**Conclusion**

Use of command voice, and the proper execution of commands takes practice. However, when leaders know their responsibilities and prepare for drill, they will discover that being a drill leader is a lot easier.

In this lesson, you have learned the basics to completing stationary movements in drill. The stationary movements include the positions of Attention, Rest, Facing, and the hand salute. ✴
# Drill Command Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>Left</th>
<th>Right</th>
<th>Left</th>
<th>Right</th>
<th>Left</th>
<th>Right</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Column Left</td>
<td>Column</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Column Right</td>
<td>Column</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Column Half Left</td>
<td>Column</td>
<td>Half</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Column Half Right</td>
<td>Column</td>
<td>Half</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the Left Flank</td>
<td>By the Left Flank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the Right Flank</td>
<td>By the Right Flank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Oblique</td>
<td>Left Oblique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Oblique</td>
<td>Right Oblique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward from Left Oblique</td>
<td>Forward from Left Oblique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward from Right Oblique</td>
<td>Forward from Right Oblique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the Rear</td>
<td>To the Rear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Step</td>
<td>Change Step</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halt from Left Oblique</td>
<td>Halt from Left Oblique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halt from Right Oblique</td>
<td>Halt from Right Oblique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close March in Column</td>
<td>Close March in Column</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extend March in Column</td>
<td>Extend March in Column</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes Right</td>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ready Front</td>
<td>Ready Front</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Time from Quick Time</td>
<td>Mark Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward from ½ Step or</td>
<td>Forward</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Time</td>
<td>Platoon Halt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platoon Halt</td>
<td>Platoon Halt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Shoulder Arms</td>
<td>Right Shoulder Arms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Shoulder Arms</td>
<td>Left Shoulder Arms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** March indicates the execution of the command in the context of marching.