

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL
TRAINING COMMAND
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QUANTICO, VA 22134-5003

GMS 1060
MAR 2009

INTRODUCTION TO CLOSE ORDER DRILL

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Given the requirement, select the purposes of Close Order Drill, in accordance with the reference. (MCCS-COD-1001)
2. Given specific drill commands, with or without a service rifle/ carbine and sling, execute individual drill movements, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1002)
3. Given specific drill commands, as a member of a unit, with or without a service rifle/carbine and sling, execute individual action in unit drill, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1003)

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Given the requirement, identify the purposes of formations, in accordance with the reference. (MCCS-COD-1001a)
2. Given the requirement, identify the four types of commands, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1002a)
3. Given specific drill commands, execute individual drill movements without arms, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1002b)
4. Given specific drill commands and a service rifle/carbine with sling, execute individual drill movements with arms, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1002c)
5. Given the requirement, identify how to give close order drill commands, in accordance with the reference. (MCCS-COD-1002d)

6. Given specific drill commands, as a member of a unit, with or without a service rifle/carbine and sling, identify commands given to execute specific platoon drill movements, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1003a)
7. Given specific drill commands, as a member of a unit, with or without a service rifle/carbine and sling, perform individual drill as part of a platoon, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1003b)
8. Given specific drill commands, as a member of a unit, with or without a service rifle/carbine and sling, identify the commands given to execute a specific individual drill movement, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1003c)
9. Given specific drill commands, as a member of a unit, with or without a service rifle/carbine and sling, perform duties as a guide during unit drill, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1003d)
10. Without the aid of reference, given a list of alternatives, identify standard drill terminology, in accordance with The Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. (MCCS-COD-1003e)

1. **PURPOSES OF CLOSE ORDER DRILL.**

- a. Move units from one place to another in a standard, orderly manner.
- b. Provide simple formations from which combat formations may be readily assumed.
- c. Teach discipline by instilling habits of precision and automatic response to orders.
- d. Increase the confidence of junior officers and non-commissioned officers through the exercise of command, by the giving of proper commands, and by the control of drilling troops.
- e. Give troops an opportunity to handle individual weapons.

2. **PURPOSES OF FORMATIONS.**

- a. To build unit cohesion and esprit de corps by recognizing Marines during awards and promotion ceremonies.

b. To maintain continuous accountability and control of personnel.

c. To provide frequent opportunities to observe the appearance and readiness of the uniforms, arms, and equipment of the individual Marine.

d. To keep the individual Marine informed by providing the means to pass the word.

e. To develop command presence in unit leaders.

f. Instill and maintain high standards of military bearing and appearance in units and in the individual Marine.

g. To add color and dignity to the daily routine by reinforcing the traditions of excellence associated with close order drill.

3. FOUR TYPES OF COMMANDS.

a. Preparatory Command. Indicates a movement is to be made and may also indicate the direction of the movement. In the drill and ceremonies manual, and this outline, preparatory commands are shown beginning with a capital letter followed by lower case letters. The comma indicates a pause between the preparatory command and the command of execution.

Examples would be "Forward," "Left," "Platoon," "About," etc.

b. Command Of Execution. Causes the desired movement to be executed. In the drill and ceremonies manual, and this outline, commands of execution are shown in **CAPITAL LETTERS.**

Examples would be "MARCH," "FACE," "ATTENTION," etc.

c. Combined Command. The preparatory command and the command of execution are combined. In the drill and ceremonies manual, and this outline, combined commands are shown in **UNDERLINED CAPITAL LETTERS.**

Examples would be "AT EASE," "REST," "FALL IN," etc.

d. Supplementary Commands. Commands that cause the component units to act individually. An example would be the commands squad leaders give to their individual squads following

the platoon commander's preparatory command, "**Column of Files From the Right,**" and before the command of execution "**MARCH.**" In the drill and ceremonies manual, and this outline, supplementary commands may be shown as preparatory commands, commands of execution or combined commands, depending on the movement.

4. GIVING COMMANDS.

a. For Company Formations Or Larger. When commanding marching troops from the head of a column or massed formations, commanders march backward while giving commands.

b. When Commanding A Unit That Is Part Of A Larger Unit. Commanders turn their heads to give commands, but do not face about except when the unit is halted and the smaller units are in line. In this case, the leader faces about to give all commands except to repeat preparatory commands, for which turning the head is sufficient.

c. Commanders Of Platoons And Larger Units. When drilling as a part of a still larger unit, repeat all preparatory commands or give the proper new command or warning. There are three exceptions to this.

(1) The first is that no repetition is necessary for combined commands such as "**FALL IN,**" "**FALL OUT,**" "**REST,**" or "**AT EASE.**"

(2) The second is that no repetition of command is necessary when a unit is in mass formation.

(3) The third exception is that no repetition of command is necessary during parades and ceremonies where the commander of troops, adjutant, etc., may be clearly heard by all hands, or the commander of troops and adjutant give combined commands and subordinate unit commanders cause their units to execute the command independently. (e.g., when the regimental commander gives the combined command to "**PORT ARMS**" subordinate battalion commanders would give the command of "**Port, ARMS**" so that their battalion would execute the command as an independent unit of the regiment.)

d. If At A Halt. If at a halt, the commands for movements, which involve marching at quick time in a direction other than to the direct front, such as "**Column Right, MARCH,**" are not prefaced by the preparatory command, "**Forward.**"

e. Commands That Use Unit Designations. The only commands that use unit designations, such as "Battalion" or "Company," as preparatory commands are "ATTENTION" and "HALT." Such commands shall have no further designation added (e.g., "First Battalion, ATTENTION" or "Company C, HALT"). Commands shall be given only as stated herein.

f. Command Voice. A command must be given loud enough to be heard by all members of a unit.

(1) The position of attention is the proper position for giving commands. A leader's bearing will be emulated. If it is military, junior personnel will be inspired to respond to commands with snap and precision.

(2) Distinct commands inspire troops, indistinct commands confuse them. All commands can be given correctly without loss of effect or cadence. Raising the hand to the mouth to aid in projecting commands is not proper.

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

(a) Preparatory commands should be delivered with a rise and inflection in the voice. (e.g., "BaaaTAL ion," "PlaaaTOON," "FooreWARD," "TO the REAR," etc.) In particular those preparatory commands that cause supplemental movements should be heavily accentuated on the last syllable. (e.g., The command "Present, ARMS" the preparatory command Preee(pause) ZENT" causes those armed with swords to execute the first count of the movement and the national color to go to the carry. Another example is "Officers, Center, MARCH." On the preparatory command of "OffICERS" those armed with swords go to the carry, on the preparatory command of "CennnTER" the officer's step and/or face)

(b) A command of execution is given in a sharper and higher pitch than the tone of the preparatory command's last syllable. A good command of execution has no inflection, but it must have snap. It should be delivered with sharp emphasis. If properly given, troops will react to it with snap and precision.

(c) Combined commands such as "FALL IN" are delivered without inflection. They are given in the uniform high pitch and loudness of a command of execution.

5. STANDARD DRILL TERMINOLOGY.

a. **Definitions.** The following definitions are standard terms used throughout this outline.

(1) **Alignment.** The dressing of several elements on a straight line.

(2) **Assembly area.** A designated location for forming units of platoon size or larger in preparation for a parade, review or ceremony.

(3) **Arms.** A term used to normally designate the service rifle, but can refer to any weapon. When in formation and a mix of weapons is carried the term arms will be used to designate all types of weapons.

(4) **Base.** The element on which a movement is regulated.

(5) **Cadence.** A rhythmic rate of march at a uniform step.

(6) **Center.** The middle element of a formation with an odd number of elements (See figure 1-1a) or the left center element of a formation with an even number of elements. (See figure 1-1b.)

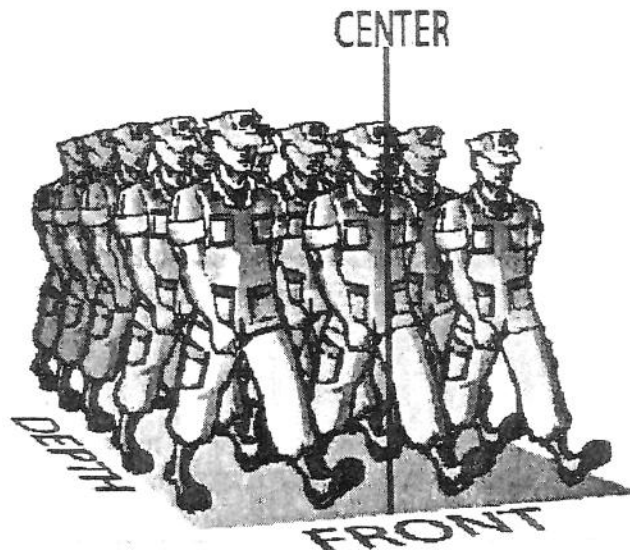


Figure 1-1a.--Center (Odd Number of Elements), Depth, and Front.

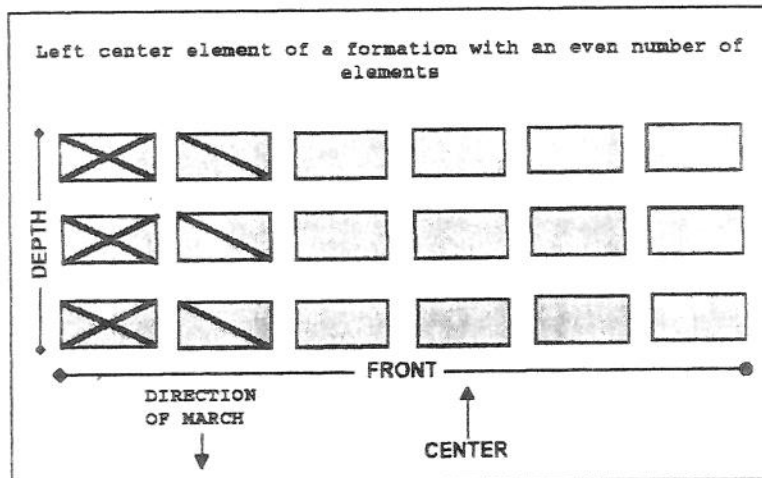


Figure 1-1b.--Center, Even Number of Elements.

(7) **Ceremony**. A formal military formation designated to observe a specific occasion.

(8) **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.

(9) **Commander of Troops (COT)**. The COT is the senior officer taking part in the ceremony. If an enlisted ceremony the COT is the senior enlisted.

(10) **Depth**. The space from head to rear of an element or a formation. (See figure 1-1a.) The depth of an individual is considered to be 12 inches.

(11) **Distance**. The space between elements in the direction of depth. Between individuals, the space between your chest and the person to your front. Between vehicles, the space between the front end of a vehicle and the rear of the vehicle to its front. Between troops in formation (either on foot, mounted, or in vehicles), the space from the front of the rear unit to the rear of the unit in front. Platoon commanders, guides, and others whose positions in a formation are 40 inches from a rank are, themselves, considered a rank. Otherwise, commanders and those with them are not considered in measuring distance between units. The color guard is not considered in measuring distance between subdivisions of the unit with which it is posted. In troop formations, the distance between ranks is 40 inches. (See figure 1-2.)

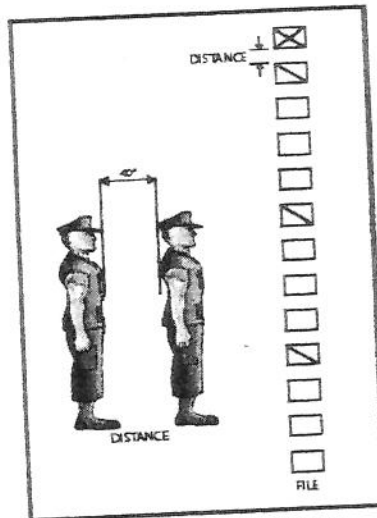


Figure 1-2.--Distance and File.

- (12) **Double time.** Cadence at 180 steps (36 inches in length) per minute.
- (13) **Element.** An individual, squad, section, platoon, company, or other unit that is part of a larger unit.
- (14) **Extended mass formation.** The formation of a company or larger unit in which major elements are in column at close or normal interval and abreast at a specified interval greater than normal interval.
- (15) **File.** A single column of troops or vehicles one behind the other.
- (16) **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.
- (17) **Formation.** Arrangement of elements of a unit in line, in column, or in any other prescribed manner.
- (18) **Front.** The space occupied by an element or a formation, measured from one flank to the other. (See figure 1-1a.) The front of an individual is considered to be 22 inches.

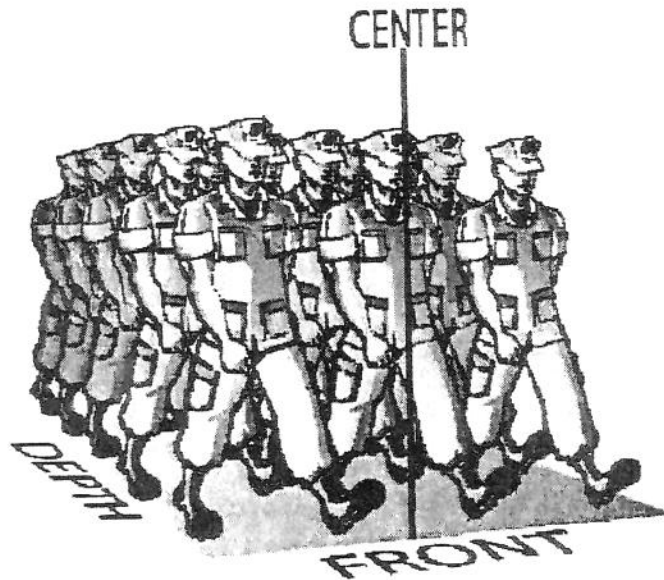


Figure 1-1a.--Center (Odd Number of Elements), Depth, and Front.

(19) **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).

(20) **Head.** The leading element of a column.

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

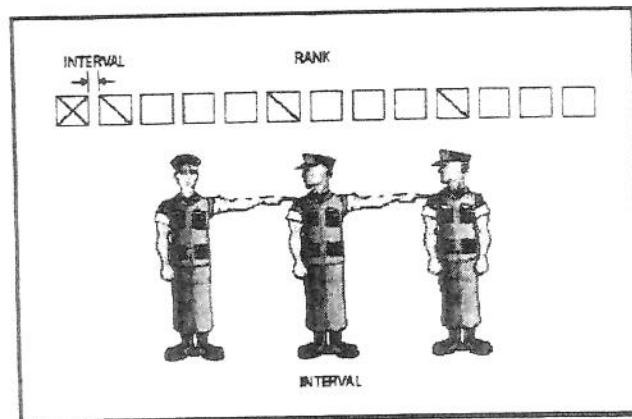


Figure 1-3.--Interval and Rank.

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

(23) 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.

(24) Line of march. The line on which individuals or units are to march.

(25) Line of troops. The line on which troops are to form when in formation.

(26) Loosened sling. Indicates a sling adjusted for the movement sling arms.

(27) Mass formation. The formation of a company or larger unit in which the major elements are in column at close interval and abreast at close interval.

(28) Muffling. The procedure of draping colors for mourning with a mourning streamer or black bunting. It also refers to the process of muffling the musical instruments of a band for specific types of ceremonies.

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

(30) Parade. A parade is a ceremony that involves the movement of marching units.

(31) Parade sling. A sling that has all excess slack removed and is taught. The keeper is adjusted and locked in a position next to the sling tip. The sling lies on the left side of the rifle.

(32) Piece. An individual firearm such as a rifle.

(33) Point of rest. The point toward which all elements of a unit establish their dress or alignment.

(34) Quick time. Cadence at 112 to 120 steps (12, 15, or 30 inches in length) per minute. It is the normal cadence for drill and ceremonies.

(35) Rank. A line of troops or vehicles placed side by side.

(36) **Review**. A review is a type of ceremony that omits certain elements found in a parade, but includes an inspection (trooping the line) not found in a parade.

(37) **Rigged**. This term refers to the condition when uniforms and equipment are properly fitted out in the manner for which they were intended for use. Swords are considered rigged when attached to the frog (noncommissioned officers) or sword sling (commissioned officer). A Marine is rigged when wearing the prescribed uniform or equipment.

(38) **Slow time**. Cadence at 60 steps per minute. Used for funerals only.

(39) **Snap**. In commands or signals, the quality that inspires immediate response. In drill the immediate and smart execution of a movement.

(40) **Step**. The distance from heel to heel between the feet of a marching individual. 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.

(41) **Strong grip**. The strong grip is when the thumb is wrapped around the front of the staff with the fingers wrapped to the rear. (See figure 1-4.)

(42) **Unit leader**. Is the individual who is drilling the unit. This can be any individual who is conducting drill or can be those assigned a specific billet such as squad leader, platoon sergeant, platoon commander, etc.

(43) **"V" grip**. The "V" grip is with the staff placed in the "V" formed by the thumbs and forefinger with the fingers extended and joined. (See figure 1-5.)