

Lesson 5

Review of Drill Procedures



Key Terms

drill
formations
inspection
marching
stationary movements

What You Will Learn to Do

- Carry out responsibilities in a drill ceremony

Linked Core Abilities

- Communicate using verbal, nonverbal, visual, and written techniques
- Take responsibility for your actions and choices

Skills and Knowledge You Will Gain Along the Way

- Identify four steps that leaders should follow when starting a new leadership position
- Compare major duties of a team leader, squad leader, platoon sergeant, and platoon leader
- Define the key words contained in this lesson

Key Note Terms

drill – executing a pre-defined set of movements

formations – groups of people aligned in a specific pattern

Introduction

Using **drill** tips, **formations**, locations of key personnel, and lists of drill positions and/or movements, this lesson highlights some of the key elements of drill techniques and formations from previous lessons. Specifically, it reviews

- **Stationary movements**
- **Steps and marching**
- **Squad and platoon drill**
- **Company drill**
- **Battalion drill and inspections**

If you identify any movements in this lesson for which you are uncertain of the correct procedures on how to execute them, you should refer to the appropriate lesson, your Cadet Handbook, and/or Field Manual 3-21.5 for those procedures. Remember, depending on your position in the cadet battalion, one of your responsibilities as a senior cadet is to know—and possibly teach—drill. As a leader, you must set that example.

Stationary Movements

The individual positions and **stationary movements** are the basic skills required in drill. You learn these positions and their correct execution before proceeding to other drill movements. These basic skills are necessary to master because they are the building blocks for other movements used during *Leadership Lab*. Additionally, they are important because they help to develop discipline and self-confidence in individuals and the unit as a whole by ensuring uniformity of movement and overall effectiveness and efficiency.

Steps and Marching

The two basic steps used in **marching** are the 30-inch step and the 15-inch step. Use combinations of these steps, movements, and halts alone or in groups.

The following provides helpful drill tips for steps and marching.

- **When at a halt, start all marching movements from the position of attention.**
- **Except for “route step, march” and “at ease, march,” execute all marching movements while “marching at attention.”**
- **Marching at attention is the combination of the position of attention and the procedures for the prescribed step executed simultaneously.**
- **When executed from the halt, all steps except “close interval, march,” “right step, march,” and “about, face” begin with your left foot.**
- **Unless otherwise specified, use 30-inch steps for marching forward.**

Key Note Term

stationary movements – drill movements executed while remaining in place

Key Note Term

marching – a precise stepping movement designed to facilitate the efficient movement of formations

- Execute all marching movements in the quick time cadence except for the command “double time, march.”
- Marching is a five-step process: preparatory command step; intermediate or thinking step; command of execution step; another step after the command of execution; and execution of movement.
- Execute all 15-inch step movements for a short distance only.

A Quick Review

The stationary movements are as follows:

- Position of attention
- Rest positions: parade rest, stand at ease, at ease, and rest
- Facing movements: left (right), face and about, face
- Saluting

The basic steps and marching movements are as follows:

- Halt
- Quick and double time (30-inch step)
- Rest movements in marching (30-inch step)
- Forward and backward step (15-inch step)
- Right (left) step (15-inch step)
- Changing step and marching in place

Squad Drill

To execute squad drill, you must first know how a squad forms and what your responsibilities are when it forms. After you have mastered these techniques, learning how to march in uniformity (and precisely) with other cadets is important in being part of a sharp drill squad. The following drill tips will help you to better understand some general information about squad drill.

- **While executing drill as a squad member, perform individual drill and stationary movements as described in those lessons.**
- **When a squad forms in a line, its members are numbered from right to left; when in a column, from front to rear.**
- **When the squad drills *as a separate unit and is in a line formation*, the squad leader takes a position three steps in front of and centered on the squad.**
- **When it drills *as a separate unit and is in a column or column of twos*, the squad leader’s position is three steps to the left and centered on the squad.**
- **When the squad drills *as part of a larger formation*, the squad leader occupies the number one (base) position of the squad.**

Squad Formations

The squad has two prescribed formations: line (or rank) and column (or file); however, your squad leader may form the squad in a column of twos from a column formation. Squad formations are shown in Figure 5.5.1.

Notes

- An arrow indicates the direction the squad is facing and/or moving
- A boxed “X” is the *squad leader*; boxed slashes are *team leaders*
- Squad sizes may vary with each unit

Marching the Squad

The following tips apply when marching the squad.

- **The squad normally marches in a column, but for short distances, it may march in a line formation**
- **To form a column formation from a line formation, the command is “right, face”**
- **When a column formation is at close interval, the squad may march for short distances at the half step**

Review Notes

The basic stationary drill movements in squad drill are as follows:

- Falling in
- Obtaining intervals: normal, close, and double
- Changing intervals
- Counting off
- Rest and dismissal

Platoon Drill

The following drill tips will help you to better understand some general information about platoon drill. Platoons execute certain drills in the same way that squads do. These drills include the following:

- **Inclining Around**
- **Changing Intervals in Lines**
- **Counting Off**
- **Dismissing**
- **Marching to the Flanks**
- **Marching in the Opposite Direction**
- **Resting**

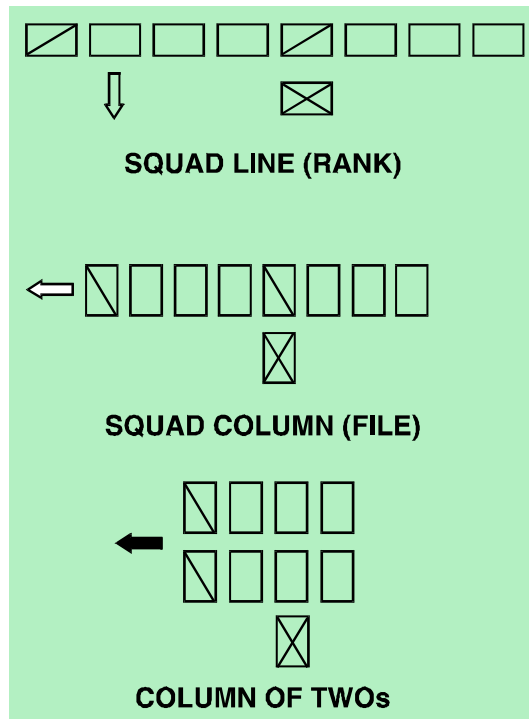


Figure 5.5.1: Squad formations.

Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

For the most part, platoon drill merely provides the procedures for executing movements in conjunction with other squads formed in the same formation.

- When a platoon forms in a line, its squads are numbered from front to rear; in a column, from left to right.
- Execute individual drill movements as previously described while performing as a squad member during the conduct of platoon drill.
- When the platoon drills *as a separate unit and is in a line formation*, the platoon leader takes a position six steps in front of and centered on the platoon. The platoon sergeant's position is centered on the platoon and one step to the rear of the last rank.
- When it drills *as a separate unit and is in a column formation*, the platoon leader's position is six steps on the left flank and centered on the platoon. The platoon sergeant's position is one step behind and centered between the second and third squads.
- When the platoon drills *as part of a larger unit*,
 - *And is in a line formation*, the platoon leader's position is six steps in front of and centered on the platoon. The platoon sergeant's position is one step to the rear and centered on the platoon.
 - *And is in a column formation*, the platoon leader's position is one arm's length plus six inches in front of and centered between the second and third squad leaders. The platoon sergeant's position is one step behind and centered between the second and third squads.
- The first squad leader serves as the base when the platoon is in a line formation; the fourth squad leader serves as the base when in a column.

Platoon Formations

The platoon has two prescribed formations: line and column; however, your platoon leader may form the platoon in a column of twos from a column. See Figure 5.2.2 for platoon formations. Use the following to interpret the symbols used in those formations.

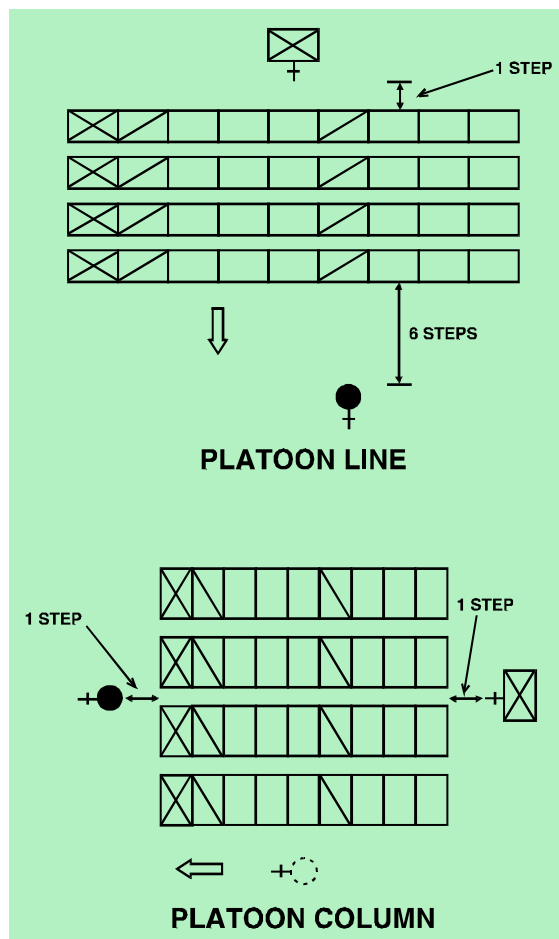
- An arrow indicates the direction the platoon is facing and/or moving.
- A circle with an attached cross is the *platoon leader*; a boxed “X” with an attached cross is the *platoon sergeant*; boxed “X’s” are *squad leaders*; boxed slashes are *team leaders*.
- Platoon sizes may vary with each unit.

Marching the Platoon

The following apply when marching the platoon.

- The platoon marches in the same manner as prescribed for the squad.
- When marching in line, the first squad leader serves as the guide; when marching in column, the fourth squad leader is the guide.

Figure 5.5.2: Platoon formations.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.



- **When marching in line, each member maintains alignment on the cadet to the right by glancing out of the corner of the right eye; when marching in column, each member of the first, second, and third squads maintains alignment on the cadet to the right.**

Review Notes

The basic drill movements in marching the squad are as follows:

- Changing direction: column left (right), march; column half left (right), march; rear, march; and incline around
- Marching to the flank
- Forming a column of twos and re-forming

The movements in platoon drill are as follows:

- Falling in
- Breaking ranks
- Counting off
- Changing intervals
- Aligning the platoon
- Covering and recovering
- Opening and closing ranks
- Rest and dismissal

The basic movements in marching the platoon are as follows:

- Changing direction
- Marching to the flank
- Forming a file and re-forming
- Forming a column of twos and re-forming

Movements in company drill include the following:

- Forming and aligning the company
- Changing interval
- Opening and closing ranks
- Changing direction of march of a column
- Correcting distance between platoons
- Forming a column of twos and re-forming
- Forming and aligning a company mass
- Forming a column with platoons in line
- Dismissing the company

Company Formations and Movement

Company drill provides the procedures for executing platoon drill in conjunction with other platoons in the same formation. For drill purposes, a company consists of a company headquarters and two or more platoons. The following drill tips will help you to better understand some general information about company formations and drill.

- **The company normally forms in a line formation; however, it may re-form in column when all personnel can identify their exact position in the formation.**
- **The company forms basically the same as the platoon. On the command “fall-in,” platoons form in line, centered on and facing the person forming the unit, with five-step intervals between platoons.**
- **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.**
- **The first sergeant assumes the position of the company commander if there are no officers present.**
- **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 company commander rather than on the platoon leader.**
- **When the company commander directs that the company “open or close ranks,” “extend march,” “close on the leading platoon,” or “prepare for inspection,” platoons execute the movements on the command of the platoon leaders and not on the directives of the company commander. The platoon leaders command the movement in sequence beginning with the base platoon.**

Company Formations

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 a company mass formation. The company, however, may form into a column of twos in the same manner as the platoon.

Figure 5.5.3 shows formation illustrations. Use this illustration to interpret the following formation figures.

Notes

- An arrow indicates the direction the company is facing and/or moving.
- The symbol with the pennant is the company commander’s guidon bearer.
- Company sizes may vary with each unit.
- The company marches, rests, and executes eyes right in the same manner as the platoon.

Figure 5.5.4 shows a company in line with platoons in line.

Figure 5.5.5 shows a company in a column with platoons also in a column.

Figure 5.5.6 reflects a company in a column with platoons in a line.

Figure 5.5.7 shows a company in a mass formation.

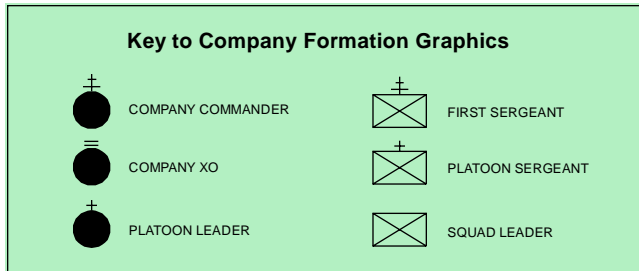


Figure 5.5.3: Key to company formation graphics.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

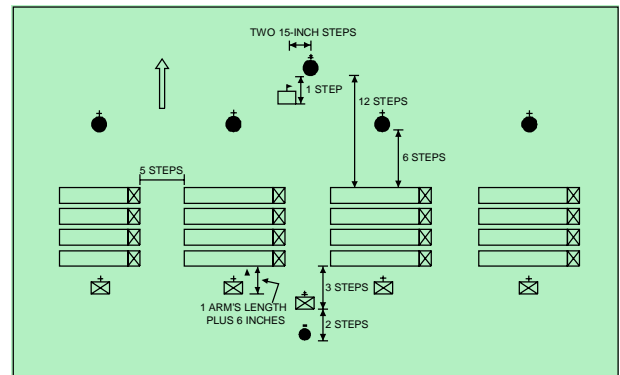


Figure 5.5.4: Company in line with platoons in line.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

Battalion Drill and Inspections

Battalion drill provides the procedures for executing company drill in conjunction with other companies in the same formation and for conducting an in-ranks **inspection**. For drill purposes, a battalion consists of a headquarters section (or the battalion staff), Colors, and two or more companies. The following drill tips will help you to better understand some general information about battalion formations and drill.

Key Note Term

inspection – visual evaluation

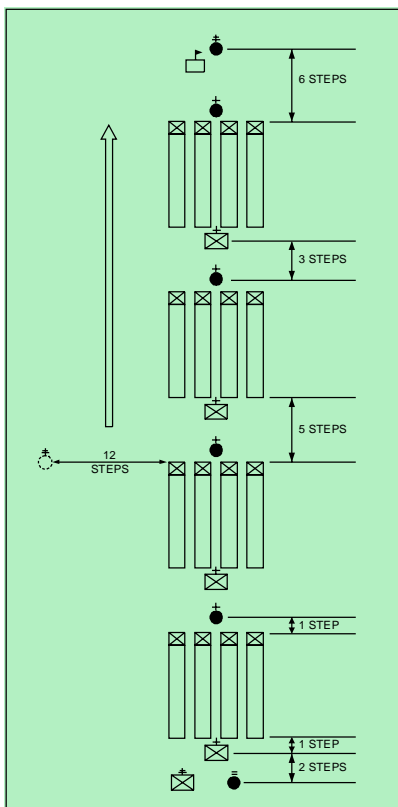


Figure 5.5.5: Company in column with platoons in column.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

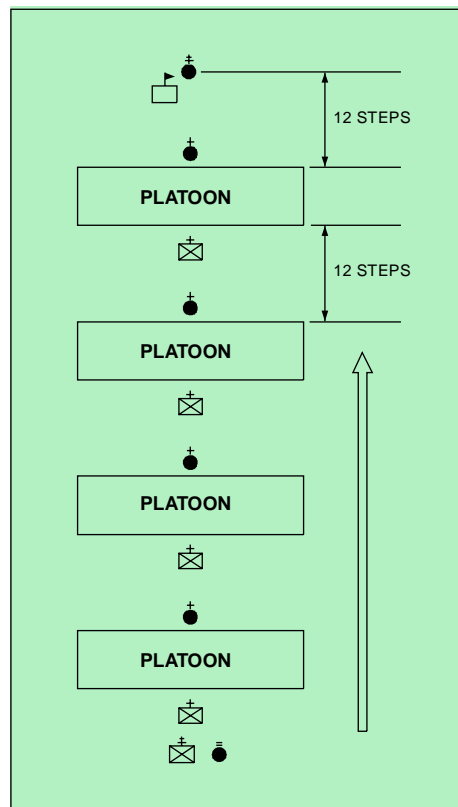
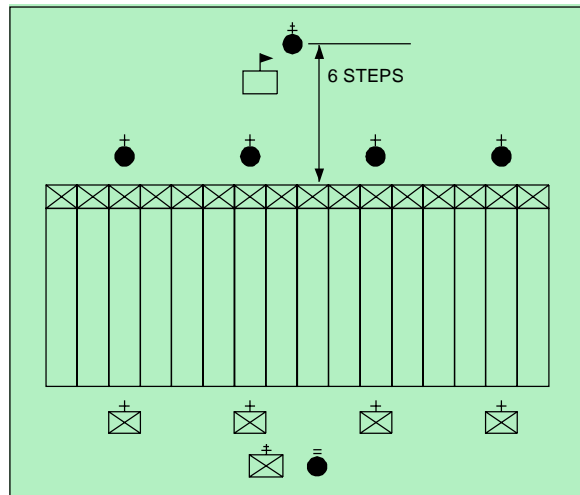


Figure 5.5.6: Company in column with platoons in line.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

Figure 5.5.7: *Company in a mass formation.*

Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.



- The right flank unit serves as base when in a line formation; the lead element is the base when in column.
- To facilitate the forming of a larger unit, the commander normally alerts the subordinate units of the desired formation, time, place, route, uniform, and the sequence in which the units will form.
- Unless the S-3 has previously marked the position of the right guides at the formation site, they report to the site and receive instructions prior to the arrival of the troops.
- The commissioned staff forms in one rank at normal interval and centered on the commander. The commander-of-troops normally arranges the staff members in numerical order (S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, and so on) from right to left as he or she faces the battalion.
- When enlisted staff personnel form as part of the officer staff, they form two steps to the rear of their respective staff officer.
- The command sergeant major forms one step to the rear of the commissioned staff and centered on the commander or one step to the rear and centered on the Colors when in a battalion mass formation.

Battalion Formations

The battalion has two basic formations: a line and a column. There are several ways the battalion commander or staff can arrange the separate elements within either formation. Shown below are the basic ways the battalion commander, commander-of-troops, or staff can arrange a battalion's separate elements into a line, column, or mass formation. Use the symbols in Figure 5.5.8 to interpret the battalion formation illustrations.

The battalion may be formed in line with companies in line and platoons in line, or battalion in line with companies in column with platoons in line (see Figure 5.5.9).

From either of those formations, you can position the battalion in a battalion column with companies in column, or companies in mass, or companies in column with platoons in line (see Figure 5.5.10).

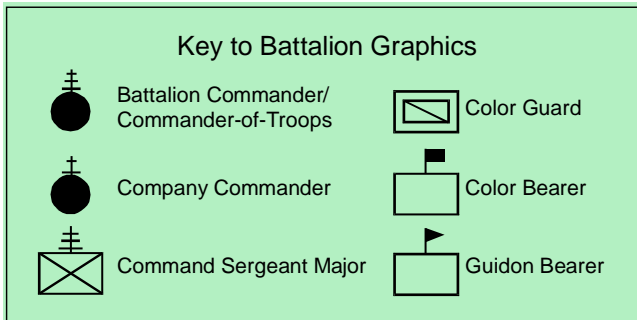


Figure 5.5.8: Key to battalion graphics.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

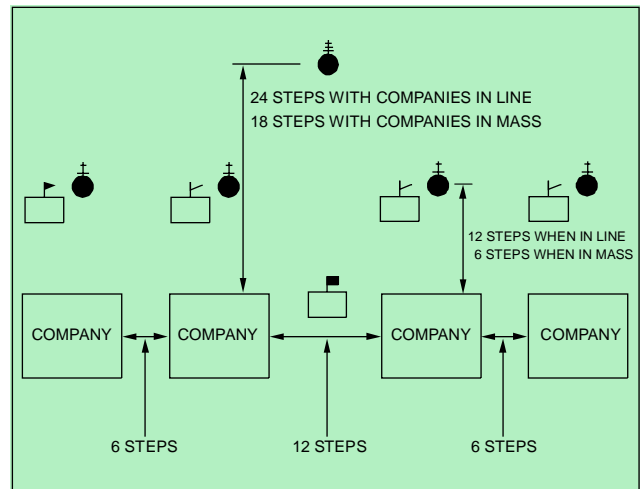


Figure 5.5.9: Battalion in line with companies in line or mass.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

When the battalion participates as a separate element of a larger formation, or space is limited, the battalion can form in a mass formation (see Figure 5.5.11).

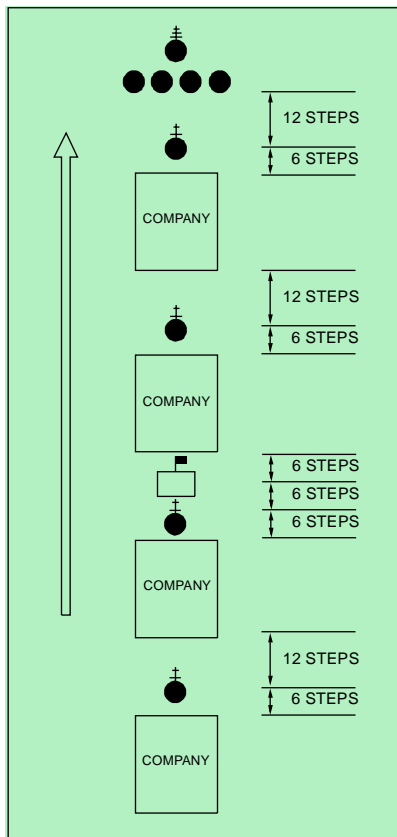


Figure 5.5.10: Battalion in column with companies in column or mass.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

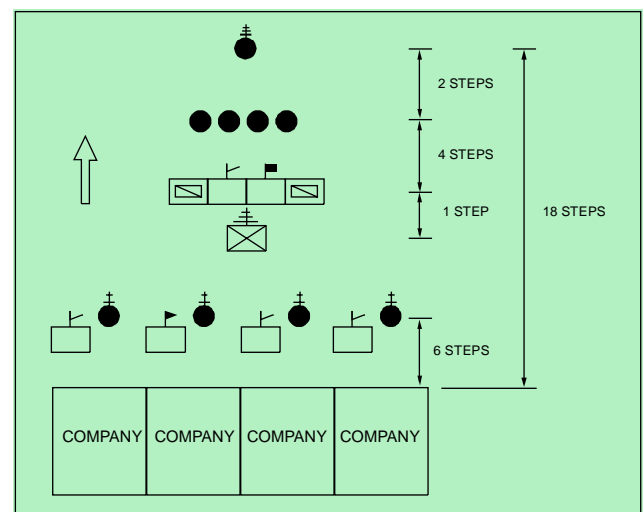


Figure 5.5.11: Battalion in mass formation.
Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

Conclusion

In this lesson, you had the opportunity to review some of the key concepts of drill, beginning with individual stationary movements and progressing up to battalion drill and inspections. As you make this progression, you can see how each echelon—squad to platoon, platoon to company, and company to battalion—builds on previously learned skills. To perfect drill, it takes many hours of practice and lots of discipline. Therefore, you must study and practice the tips and formations presented in this lesson as well as the detailed procedures for executing the various drills and commands. Only through study and practice will you be ready to teach and set the example for your subordinates in proper drill procedures.

In the following lesson, you will learn stationary movements with the M-1903 rifle.

Lesson Review

1. Why is it important for cadets to know and understand drill procedures?
2. What is the prescribed formation for marching?
3. Identify some of the differences between platoon and company formations.
4. What is the basic battalion formation for conducting inspection?