

Lesson 7

Stationary Movements with the M-1 Rifle



Key Terms

balance
barrel
bolt
butt
hand guard
muzzle
port arms
sling
stacking swivel
stock
trail arms
trigger guard

What You Will Learn to Do

- Execute the manual of arms with the M-1 rifle

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

- Describe the correct response to commands for “order arms” and “rest positions”
- Describe the correct responses to commands to “port arms,” “present arms,” and “rifle salute”
- Describe the correct responses to commands for “inspection of arms”
- Describe the correct responses to commands for “right and left shoulder arms”
- Describe the correct responses to commands to “sling and unsling arms”
- Describe the correct responses to commands to “stack and take arms”
- Define the key words contained in this lesson

Introduction

Executing drill with the M-1 rifle uses and builds on the same basic skills you learned in drill without the use of arms. The positions and movements with the M-1 rifle are important to master because you will apply them in ceremonies, reviews and when carrying your rifle during other phases of training. With a lot of pride and practice on your part, correct execution of these movements may lead to a precision drill team.

This lesson introduces the procedures for executing the manual of arms with the M-1 rifle (see Figure 5.7.1).

Note

Because of the many similarities between the manual of arms for the M-1 and the M-1903, in various places throughout this lesson you are referred back to pages in the previous lesson so that you can see illustrations of those procedures.

Drill Tips

- Execute fall in with the rifle at order arms.
- The term “at the **balance**” refers to a point on the M-1 rifle just forward of the **trigger guard**.
- You normally execute facings, alignments, and short distance marching movements from order arms. Right (left) step, backward march, open and close ranks, and close and extend interval march are short distance movements. To march units forward for similar short distances, the drill leader may give forward march from order arms. After receiving these commands, automatically assume **trail arms** on the command of execution for the duration of the movement. Return the rifle to order arms upon halting.
- Before starting any other marching movement, the drill leader must face the troops in the desired direction of march and then have them bring their weapons to right shoulder, port, or sling arms by the appropriate command. After the formation completes a marching movement, and the drill leader desires to execute a facing movement, first have the weapon brought to order or unsling arms, and then give the command for the facing movement.
- With your left hand at the balance, hold the M-1 rifle with your thumb and fingers, including the **sling** in your grasp. Extend and join your fingers forming a “U” with your thumb.
- The cadence for rifle movements is quick time.
- Before your drill leader commands “fall out,” you must be at attention at order, port, stack, or unsling arms.

Key Note Terms

balance – position just forward of the magazine floor plate on the underside of the rifle stock

trigger guard – metal strip surrounding trigger mechanism to prevent accidental firing

trail arms – fingers and thumb closed around the front hand guard, rifle butt raised about three inches off the ground and stock inclined at an angle of 30 degrees.

sling – strap for carrying rifle over back and shoulder

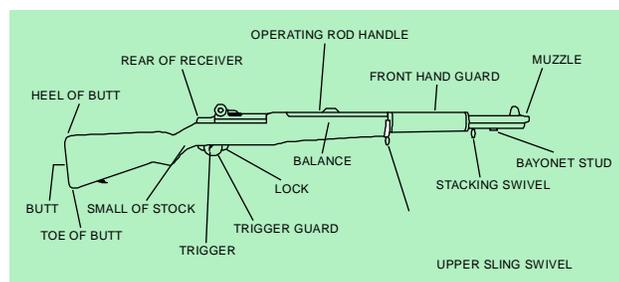


Figure 5.7.1: M-1 rifle.

Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

Key Note Terms

port arms – movement to position rifle diagonally across body with right forearm horizontal and elbows at sides

barrel – metal tube for aiming and firing ballistic projectile

stock – framework securing firing mechanisms while providing protected handling, aiming, and firing

- When at a position other than sling arms, come to **port arms** for double time.
- Execute the manual of the M-1 while at the position of attention, but you may execute any position from another, except inspection arms, trail arms, and sling and unsling arms—which you execute from order arms. Plus, you can only execute port arms from inspection arms.
- The position of *diagonally across the body* means that the **barrel** is up, the heel of the butt is on line with your right hip, and the barrel is at such an angle that one point of it is in front of the juncture of your neck and left shoulder. Hold the rifle at a height that allows your right forearm to be horizontal when you grasp the small of the **stock** with your right hand. Grasp the rifle at the balance with your left hand, keeping your left elbow at your side. The distance of the rifle from your body (belt) should be about four inches.

Order Arms and Rest

Order arms is the position of a cadet at attention with the rifle. Assume the position of order arms on the command “squad (platoon), attention” from any of the rest positions except fall out, on the command “fall in,” and on the command “order, arms” from any position except inspection arms and sling arms.

At order arms, maintain the position of attention except for your right arm and the M-1. Place the **butt** of the rifle on the ground with the barrel to the rear and the toe of the rifle butt against your right shoe, on line with the front of your right shoe (see Figure 5.6.1). Grasp the front hand guard with your right hand in a “U” formed by your fingers, extended and joined, and your thumb. Hold the tips of your index finger and thumb on line with the forward edge of the front **hand guard**. Keep your right hand and arm behind the rifle so that your thumb is along your trousers seam (see Figure 5.7.2).

Key Note Terms

butt – bottom end of the rifle stock designed to rest against shoulder

hand guard – protected grip forward of the rifle stock

Figure 5.7.2: Order arms.

Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.



Rest Positions with the M-1

The rest positions with the M-1 are commanded and executed as without arms, with the following exceptions and additions:

- On the command “parade, rest,” keep the toe of the rifle butt on line with the front of your right shoe, and hold the rifle butt against it. Slide your right hand upward, regrasp the front hand guard just below the **stacking swivel**, and straighten your right arm so the **muzzle** is inclined straight to the front. Place your left hand behind your back, just below the belt line, with your fingers and thumb extended and joined and your palm to the rear. Thrust the rifle out at the same time you move your left foot (see Figure 5.6.2).
- Execute stand at ease with the M-1 in the same manner as parade rest, except turn your head and eyes toward the leader.
- On the commands “at ease” or “rest,” keep your right foot in place and hold the M-1 as in parade rest, except that you may relax your right arm slightly. When at sling arms, follow the procedure outlined later in this lesson.

Trail Arms

When at the position of order arms, you execute the position of trail arms on the command of execution of a march command when no other command precedes the preparatory command for the movement.

For instructional purposes, a leader may use the command “trail, arms” to teach the position at the halt. On the command of execution, grasp the rifle with your right hand, with your fingers and thumb closed around the front hand guard. Raise the rifle butt about three inches off the ground and incline the rifle forward at an angle of 30 degrees. Execute this movement in one count.

Carry the rifle in that position until the leader gives “order, arms.” On the command of execution, lower the rifle to the ground with your right hand and resume the position of order arms.

Port and Present Arms

Port arms on the command “port arms.” Present arms on the command “present arms.” Port arms from order arms is a two-count movement (see Figure 5.6.3). On the command of execution, raise the rifle diagonally across the body with the right hand, grasping the balance with the left hand so that the rifle is about four inches from your belt. Hold your right elbow down without strain. On the second count, regrasp the rifle with your right hand at the small of the stock. At port arms, keep your right forearm horizontal, your elbows in at your sides, and the rifle diagonally across the body about four inches from you.

Execute order arms from port arms in three counts. On the command of execution, move your right hand up and across your body and grasp the front hand guard without moving the rifle (see Figure 5.6.4). On the second count, release your left hand from the balance and lower the rifle to your right side with your right hand so

Key Note Terms

stacking swivel – metal loop on upper band of rifle

muzzle – the open end of the rifle barrel from which the bullet exits

that the butt is about three inches from the ground. Place your left hand on the rifle in the vicinity of the stacking swivel with your fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm to the rear, to steady the rifle and hold the barrel vertically.

On the third count, lower the rifle gently to the ground with your right hand and then sharply move your left hand to your side, resuming the position of order arms.

Present Arms

Present arms from order arms is a two-count movement (see Figure 5.7.3). On the first count, carry the rifle to the center of your body with your right hand, keeping the barrel to the rear and vertical and your right elbow down. Grasp the rifle and sling at the balance with your left hand, keeping your forearm horizontal and elbow against your body. On the second count, grasp the small of the stock with your right hand. The distance of the rifle from your body should be about four inches from your belt.

Order arms from present arms is a three-count movement. Execute the first count by grasping the rifle at the front hand guard with your right hand, keeping your elbow down and at your side. On the second count, lower the rifle with your right hand, completing the second and third counts as in order arms from port arms.

Executing Port Arms from Present Arms

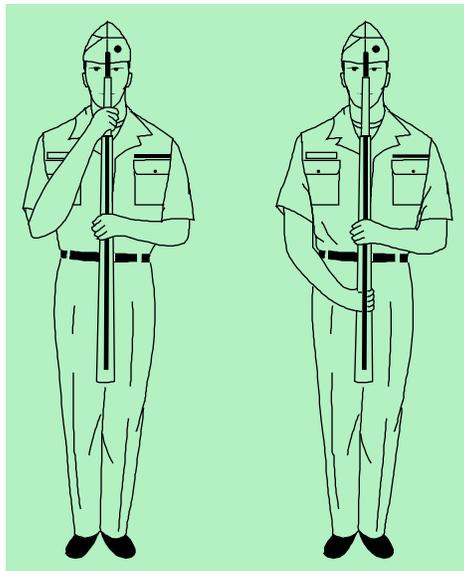
Execute port arms from present arms in one count. Raise and twist the rifle with your right hand, moving the muzzle to the left, and regrasp the rifle at the balance with your left hand.

Executing Present Arms from Port Arms

Execute present arms from port arms in one count. Lower and twist the rifle with your right hand, moving the rifle to a vertical position, and regrasp it at the balance with your left hand.

Figure 5.7.3: Present arms.

Courtesy of CACI and the
US Army.



Rifle Salute

You may execute a rifle salute from order arms (see Figure 5.7.4), trail arms, right shoulder arms, or left shoulder arms. For instructional purposes, the drill leader may use the command “rifle, salute.” The rifle salute is a two-count movement.

Executing a Rifle Salute from Order Arms

When at order arms, on the first count, move your left arm across your body. Then, with your forearm and wrist straight, fingers and thumb extended and joined, and palm down, touch the rifle at a point between the stacking swivel and the muzzle with the first joint of your forefinger. If not in ranks, turn your head and eyes toward the person or the Colors you are saluting. On the second count, sharply move your left hand away to your side and turn your head and eyes back to the front (see Figure 5.7.4).

Executing a Rifle Salute from Trail Arms

When saluting at trail arms, the movements are identical with those for saluting at order arms except hold the rifle in the trail arms position.

Executing a Rifle Salute from Right Shoulder Arms

At right shoulder arms, execute the movement by moving your left arm across your chest and touching the first joint of your forefinger to the rear of the receiver. Hold your left elbow so that the lower edge of your left forearm is horizontal. Hold your fingers, thumb, and wrist as described for order arms above, with your palm down. The second count of the rifle salute at right shoulder arms is similar to the return from the rifle salute at order arms (see Figure 5.7.5).

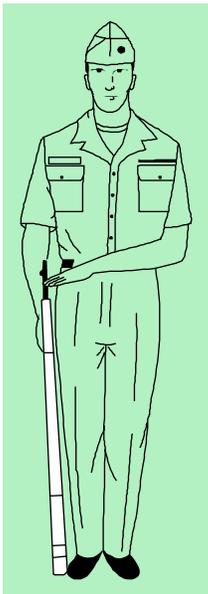


Figure 5.7.4: Executing a rifle salute from order arms.

Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

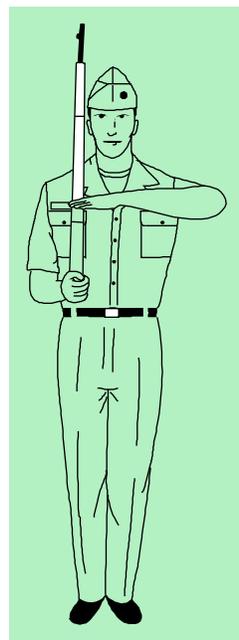


Figure 5.7.5: Executing a rifle salute from right shoulder arms.

Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.

Executing a Rifle Salute from Left Shoulder Arms

At left shoulder arms, execute the movement by moving your right arm across your chest and touching the first joint of your forefinger to the rear of the receiver. Hold your right elbow so that the lower edge of your forearm is horizontal. Hold the fingers, thumb, and wrist as described in order arms above, with your palm down. The second count is similar to the return from the rifle salute at right shoulder arms.

Note

The next to the last count of order and right shoulder arms is not a rifle salute but is used for steadying the rifle. You execute a rifle salute with the palm of your hand down and the side of the first joint of your forefinger touching the rifle.

Inspection Arms

Inspection arms from order arms is a four-count movement that you execute *only* from order arms. The first two counts are the same as in going to port arms. On the third count, release your left hand from the balance and, with your fingers closed, palm in, and forearm horizontal, place your left thumb on the operating rod handle and push it to the rear until it is caught by the operating rod catch. At the same time, lower your head and eyes enough to look into the receiver (see Figure 5.7.6). On the fourth count, having found the receiver empty or having emptied it, raise your head and eyes to the front and at the same time regrasp the rifle at the balance with your left hand.

Port arms is the only command that the drill leader may give from inspection arms. On the preparatory command, with your fingers extended and joined, and palm in, place the rear edge of your right hand against the operating rod handle and move it

Figure 5.7.6: Inspection arms.

Courtesy of CACI and the US Army.



slightly to the rear. Then, depress the follower with your right thumb and allow the **bolt** to move forward slightly, overriding the rear portion of the follower. On the command of execution, remove your right thumb from the receiver and at the same time release the operating rod handle. Pull the trigger with your forefinger and regrasp the small of the stock as in the position of port arms.

Note

Leaders should execute inspection arms as a safety precaution when they form and dismiss their units.

Key Note Term

bolt – breeching mechanism for loading, locking, and removing cartridges from rear of barrel

Right (Left) Shoulder Arms

Shoulder arms on the command “right/left shoulder arms.” Right shoulder arms from order arms is a four-count movement. On the command of execution, execute the first count of port arms. Hold your right elbow down without strain. On the second count, regrasp the rifle at the butt with your right hand; the heel of the butt should be between your first two fingers and thumb, your fingers closed around the stock, and your thumb and index finger touching.

On the third count, place the rifle on your right shoulder with the grasp of your right hand unchanged. Release your left hand from the balance and use it to guide the rifle to your shoulder by placing your left hand at the small of the stock, thumb and fingers extended and joined, palm toward your body, and the first joint of your left forefinger touching the rear of the receiver. Keep your left elbow down. On the fourth count, sharply move your left hand back to its position by your side as in attention. At right shoulder arms, keep your right forearm horizontal and your right elbow against your side and on line with your back (see Figure 5.6.7).

The return to order arms is a four-count movement. On the command of execution, press the rifle butt down quickly and move the rifle diagonally across your body, turning the butt so as to keep the barrel up. Grasp the rifle at the balance with your left hand, retaining the grasp of your right hand on the butt (count one). On the second count, move your right hand up and across your body and grasp the front hand guard. Execute the third and fourth counts in the same manner as the second and third counts in executing order arms from port arms.

Right shoulder arms from port arms is a three-count movement. On the first count, re-grasp the rifle at the butt with your right hand as you would in coming to right shoulder arms from order arms. The last two counts are the same as the last two counts in moving from order arms to right shoulder arms.

Port arms from right shoulder arms is a two-count movement. The first count is the same as the first count from right shoulder arms to order arms. On the second count, regrasp the rifle with your right hand at the small of the stock in the position of port arms.

Left shoulder arms from order arms is a four-count movement. On the command of execution, execute port arms in two counts. On the third count, place the rifle on your left shoulder with your right hand, keeping your right arm pressed against

your body. At the same time, re-grasp the butt with your left hand in a manner similar to grasping the butt with your right hand in right shoulder arms. On the fourth count, sharply move your right hand to your side as in the position of attention (see Figure 5.6.8).

Port arms from left shoulder arms is a two-count movement. On the first count, move your right hand up and across the body and grasp the small of the stock with your right hand, keeping your right arm pressed against your body. On the second count, carry the rifle diagonally across your body with your right hand, and regrasp the balance with your left hand as in the position of port arms.

Order arms or right shoulder arms from left shoulder arms is a five-count movement. On the first two counts, bring the rifle to port arms. On the last three counts, execute the steps for order arms or right shoulder arms.

Sling and Unslung Arms

Performing drill with a rifle takes practice and coordination. Knowing how to drill with your rifle when the sling is loose is equally important in being a sharp drill unit.

Sling Arms

A leader gives the command “sling, arms” only from order arms or unslung arms. Do not execute this movement in cadence. If the sling is not adjusted, on the command of execution, place the butt of the rifle on your right hip and cradle the rifle in the crook of your right arm. Adjust the sling with both hands and then sling the rifle on your right shoulder in the most convenient manner. When at sling arms, grasp the sling with your right hand, keeping your right forearm horizontal and holding the barrel of the rifle vertical (see Figure 5.6.9).

If the sling is already adjusted when the leader gives the command of execution, sling the rifle in the most convenient manner.

Unslung Arms

On the command of execution for “unslung, arms,” remove the rifle from your right shoulder in the most convenient manner and assume the position of order arms, steadying the rifle with your left hand.

Note

When assuming order arms, the sling remains loose.

Before executing precise movements, the leader must command “adjust, slings.” On the command of execution, tighten the sling from the position described above for loosening the sling.

Saluting While at Sling Arms

To salute while at sling arms, on the command of execution for “present, arms,” grasp the sling with your left hand to steady the rifle. Keep the palm of your left hand to the rear and your forearm horizontal. At the same time, release the sling with your right hand and execute the first count of a hand salute (see Figure 5.6.10). Then, on the command of execution for order arms, sharply move your right hand and arm to your side as in the position of attention and resume the original position of sling arms.

Executing Rest Positions While at Sling Arms

Execute parade rest and at ease while at sling arms in the manner described for order arms, but keep the rifle slung, held with your right hand. On the command “rest,” you may unsling the rifle. On the preparatory command of squad or platoon, take the position of parade rest at sling arms.

Stack and Take Arms

Stack arms on the command “stack arms.” Take arms on the command “take arms.” The members of the squad stack arms from their positions in line at normal interval on the command of “stack, arms.” After the squad counts off, the leader designates the stackpersons by numbers (2-5-8-11) before giving the command to stack arms. Only those squad members with other people on each side of them can be designated as stackpersons.

On the command of execution, the cadet on the left of the stackperson grasps his/her rifle at the lower portion of the front hand guard and passes it in a vertical position to the right front (approximately 30 degrees) to the stackperson, who grasps it with the left hand at the upper portion of the front hand guard (see Figure 5.6.13). The stackperson places the butt of the rifle between his/her feet, with the barrel to the front and the muzzle outward; then, with the thumb and forefinger of his/her left hand, the stackperson raises the stacking swivel.

The stackperson then swings the butt of his/her own rifle about two feet in front and six inches to the right of his/her right toe. At the same time, the stackperson shifts his/her right hand to the stacking swivel of his/her rifle and engages it with that of the left rifle. The stackperson’s rifle is on the right (see Figure 5.6.14).

The cadet on the right of the stackperson steps to the left with his/her left foot, keeping the right foot in place. At the same time, that cadet bends to the left front, regrasping his/her weapon with the left hand at the front hand guard and the right hand at the small of the stock. This cadet then slides his/her left hand up to manipulate the stacking swivel, engaging it with the free hook of the swivel on the stackperson’s rifle (see Figure 5.6.15).

The cadet on the right of the stackperson then rotates his/her rifle outward so that the barrel rests in the angle formed by the other two rifles and above the bayonet stud on the left rifle (see Figure 5.6.16). This cadet pulls the butt toward him/her

until the stack is tight and the butt is in line with the butt of the rifle between the stackperson's feet. The cadet then lowers the butt to the ground and resumes the position of attention (see Figure 5.6.17).

Cadets with other rifles pass them to the nearest stack on the right. When passing extra rifles to the stack, grasp the front hand guard with your right hand and, holding the rifle vertical, fully extend your arm to your front. When the cadet on your right has grasped the rifle at the balance with his/her left hand, release your right hand and resume the position of attention. When you receive a rifle from the cadet on your left, keep it vertical and move it in front of you, with your left hand at the balance; grasp the front hand guard with your right hand and, if you are not the stackperson, pass it to your right as described above. If you are the stackperson, place the rifle on the stack, trigger guard outward, at a sufficient angle from the vertical to keep it in place.

The squad in line behind the stacks takes the rifles on the command of "take, arms." On the command of execution, the stackperson passes each extra rifle toward its bearer. Cadets hold the rifles in the manner described for passing them to the stack. After cadets receive their weapons, they resume the position of order arms.

After the extra rifles have been passed, the stackperson grasps his rifle and the rifle of the cadet on his left. The cadet on the right of the stackperson steps to the left as in stacking, secures his/her rifle, and resumes the position of order arms.

The stackperson then disengages the two remaining rifles, grasps the left rifle at the lower part of the front hand guard and passes it to his/her left front. The cadet on the left grasps it at the front hand guard with the right hand and lowers the rifle to the ground, resuming order arms. The stackperson resumes order arms after the cadet on the left has received his/her rifle.

Each cadet comes to order arms by guiding and steadying the rifle with his/her left hand as in the next to the last count of order arms.

Conclusion

This lesson covered the procedures for executing the manual of arms with the M-1 rifle while at sling arms and when carrying it with the sling tight. As you learned in Lesson 6, precise drill movements with a weapon require a lot of practice and hard work, but the outcome may be rewarding for you and your cadet battalion: winning local, state, and/or national drill competitions. Review the video of the national drill competitions held at Daytona Beach or the opening of the movie *A Few Good Men* to see firsthand examples of just how good precision drill can be.

The following lesson discusses the manual of arms for the saber and the scabbard.

Lesson Review

1. What are the correct movements for “present arms”?
2. What are the correct movements for a rifle salute from the position of “order arms”?
3. What are the correct movements for “inspection arms”?
4. What are the correct movements for “take arms”?