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CHAPTER 7

Company Drill

"The fundamentals of drill are established daily . . . If these maneuvers are all accurately observed and practiced every day then the army will remain virtually undefeatable and always awe inspiring. . ."

Frederick the Great: "History of My Own Times, trans." 1789

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Section I

PROCEDURES AND PERSONNEL

7-1. General

- a. Individual drill movements, manual of arms, and squad and platoon drills are executed (as previously described) while conducting company drill.
- b. For the most part, company drill provides the procedures for executing platoon drill in conjunction with other platoons in the same formation.
- c. For drill purposes, a company consists of a company headquarters and two or more platoons. The company headquarters personnel are attached to the platoons to equalize platoon strength without interfering with the permanent squad organization; however, the commander may form the headquarters personnel into a separate platoon at either flank of the company. When headquarters personnel form as a separate element, the senior sergeant serves as the platoon sergeant, and the company executive officer serves as the platoon leader.
- d. 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.
- e. The first sergeant assumes the position of company commander, if there are no officers present.
- f. When the company commander directs that the company *open or close ranks, align, stack or take arms, extend march, close on the leading platoon, or prepare for inspection*, the movements are executed 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.
- g. During all drills and ceremonies, the first sergeant and executive officer carry their weapons at *sling arms*. They remain at *sling arms* during all manual of arms movements except that they execute the *hand salute* while at *sling arms*.
- h. The 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 commander rather than on the platoon leader.
- i. The company *marches, rests*, and executes *eyes right* in the same manner as the platoon.
- j. 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 company mass formation. However, the company may be formed into a column of twos in the same manner as the platoon.

7-2. Posts for Key Personnel

- a. **Company Commander.** When the company is in a line formation or in a column with the platoons in line, the post for the company commander is 12 steps (from the front rank of troops) to the front and centered on the company. As part of a larger unit, when the company is in a column with platoons in

column and when in a mass formation, his post is 6 steps from the front rank of troops to the front and centered on the company. As a separate unit, when the company is in column with platoons in column, his post is 12 steps from and centered on the left flank.

b. **Guidon Bearer.** The guidon bearer's post is two 15-inch steps to the rear and two 15-inch steps to the left of the company commander (Appendix B) (Figure 7-1).

NOTE: The company commander should inconspicuously direct the guidon bearer to remain in position and move with the commander when the company is to be *faced* to the right and *marched* for only a short distance.

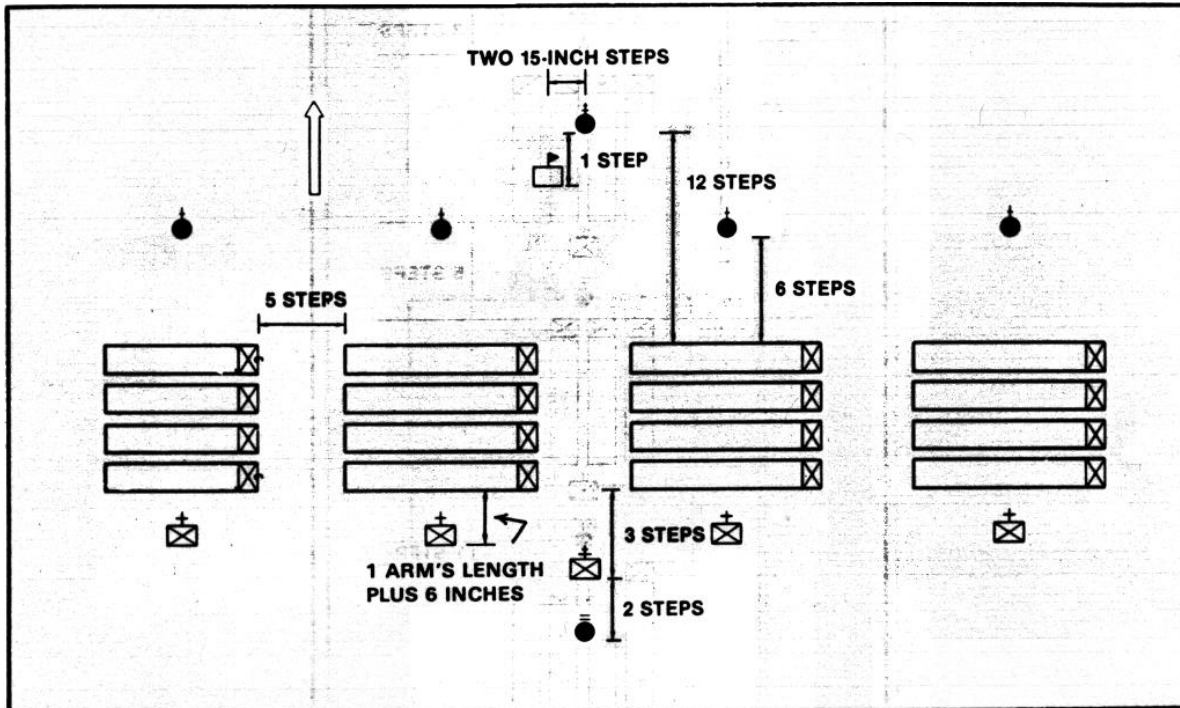


Figure 7-1. Company in Line with Platoons in Line

c. **Executive Officer.** When the company is in a line formation, the executive officer's post is two steps to the rear of the first sergeant in a column or a mass formation, he is three steps to the rear of the last rank and off center (one 15-inch step to the right) of the company.

d. **First Sergeant.** When the company is in a line formation, the first sergeant's post is three steps to the rear of the last rank and centered on the company; in a column or a mass formation, he is three steps to the rear of the last rank and off center (one 15-inch step to the left) of the company (Figure 7-2).

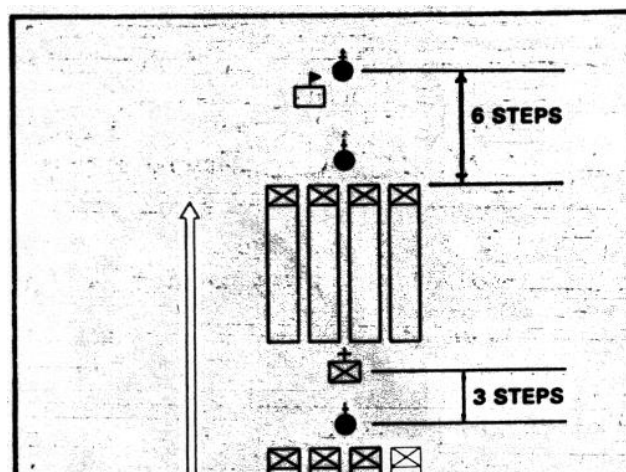
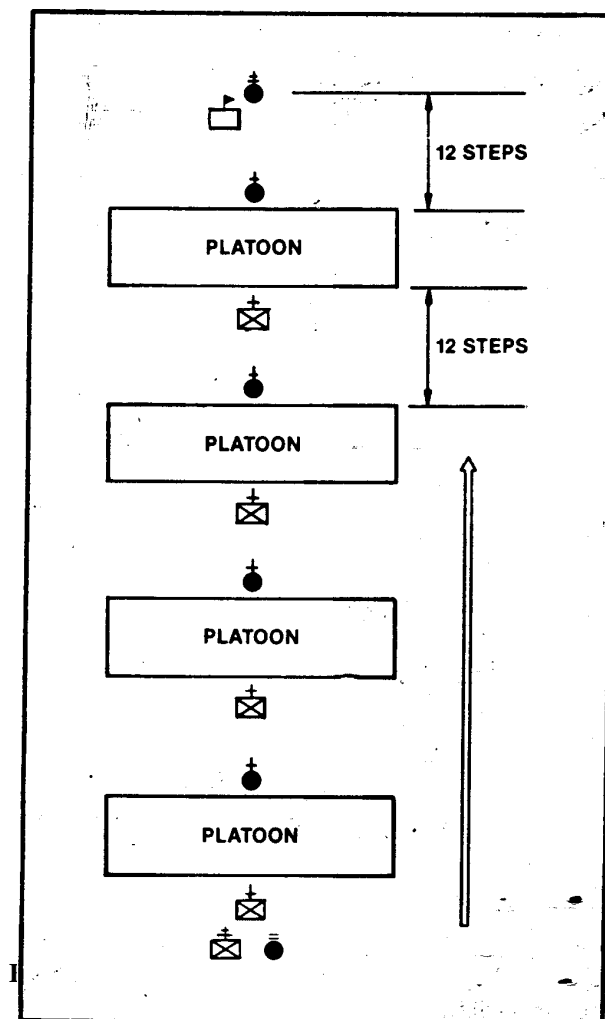


Figure 7-2. Company in Column with Platoons in Column

NOTE: The executive officer inconspicuously gives the necessary commands (*march, column half left, halt, and facings*) for himself and the first sergeant when changing from one post to another. Once in motion, they *incline* as necessary and *march* to their new posts. When the company changes from a line formation to column formation, the first sergeant and executive officer face with the company but do not *march* forward. They remain in position until the last platoon has passed. If the company *marches* forward (column formation) for a short distance only, or if it closes on the base platoon (line formation) at *close interval*, the first sergeant and executive officer *march* forward or *face to the right in marching* and resume their posts. When the company changes from a column (*platoons in column*) to a line formation, they *face to the right in marching* and assume their posts in line. When the company forms a company in column with platoons in line, as the unit is *faced*, they *face to the right in marching* and assume their posts to the rear of the last platoon. When the company is formed in mass, they *face to the right in marching* and assume their posts at the center of the company immediately after *halting* with the last platoon (Figure 7-4). The off-center position explained for the first sergeant and executive officer should place them at *normal interval* from each other while *covering* a file to their front. If either one is not present during a formation, the one present changes posts without command

and assumes the post at the center of the company rather than off center (Figure 7-3)



e. **Additional Officers.** Other officers assigned or attached, who have no prescribed position within the formation, form evenly to the right and left of the executive officer in a line formation; they *fall out* and form in one or two ranks at correct distance to the rear of the first sergeant and executive officer when the company forms in column (Figure 7-4).

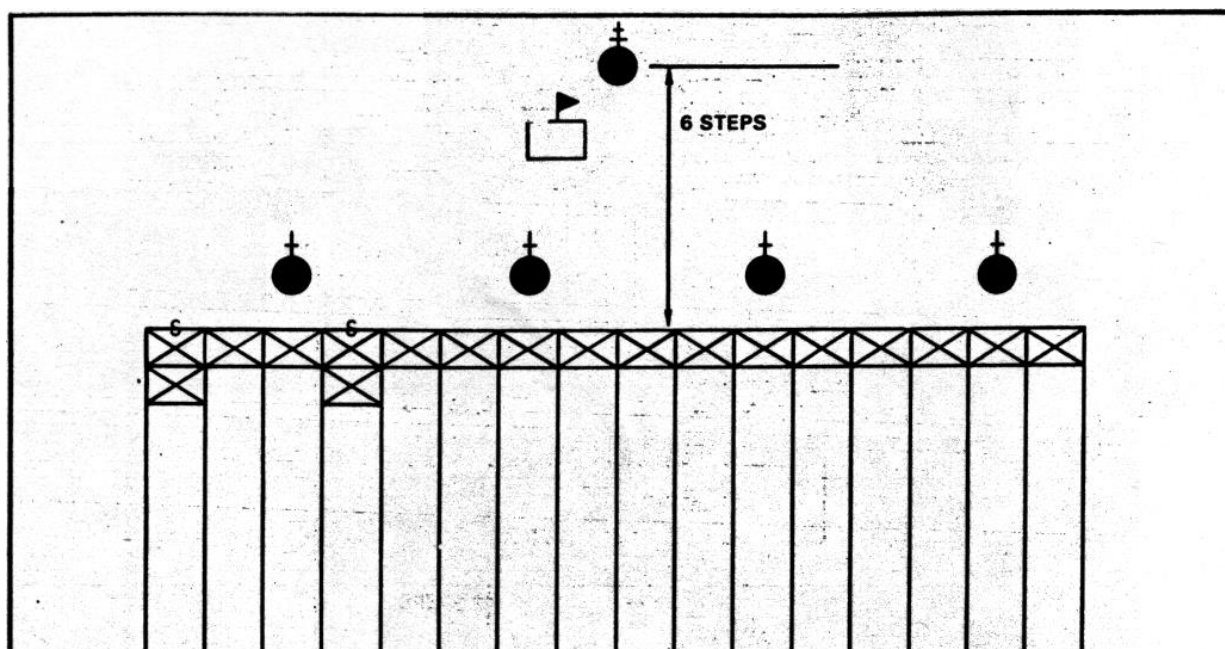


Figure 7-4. Company in Mass

Section II

FORMATIONS AND MOVEMENT

7-3. General

- a. The company normally forms in a line formation; however, it may *re-form* in column when each man can identify his exact position (equipment grounded) in the formation.
- b. The company forms basically the same as the platoon. On the command **FALL IN; (At close interval), FALL IN**, the platoons form in line, centered on and facing the person forming the unit, with five-step intervals between platoons.
- c. When armed, members *fall in at order (sling) arms*. For safety, the person forming the unit commands **Inspection, ARMS; Ready, port, ARMS; Order (Sling), ARMS** at the initial formation of the day, or when the last command is **DISMISSED**.
- d. The company may be formed by the first sergeant (platoon sergeants) or by the company commander (platoon leaders). When possible, the platoons assemble near the formation site before the arrival of the first sergeant or company commander. If the company is formed by the noncommissioned officers, the platoon leaders normally observe the procedures from a position to the rear of their platoons.

(1) Forming with noncommissioned officers.

(a) When the company is formed by the noncommissioned officers, the first sergeant posts himself nine steps in front of (center) and *facing* the line where the front rank of each platoon is to form. He then commands **FALL IN; (At close interval), FALL IN**.

(b) On the command of execution, the platoons form in the samemanner prescribed in platoon drill. Each platoon sergeant *facing* his platoon while the platoons are forming and directs his platoon to adjust (if necessary) and align on the platoon to its right at the correct interval (as described in note, paragraph 7-5). Once the platoon is formed, the platoon sergeants *face about*.

NOTE: If the command **At close interval, FALL IN** is given, the members of the platoon form at *close interval* however, the five-step interval between platoons is maintained.

(c) When all of the platoon sergeants are *facing* to the front, the first sergeant commands (if appropriate) **Inspection, ARMS; Ready, port, ARMS; Order (Sling), ARMS**. He then directs (if

appropriate) **RECEIVE THE REPORT**. The platoon sergeants *face* about and command **REPORT**. The squad leaders report as previously described in paragraph 6-2d. Having received the report, the platoon sergeants *face about*. When all platoon sergeants are *facing* to the front, the first sergeant commands **REPORT**. The platoon sergeants *salute* and report (as previously described in paragraph 6-2e) in succession from right to left. The first sergeant returns each *salute* individually. Having received the report from the platoon sergeants, the first sergeant *faces about* and awaits the arrival of the company commander.

NOTE: If the company commander is not scheduled to receive the company, the first sergeant commands **POST**. On this command, the platoon sergeants and guidon bearer step forward three steps. Simultaneously, the first sergeant *faces about*, steps forward three steps, and occupies the position of the commander.

(d) When the company commander has *halted* at his post, the first sergeant *salutes* and reports, "**Sir, All present,**" or "**Sir, All accounted for,**" or "**Sir, (So many) men absent.**" The company commander returns the *salute* and commands **POST**. The first sergeant *faces about* and *marches* to his post three steps to the rear and at the center of the company, *halts*, and *faces about*. The guidon bearer steps forward three steps. The platoon sergeants *face to the right in marching* and assume their posts to the rear of their platoons (if the platoon leader is not present, they step forward three steps). The platoon leaders *march* around the left flank of their platoons and assume their posts by *inclining* and *halting*, already *facing* to the front. The company executive officer assumes his post two steps to the rear of the first sergeant.

(2) Forming with officers. When the company is formed by the company commander, the procedures are the same as forming with the noncommissioned officers except that the platoon leaders form their platoons and the first sergeant, platoon sergeants, and guidon bearer fall in at their posts (Figure 7-1). The command **POST** is not necessary.

7-4. Changing Interval

a. The company changes interval in the same manner as prescribed for the platoon.

b. When the company commander wants the company to obtain *close interval* in a line formation while maintaining a five-step interval, he directs **CLOSE ON THE BASE PLATOON AT CLOSE INTERVAL**. The platoon leaders *face about* and command **Count, OFF**. After the platoons have *counted off*, the platoon leaders command **Close interval, MARCH**. The second, third, and fourth platoon leaders command **Right, FACE** and in succession command **Half step, MARCH**. They *halt* at the five-step interval and *face* the platoon to the left. If the directive **CLOSE ON THE THIRD PLATOON AT CLOSE INTERVAL** is given, the platoon leaders on the right of the designated platoon have their platoons obtain *close interval*, *face* their platoons to the left, *march (half step)* forward until the five-step interval is obtained, and then *halt* and *face* their platoons to the right.

NOTE: When the company is at *close interval* (line formation), the commander may *march* the company (in column with less than correct distance) at the *half step* for short distances. If he wants to *march* with a 30-inch step while marching with less than correct distance, he directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS EXTEND MARCH**. The first platoon leader commands **Extend, MARCH**. The other platoon leaders command **CONTINUE TO MARCH**. As the first platoon begins to *march* with a 30-inch step, the second platoon leader commands **Extend, MARCH**. The remaining platoons execute the directive in the same manner as the second platoon.

c. When the company commander wants the company to obtain *normal interval* from *close interval* in a line formation while maintaining a five-step interval, he directs **EXTEND ON THE BASE PLATOON AT NORMAL INTERVAL**. The platoon leaders *face about* and *march (half step)* their platoons to a position that ensures the five-step interval between platoons after they have obtained *normal interval*. After *halting* and *facing* the platoons to the left, the platoon leaders command **Count, OFF**. The platoon leaders

then command ***Normal interval***, **MARCH**. If necessary, the platoon leader can verify interval as described in the note of paragraph 7-6.

7-5. Aligning the Company

a. To align the company in a line formation, the company commander directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS DRESS RIGHT**. On the directive, all platoon leaders *face* about. The right flank platoon leader commands ***Dress right***, **DRESS** and aligns his platoon as described in platoon drill. When the alignment of the first rank of the right platoon has been verified (the platoon leader has stepped off to align the second rank), the platoon leader to the left commands ***Dress right***, **DRESS**. He then *faces to the half right in marching*, moves to a position on line with and one step to the left of the left flank man of the first rank, and *faces (left face)* down the line. After aligning the first rank, the platoon leader centers himself on the first rank, *faces to the right in marching*, takes two short steps, *halts*, executes *left face*, and aligns the second rank. The third and fourth ranks are aligned in the same manner as the second rank. After aligning the fourth rank, the platoon leader *faces to the left in marching*; returns to his position, center of the platoon; *halts* perpendicular to the formation; *faces* to the right; commands ***Ready***, **FRONT**; and *faces* about. All platoon leaders to the left of the second platoon take the same actions as the second platoon leader.

NOTE: If necessary, the platoon leaders to the left of the base platoon command **VERIFY INTERVAL** before commanding ***Dress right***, **DRESS**. On the command **VERIFY INTERVAL**, the base (squad leader of the first squad) *faces to the right in marching* and moves to the left flank member (first squad) of the platoon to the right, *halts*, *faces* about, steps forward five steps, *halts*, *faces* to the right, and aligns himself on the element to his right.

b. To align the company in column, the company commander directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS COVER**. On this directive, the first platoon leader *faces* about and commands **COVER**. The other platoon leaders command **STAND FAST**. The first platoon *covers* as in platoon drill. The other platoons then execute the movement in succession as soon as the platoon to their front has completed the movement.

7-6. Opening and Closing Ranks

a. To *open ranks*, the company commander directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS OPEN RANKS AND DRESS RIGHT**. On the directive, all platoon leaders *face* about. The right flank platoon leader commands ***Open ranks***, **MARCH**. When the platoon has completed the movement, he then commands ***Dress right***, **DRESS** and aligns the platoon the same as in platoon drill. When the first rank of the right platoon has been aligned, the platoon leader to the left commands ***Open ranks***, **MARCH** and then commands ***Dress right***, **DRESS**. Then he aligns his platoon in the same manner described in paragraphs 6-6 and 7-5. All platoon leaders to the left of the second platoon take the same actions as the second platoon leader.

NOTE: When clearing grounded equipment, the company may march in column (*right face*) from *open ranks (double interval)* for short distances. Having cleared the equipment, the commander commands ***Normal interval***, **MARCH**. When returning to the equipment while *marching* at *normal interval*, the command ***Double interval***, **MARCH** is given. If the company is *marching* in reverse order, the commands **FALL OUT** and **FALL IN** should be given.

b. To *close ranks*, the commander directs **HAVE YOUR PLATOONS CLOSE RANKS**. On the directive, all platoon leaders *face* about and in sequence from right to left command ***Close ranks***, **MARCH**. The platoons execute the movement the same as in platoon drill. After the platoons have completed the movement, the platoon leaders *face* about.

7-7. Changing the Direction of March of a Column

- a. The company changes the direction of march basically the same as the squad and platoon. The commands are ***Column right (left), Column half right (left), MARCH.***
- b. The base element during a column movement is the lead platoon and the squad on the flank, in the direction of turn.
- c. When at the *halt*, the leading platoon leader repeats the company commander's preparatory command. Succeeding platoon leaders give the supplementary command ***Forward.*** On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes the movement as described in platoon drill; succeeding platoons execute the movement on their platoon leader's command at approximately the same location.
- d. While *marching*, the movement is executed as described from the *halt* except that the succeeding platoon leaders give the supplementary command ***Continue to march*** rather than ***Forward.***
- e. The company executes *rear march* and *inclines* in the same manner as the platoon.
- f. When executing *counter column march* from the *halt*, the leading platoon leader repeats the preparatory command. Succeeding platoon leaders give the supplementary command ***Forward.*** On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes the movement as described in platoon drill, and *marches* through the other platoons. Succeeding platoons execute the movement on the platoon leader's command at approximately the same location. When the movement is executed while *marching*, the command of execution is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface. The movement is executed basically the same as from the *halt* except that the succeeding platoon leaders give the supplementary command ***continue to march*** rather than ***forward.*** The guidon bearer *faces to the left in marching* from the *halt* or executes a *column left in marching*, *marches* by the most direct route outside of the formation, and repositions himself in front of the lead platoon as it clears the rear of the company. If the company commander gives the command from his post in a separate unit, he moves in the most convenient manner to his new position at the left flank of the unit. If he gives the command while at the head of the company, he moves in the same direction as the guidon bearer.

7-8. Correcting Distance Between Platoons

- a. To obtain correct distance when the company is *marching* in column or is in column at the *halt*, the company commander directs **CLOSE ON LEADING PLATOON.**
- b. When at the *halt*, on the directive **CLOSE ON LEADING PLATOON**, the platoon leader of the leading platoon commands (over the right shoulder) **STAND FAST.** The succeeding platoon leaders command (over the right shoulder) ***Forward, MARCH*** and then command ***Mark time, MARCH*** and ***Platoon, HALT*** when correct distance is obtained.
- c. While *marching*, on the directive **CLOSE ON LEADING PLATOON**, the platoon leader of the leading platoon commands (over the right shoulder) ***Half step, MARCH.*** The succeeding platoon leaders command (over the right shoulder) ***CONTINUE TO MARCH,*** and then command ***Half step, MARCH*** as soon as the correct distance is obtained.
- d. The company commander commands ***Forward, MARCH; (HALT)*** as soon as all platoons have obtained the correct distance and are *marching* at the half step.

7-9. Forming a Column of Twos and Re-forming

- a. The company forms a column of twos basically the same as the platoon. The company commander must allow sufficient time for the platoon leaders, and the squad leaders of the lead platoon, to give their supplementary commands before giving the command of execution. The command for this movement is ***Column of twos from the right (left), MARCH.*** The leading platoon leader repeats the preparatory command. Other platoon leaders give the supplementary command ***Stand fast.*** On the company commander's command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes the movement as in platoon drill. Other platoons execute the movement on their platoon leader's command. Succeeding platoon leaders give their commands so as to follow with the prescribed five-step distance between platoons.

b. *Re-forming* into a column of fours is executed only at the *halt*. The command for this movement is **Column of fours to the left (right), MARCH**. On the company commander's command of execution, all platoons execute the movement simultaneously as described in platoon drill. As soon as the platoons are *re-formed*, the platoon leaders automatically *march* the platoons forward and obtain the five-step distance between platoons.

7-10. Forming a Company Mass

a. The company may form in mass from a company in column (platoons in column) when *halted* or while *marching*. The company must be at *close interval* (*close interval, march*) before the command **Company mass left, MARCH** is given.

b. On the preparatory command **Company mass left**, given at the halt, the leading platoon leader commands **Stand fast**. The platoon leaders of the succeeding platoons command **Column half left**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon stands fast. The other platoons execute the *column half left* and then execute a *column half right* on the command of the platoon leaders to a point (line) that ensures the platoons will be at *close interval* alongside the platoon to their right when *halted*. As the platoons come abreast of the base platoon, the platoon leaders command **Mark time, MARCH**. While the platoon is *marking time*, the members adjust their positions to ensure alignment on the man to their right. The platoon leaders allow their platoons to *mark time* for about eight counts and then command **Platoon, HALT**.

NOTE: On the command of execution **MARCH**, the company commander and guidon bearer *face to the right (left) in marching* and reposition themselves centered on the company.

c. On the preparatory command **Company mass left** while *marching*, given as the left foot strikes the marching surface, the leading platoon leader gives the supplementary command **Mark time**. The succeeding platoon leaders command **Column half left**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon begins to *march* in place. After *marking time* for about eight counts, the lead platoon leader commands **Platoon, HALT**. The other platoons form in the same manner as from the *halt*.

NOTE: On the command of execution **MARCH**, the company commander and guidon bearer *halt* and immediately *face to the right (left) in marching* and reposition themselves centered on the company.

7-11. Aligning a Company Mass

a. As soon as the company has formed in mass, the company commander gives the command **Order, ARMS** (if appropriate) and then commands **At close interval, Dress right, DRESS**.

b. On the command of execution **DRESS**, the platoon leader of the right platoon *marches* by the most direct route to the right flank and verifies the alignment of as many ranks as necessary to ensure proper alignment in the same manner as aligning the platoon. When he has finished the verification, the platoon leader returns to a position one step in front of centered on the third squad, halts, and *faces* to the right. When the platoon leader has returned to his position, the company commander commands **Ready, FRONT**.

NOTE: On the command of execution **DRESS**, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants position themselves in line with the third squad of their platoon by executing one 15-inch step to the right.

7-12. Changing the Direction of March of a Mass Formation

a. The company changes the direction of march in mass basically the same as a platoon column movement. When executed from the *halt*, the commander has the unit execute *right shoulder arms* (if appropriate), then *faces* in the desired direction of march, turns his head toward the formation, and

commands **Right (Left) turn, MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the platoon leaders *face to the half right (left) in marching* and continue to *march* in an arc until parallel to the new direction of march. Then they begin *marching* with the *half step*, dressing on the right (left) flank platoon leader until the command **Forward, MARCH** is given. The right (left) guide (the base squad leader in the direction of turn) *faces to the right (left) in marching* and immediately takes up the *half step*. All other squad leaders (front rank) *face to the half right (left) in marching* and continue to *march* in an arc until they come on line with the guide. At this time, they begin *marching* with the *half step* and dress (glancing out of the corner of the eye) in the direction of the turn until the command **Forward, MARCH** is given. On that command, the dress is automatically to the right. All other members *march* forward and execute the movement in the same manner as their squad leaders.

b. When executed while *marching*, the movement is in the same manner as from the *halt* except that the company commander *faces* about (*marching* backward) to give the command **Right (Left) turn, MARCH**. He then *faces* about and completes the turning movement himself. After the company has completed the turn, he *faces* about, commands **Forward, MARCH**, and again *faces* about.

7-13. Forming a Column from a Company Mass

a. To form a company in column from a company mass at the *halt*, the command is **Column of platoons, Right platoon, Column right (Column half right), MARCH**. The right platoon leader gives the supplementary command of **Forward (Column right or Column half right)**, and the other platoon leaders command **Stand fast**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right platoon *marches* in the direction indicated. All other platoons follow (in sequence) in column, executing *column half right* and *column half left* on the commands of the platoon leaders.

b. To execute the movement when marching, the company commander commands **Port, ARMS** (unless at *sling arms*), and then commands **Column of platoons, Right platoon, Double time, MARCH**. On the preparatory command, the right platoon leader gives the supplementary command **Double time**, and the other platoon leader gives the supplementary command **Continue to march**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right platoon *marches* in *double time*. Other platoon leaders (in sequence) command **Column half right, Double time, MARCH** and **Column half left, MARCH** to bring the succeeding platoons in column with the leading platoon.

c. The platoon leader and the platoon sergeant reposition themselves after the supplementary command but before the command of execution.

7-14. Forming a Company in Column with Platoons in Line and Re-forming

a. To form a company in column with platoons in line from a column formation at the *halt*, the command is **Column of platoons in line, MARCH**. The platoon leader of the leading platoon commands **Stand fast**. The second platoon leader commands **Column right**. All other platoon leaders command **Forward**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon stands fast, and the second platoon executes a *column right*, *marches* 12 steps past the right file of the first platoon, and executes a *column left*. As they come on line with the base platoon, the platoon leader commands **Mark time, MARCH**. After the platoon has *marched* in place for eight counts, the platoon leader commands **Platoon, HALT**. The succeeding platoons execute a *column right* at approximately the same location as the platoon to their front and execute a *column left* and then *halt* in the same manner as the second platoon. When the platoons have *halted* in position, the company commander commands **Left, FACE**. On that command, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants *face in marching* and assume their posts.

b. When executed while *marching*, the movements are basically the same as from the *halt* except that the commander gives the command of execution as the right foot strikes the marching surface. The leading platoon leader commands **Mark time**. On the preparatory command, the second platoon leader commands **Column right**, and the succeeding platoon leaders command **Continue to march**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the leading platoon executes *mark time* and *marches* in place (approximately eight counts) until the platoon leader commands **Platoon, HALT**. The other platoons execute the movement in the same manner as from the *halt*.

c. To *re-form* in column with platoons in column, the company commander commands **Right, Face; Column of platoons, Left platoon, MARCH**. On the command **Right, Face**, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants *face in marching* and resume their posts in column. On the preparatory command **Column of platoons, Left platoon**, the left platoon leader commands **Forward, (Column left [Half left])**. All other platoon leaders command **Column half left**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the left platoon executes the movement. The other platoon leaders give the appropriate commands so as to follow the lead platoon at correct distance.

NOTE: If necessary, the platoons following the second platoon automatically adjust the length of their step to ensure correct distance from the platoon to their front.

7-15. Dismissing the Company

a. The company is *dismissed* while at *attention*. It may be *dismissed* by the first sergeant.

b. When the company is *dismissed* by the first sergeant, the company commander commands **FIRST SERGEANT**. The first sergeant *marches* by the most direct route to a position three steps from and directly in front of the company commander. After the first sergeant is *halted*, the company commander commands **TAKE CHARGE OF THE COMPANY**. *Salutes* are exchanged. Upon termination of the *salutes*, the platoon leaders and executive officer leave the formation. The platoon sergeants *face to the right in marching* and take their posts (platoon leader's position) six steps in front of and centered on the platoon by *marching* around the right flank of the platoon, *inclining* and *halting* already *facing* to the front. The first sergeant steps forward three steps and *faces* about. When all platoon sergeants are at their posts, the first sergeant commands **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR PLATOONS**. The platoon sergeants *salute*. The first sergeant returns all *salutes* with the one *salute*. After *salutes* are exchanged, the first sergeant and guidon bearer leave the formation. The platoon sergeants then *dismiss* their platoons as in platoon drill.

c. When the company is *dismissed* by the company commander, he commands **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR PLATOONS**. The platoon leaders *salute*. The company commander returns all *salutes* with one *salute*. After the *salutes* are exchanged, the company commander, guidon bearer, first sergeant, and executive officer leave the formation. The platoon leader(s) *faces* about and commands **PLATOON SERGEANT**. The platoon sergeant *faces to the right in marching* and *marches (inclines)* around the squad leader(s), halts three steps in front of and centered on the platoon leader, and *faces* to the right. Each platoon leader then directs **TAKE CHARGE OF THE PLATOON**. *Salutes* are exchanged. The platoon leaders leave the formation. The platoon sergeants step forward three steps, *face* about, and *dismiss* the platoons as in platoon drill.

Section III

INSPECTIONS

7-16. General

a. The company has one prescribed formation for inspecting personnel and equipment in ranks--company in line with platoons in line. When inspecting crew-served weapons and vehicles, the personnel are normally positioned to the rear of the formation with the operator (gunner) standing by his vehicle (weapon).

b. The commander may conduct an in-quarters (barracks) inspection to include personal appearance, individual weapons, field equipment, displays, maintenance, and sanitary conditions.

7-17. In-Ranks Inspection (Line Formations)

a. With the company in line formation, the company commander directs **PREPARE FOR INSPECTION**. On that directive, the platoon leaders *face* about, *open ranks*, and align the company as in paragraphs 7-5 and 7-6. When all platoon leaders are *facing* the front, the company commander commands **AT EASE**.

NOTE: During the inspection, the guidon bearer, officers, and noncommissioned officers not in ranks assume the position of *attention* as the inspecting officer approaches their positions and resume the at ease position after they have been inspected (they do not execute *inspection arms*). The company commander may direct the first sergeant and executive officer to accompany him during the inspection. When so directed, the executive officer and first sergeant take a position at *normal interval* (close interval if the company is at *close interval*) to the left of the company commander.

b. The company commander begins the inspection by stepping forward and inspecting the guidon bearer. He then *faces to the half left in marching* and proceeds to the right of the line. As he approaches the right flank platoon, the platoon leader commands (over his right shoulder) **Platoon, ATTENTION**. When the company commander has *halted* directly in front of him, he *salutes* and reports, "**Sir, The platoon is prepared for inspection.**" The company commander returns the *salute* and inspects the platoon leader. The company commander then directs the platoon leader to lead him through the inspection, *faces to the half left in marching*, and *halts* directly in front of the squad leader of the first squad. As the company commander *faces to the half left in marching*, the platoon leader *faces to the right in marching*, *inclines*, and *halts* directly in front of the second man in the first squad and on line with and at *normal interval* (close interval) to the right of the company commander. The other platoon leaders execute the same actions as the company commander approaches their platoons.

NOTE: As soon as the platoon leader and company commander have *halted* in front of the first two men, the platoon leader commands **Second, third, and fourth squads, AT EASE**. When moving from man to man during the inspection, the company commander and platoon leader (executive officer and first sergeant) simultaneously *face to the right in marching*, take two short steps (one step if the company is at *close interval*), *halt*, and *face* to the left. After the company commander has inspected the last man in the front rank, the platoon leader hesitates momentarily and allows the company commander to precede him as he inspects the front rank from the rear. As the company commander begins to inspect the rear of each rank, the platoon leader commands the next squad to **ATTENTION**. As they begin to inspect the next rank, the platoon leader commands the last rank inspected to stand **AT EASE**. Normally, when inspecting the rear of each rank, the company commander conducts a walking inspection. As the company commander inspects the rear of the last man in each rank, he turns and *halts* directly in front of the squad leader of the next rank. The platoon leader turns and *halts* directly in front of the second man. The executive officer and first sergeant *march* past (behind) the company commander and assume their positions to his left.

c. As the company commander *halts* and is directly in front of and *facing* the individual being inspected, the individual executes *inspection arms*. If the company commander wants to inspect the individual's weapon, he will inspect the weapon first, then the individual's uniform and appearance. As soon as the company commander grasps the weapon, the individual releases the weapon and resumes the position of *attention*. When the company commander has finished inspecting the weapon, he returns it in the same manner as it was received. The individual receives the weapon by grasping the center of the upper portion of the stock, at the balance, with the left hand and the small of the stock with the right hand. He then executes *ready, port arms; order, arms*.

NOTE: In the event the company commander does not want to inspect the weapon, the individual remains at *inspection arms* until the company commander has *halted* in front of and is *facing* the next

man. The individual then execute *ready, port, arms*, and *order, arms*. As the company commander moves to the rear of the rank being inspected, each man, as the commander approaches, unfastens the snap of his scabbard, grasps the point of the scabbard with the left hand, and moves the point slightly forward. The scabbard is held in position until the bayonet has been replaced or, if the bayonet is not inspected, until the company commander has moved to the next man. At that time, the securing straps are fastened and the position of attention is resumed.

d. The correct method of manipulating a rifle for inspection is as follows:

(1) When receiving the rifle from the inspected individual, reach forward and grasp the rifle at the balance of the weapon with the right hand. Lower the rifle diagonally to the left, twist the rifle slightly, insert the tip of the little finger of the left hand into the ejection port, and look into the barrel. The finger reflects sufficient light for the inspection of the barrel.

(2) Grasp the small of the stock with the left hand and raise the rifle to a horizontal position (sights up) with the muzzle to the right. The rifle is centered on the body with the forearms horizontal and the palms up. Move the rifle horizontally to the left and inspect the upper portion of the rifle beginning with the flash suppressor. Move the rifle slowly to the right inspecting the butt. Return the rifle to the center of the body.

(3) Keeping the rifle horizontal, rotate it 180 degrees (sights toward the body) so that the sights point toward the marching surface. Move the rifle horizontally to the left and inspect the muzzle. Move the rifle slowly to the right and inspect the butt. When moving the rifle across the body, twist the rifle as necessary and inspect the movable parts on the sides of the receiver. Having completed the inspection of the lower parts of the rifle, return it to the center of the body.

(4) Keeping the rifle horizontal, rotate the rifle 180 degrees (sights away from the body) so that the sights are up. Release the left hand and return the rifle in the same manner as received.

(5) When inspecting a weapon other than a rifle, the inspecting officer receives the weapon with his right hand and inspects it in the most convenient manner. Having completed the inspection, the weapon is returned with the right hand in the same manner as received.

e. When the company commander has completed the inspection of the platoon sergeant, the platoon leader commands the platoon to **ATTENTION** and overtakes the company commander en route back to the front of the platoon. The platoon leader *halts facing* to the front (six steps in front and centered on his platoon) and exchanges *salutes* with the company commander. The company commander (executive officer and first sergeant) *faces to the right in marching* and moves to the next platoon. As soon as the company commander has cleared the first platoon, the platoon leader *faces* about, commands **Close ranks, MARCH** and **AT EASE**, and then *faces* about and executes *at ease*. When the company commander has completed (exchanged *salutes* with the platoon leader) the inspection of the last platoon, he returns to his post at the center of the company and commands the company to **ATTENTION**. He then *dismisses* the company, as previously described.

f. When the company is inspected by an officer of a higher command, on the approach of the inspecting officer, the company commander commands **Company, ATTENTION**. He then *faces* about, *salutes*, and reports, "**Sir, The company is prepared for inspection.**" The inspection is conducted as previously described except that the company commander takes a position immediately to the left of the inspecting officer. The inspection is terminated by the company commander in the same manner prescribed for a platoon leader.

7-18. In-Quarters Inspection (Stand By)

a. When the company commander wants to conduct an in-quarters inspection, the members are positioned on line with their equipment or as near it as possible. The platoon leader positions himself in the path of the inspecting officer at a point near his area of responsibility. At the approach of the inspecting officer, the

platoon leader commands **Platoon, ATTENTION**, *salutes*, and reports, "**Sir, The platoon is prepared for inspection.**"

NOTE: When the situation dictates, the platoon leader may report to the inspecting officer outside of the quarters. A designated individual commands the members to **ATTENTION** as the inspecting officer enters the quarters (bay).

b. The platoon leader then guides the inspecting officer along a route dictated by the physical arrangement of the personnel and equipment. Upon entering the room, the inspecting officer commands **AT EASE**. As the inspecting officer approaches each individual or his equipment, the individual automatically assumes the position of *attention*. When the inspecting officer has moved to the next man, the last man inspected resumes the position of *at ease*. As the inspecting officer begins to exit the room, after completing the inspection, **ATTENTION** is commanded. The platoon leader and inspecting officer exchange *salutes*.

NOTE: When inspecting cadets' rooms, *attention* is not commanded. The individuals automatically assume the position of *attention* as the inspector enters the room. The inspector then commands **AT EASE**. As the inspector approaches each cadet, the cadet assumes the position of *attention* and resumes *at ease* after he has been inspected.