



State of California – Military Department  
California Cadet Corps

# CURRICULUM ON MILITARY SUBJECTS

Strand M7: Unit Drill

Level 11

This Strand is composed of the following components:

- A. Squad Drill
- B. Platoon Drill
- C. Company Drill



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## A. Squad Drill

### OBJECTIVES

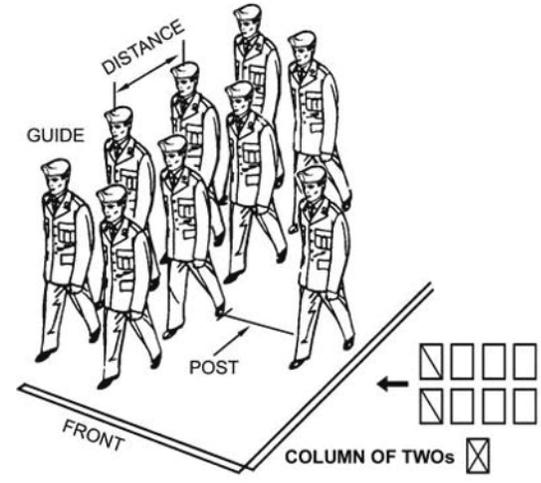
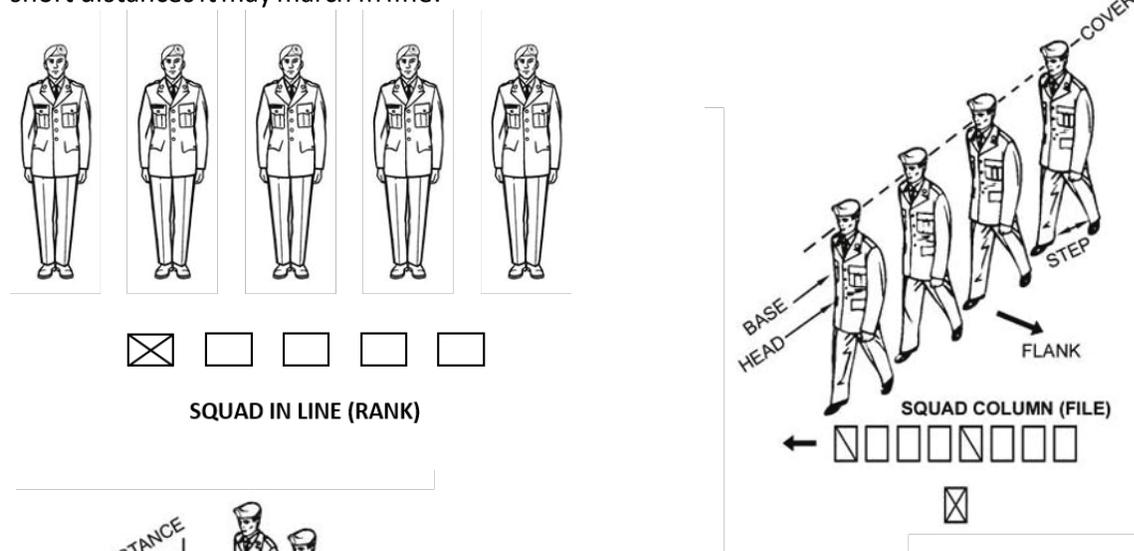
#### **DESIRED OUTCOME (Self-Mastery) / PRACTICUM A**

*90% of Unit Cadets can properly execute the movements of Squad Drill with sharpness, precision, and snap when given proper commands. They are able to:*

1. Name the three formations a squad may be in, and the position of the Squad Leader.
2. Properly form a squad at Normal or Close Interval.
3. Properly perform *Count Off* in line or column formation.
4. In line formation, change from Normal Interval to Close Interval or Double Interval, from Close Interval to Normal Interval, and from Double Interval to Normal Interval.
5. Properly align the squad in line or column formation.
6. March the squad forward and halt the squad.
7. Properly execute *Column Right/Left March* or *Column Half Right/Left March* in a squad from the Halt or while marching.
8. Properly execute *Right/Left Flank March*.
9. From a squad halted in column formation, form a column of twos. From a squad in column of twos, reform into a single file.
10. Dismiss a squad.

A1. Basic Information

The squad has two prescribed formations—**line and column**. However, the squad may be formed into a column of twos from a column formation. When the squad is in line, squad members are numbered from right to left; when in column, from front to rear. The squad normally marches in column, but for short distances it may march in line.



When the squad drills as a separate unit, the squad leader carries his weapon at Sling Arms. When the squad is in a line formation, the squad leader assumes a post three steps in front of and centered on the squad; when in a column or a column of twos, three steps to the left and centered on the squad. When the squad drills as part of a larger unit, the squad leader occupies the number one (base) position of the squad. He/she carries his/her weapon in the same manner as prescribed for other riflemen in the squad.

A2. Forming the Squad

The squad normally forms in a line formation; however, it may re-form in column when each member can identify his exact position (equipment grounded) in the formation.

To form at normal interval, the squad leader comes to the *Position of Attention* and commands **FALL IN**. On the command **FALL IN**, the following actions occur simultaneously:

Each member double-times to his/her position in the formation.

The right flank Cadet positions himself/herself so that when the squad is formed it is **three steps in front of and centered on the squad leader**.

The right flank Cadet comes to the *Position of Attention* and **raises his/her left arm laterally at shoulder level, elbow locked, fingers and thumb extended and joined, and palm facing down**. He/she ensures that the left arm is in line with the body.

The person to the immediate left of the right flank Cadet comes to the *Position of Attention*, turns his/her head and eyes to the right, and raises his/her left arm in the same manner as the right flank person. He/she obtains proper alignment by taking short steps forward or backward until he/she is on line with the right flank person. He/she then obtains exact interval by taking short steps left or right until his/her shoulder touches the extended fingertips of the right flank person. **As soon as the Cadet to the left has obtained *Normal Interval*, each Cadet individually lowers his/her arm to his/her side, sharply turns his/her head and eyes to the front, and assumes the *Position of Attention*.**

The right flank Cadet then sharply returns to the *Position of Attention*.

All other members of the squad form in the same manner except that the **left flank man does not raise his/her left arm**.

**NOTE:** The right flank Cadet raises his/her arm and looks straight to the front unless the squad is to align on an element to its right. If he/she is to align on an element to the right he/she turns his/her head and eyes to the right and aligns himself with that element.

**To form at *Close Interval***, the formation is completed in the manner prescribed for *Normal Interval*, except that the command is **At *Close Interval*, FALL IN**. Squad members obtain *Close Interval* by placing the heel of the left hand on the left hip even with the waist, fingers and thumb joined and extended downward, and with the elbow in line with the body and touching the arm of the person to the left.

To form in column, the squad leader faces the proposed flank of the column and commands **In Column, FALL IN**. On the command of execution **FALL IN**, squad members double-time to their original positions (grounded equipment) in formation and cover on the man to their front.

**NOTE:** *ALIGNMENT* is important at all times, whether standing in formation or while marching. The distance between cadets is approximately 36 to 40 inches in all directions whether in line or column formation. While marching cadets must use their peripheral vision to keep alignment to their left and right and maintain distance to their front. The correct distance (the space between cadets from front to rear) between Cadets in column formation is approximately 36 inches. This distance is one arm's length plus 6 inches.

When armed, squad members fall in at **Order Arms**. Normally, the command **Inspection, ARMS** is given at the beginning and end of the day. Because the Cadet Corps uses replica weapons that do not fire, many of which don't have operating bolts or receiver groups, and those which do are easily broken, the requirement to execute **Inspection Arms** is waived.

### A3. Counting Off

The squad may count off in line or column formation. The command is **Count, OFF**.

When the squad is in a **line formation**, the counting is **executed from right to left**. On the command of execution **OFF**, each squad member, except the right flank Cadet, turns his/her head and eyes to the right, and the right flank Cadet counts off "**ONE**." After the Cadet on the right counts off his/her number, the Cadet to his/her left counts off with the next higher number while simultaneously turning his/her head and eyes to the front. All the other members execute count off in the same manner until the entire squad has counted off.

When the squad is in **column formation**, the counting is **executed from front to rear**. On the command of execution **OFF**, the Cadet at the head of the column turns his/her head and eyes to the right and counts over his/her shoulder, "**ONE**," then immediately returns to the *Position of Attention*.

All other squad members count their numbers in sequence in the same manner as the number one Cadet; the last Cadet in the file does not turn his/her head and eyes to the right when sounding off.

#### A4. Changing Interval While in Line

To change interval while in line, use the following procedures:

**NOTE:** To ensure that each member understands the number of steps to take, the squad leader should command **Count, OFF** before giving any commands that cause the squad to change interval. **Squad members do not raise their arms when changing interval.**

To obtain *Close Interval* from *Normal Interval*, the command is **Close Interval, MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right flank person (number one Cadet) stands fast. All personnel to the left of the number one Cadet execute *Right Step March*, take one step less than their number (for example, number five Cadet takes four steps), and *Halt*.

NOTE: The squad leader takes the correct number of steps to maintain his/her position of three steps in front of and centered on the squad.

To obtain *Normal Interval* from *Close Interval*, the command is **Normal Interval, MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right flank Cadet stands fast. All Cadets to the left of number one Cadet execute *Left Step March*, take one step less than their number (**for example, number nine Cadet takes eight steps**), and *Halt*.

To obtain *Double Interval* from *Normal Interval*, the command is **Double Interval, MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right flank person stands fast. All Cadets to the left of number one Cadet face to the left as in marching, take one 30-inch step less than their number (**for example, number seven Cadet takes six steps**), *Halt*, and execute *Right Face*.

To obtain *Normal Interval* from *Double Interval*, the command is **Normal Interval, MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the right flank Cadet stands fast. All Cadets to the left of the number one Cadet face to the right as in marching, take one 24-inch step less than their number (**for example, number three Cadet takes two steps**), *Halt*, and execute *Left Face*.

## A5. Aligning the Squad



To align the squad at Normal Interval, the commands are **Dress Right, Dress and Ready, FRONT.**

**NOTE:** When Cadets are armed, these commands are given only when Cadets are at Order Arms. On the command of execution **DRESS**, the right flank Cadet stands fast. Each squad member, except the right flank Cadet, sharply turns his/her head and eyes to the right and aligns himself/herself with the Cadet on his/her right. Each squad member except the left flank Cadet extends his/her left arm laterally at shoulder level, elbow locked, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing down. He/she ensures his/her left arm is in line with his body and positions himself/herself by short steps right or left until his/her right shoulder touches the fingertips of the Cadet on his/her right. On the command of execution **FRONT**, each squad member returns sharply to the **Position of Attention.**

To align the squad at *Close Interval*, the commands are **At Close Interval, Dress Right, DRESS** and **Ready, FRONT.** The movement is executed in the same manner prescribed for alignment at *Normal Interval* except that the squad members obtain *Close Interval* by placing the heel of the left hand on the left hip even with the waist, fingers and thumb joined and extended downward, and with the elbow in line with the body and touching the arm of the person to the left.



To align the squad at *Double Interval*, the commands are **At Double Interval, Dress Right, DRESS** and **Ready, FRONT.** These commands are given only when the troops are unarmed or at *Sling Arms*. On the command of execution **DRESS**, each squad member (except the right flank Cadet) turns his/her head and eyes to the right and aligns himself/herself on the Cadet on his right. At the same time, each squad member (except the right and left flank Cadets) extends both arms and positions himself/herself by short steps right or left until his/her fingertips are touching the fingertips of the squad members on his/her right and left. The right flank Cadet raises his/her left arm; the left flank Cadet raises his right arm.

To align the squad in column, the commands are **COVER** and **RECOVER**. On the command **COVER**, each member (except the number one Cadet) raises his/her left arm to a horizontal position, elbow locked, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing down, and obtains an arm's length plus about 6 inches (from the fingertips) to the back of the Cadet to his/her front. At the same time, each Cadet aligns himself/herself directly behind the Cadet to his/her front. To resume the *Position of Attention*, the command **RECOVER** is given. On this command, each squad member sharply returns to the *Position of Attention*.

**NOTE:** This command may not be given while in line; **only in column formation**.

#### A6. Marching the Squad

To march the squad, use the following procedures:

The command is **Forward, MARCH**. It is executed as describe for individual drill. The command to stop marching is **Squad, HALT**.

For short distances only, the squad may be marched forward while in a line formation.

When marching long distances, the squad is marched in column. To form a column formation from a line formation, the command is **Right, FACE**.

When a column formation is originated from a line formation at Close Interval, the squad may be marched for short distances at the Half Step with less than correct distance. To obtain correct distance while marching with less than correct distance, the command is **Extend, MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the number one Cadet takes one more 15- inch step and then steps off with a 30- inch step. Each squad member begins marching with a 30-inch step at the approximate point where the number one Cadet stepped off, or as soon as correct distance has been obtained.

#### A7. Changing the Direction of a Column

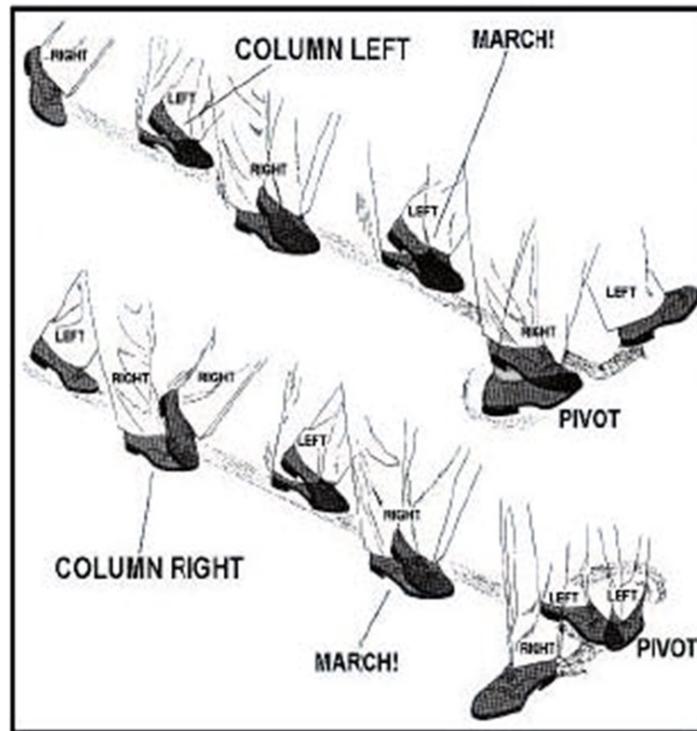
To change the direction of a column, use the following procedures:

From the Halt, the command to start the squad in motion and simultaneously change the direction of march 90 or 45 degrees is **Column Right (Left), MARCH** or **Column Half Right (Left), MARCH**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the lead Cadet faces to the right (left) as in marching by pivoting to the right (left) on the ball of the right foot and stepping off in the indicated direction taking a 24-inch step with the left foot, and continues to march.

The number two Cadet adjusts his/her step by lengthening or shortening as necessary to reach the approximate pivot point of the lead person. When he/she reaches the approximate pivot point of the lead person, he/she pivots to the right (left) on the ball of the lead foot taking a 24-inch step with the trail foot in the new direction.

All other squad members step off with the left foot and continue to march forward taking 24-inch steps and execute in the same manner as the number two Cadet in approximately the same place until the entire squad has executed the column movement.

To change the direction of march 90 or 45 degrees when marching, the preparatory command **Column Right (Left)** or **Column Half Right (Half Left)** is given as the foot (in the desired direction) strikes the ground. The command of execution **MARCH** is given the next time the foot in the desired direction strikes the ground. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the lead person takes one additional step, pivots in the commanded direction as the pivot foot strikes the ground, and continues to march in the new direction. Other members continue to march forward and execute the pivot as prescribed from the *Halt*.



To avoid an obstacle in the line of march, the squad leader directs, **INCLINE LEFT (RIGHT)**. The lead person inclines left (right) around the obstacle and resumes the original direction. **All other members follow the lead person.**

#### A8. Marching to the Flank

**The squad may be marched to the flank (for short distances only) when marching in column.**

The command for this movement is **Right (Left) Flank, MARCH**. The preparatory command is given as the foot in the desired direction strikes the marching surface, and the command of execution is given the next time the foot in the desired direction strikes the marching surface.

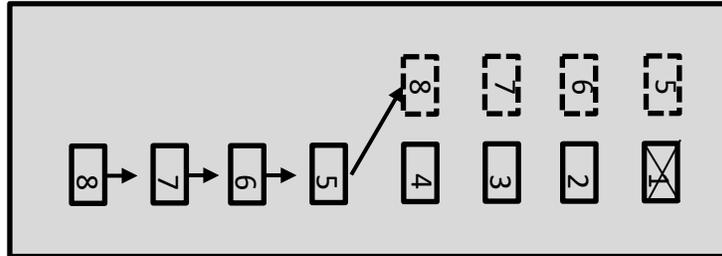
On the command of execution **MARCH**, all squad members take one more step, **pivot** 90 degrees in the commanded direction on the ball of the lead foot, and step off in the new direction with the trailing foot. As the squad members begin to march in the new direction, **they glance out of the corner of the right eye and dress to the right, maintaining proper dress, cover, distance and interval.**

**The pivot in both column and flanking movements should always be sharp, crisp, and precise.**

## A9. Forming a Column of Twos and Reforming

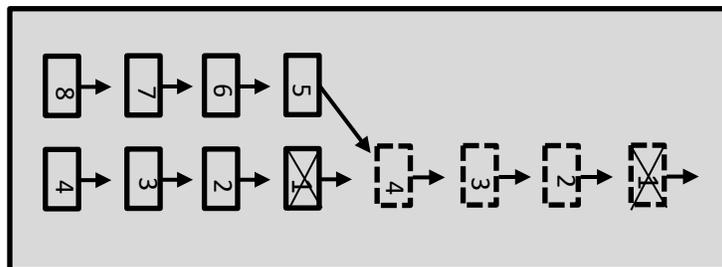
To form a column of twos and re-form, use the following procedures:

Forming a column of twos from a file is executed only from the *Halt*. The command is **Column of Twos to the Right (Left), MARCH**. On the preparatory command, the lead team leader commands **STAND FAST**. The trailing team leader commands **Column Half Right (Left)**.



On the command of execution **MARCH**, the trailing team leader executes a *Column Half Right (Left)*, inclines to the left or right when the correct interval is obtained, and commands **Mark time, MARCH** and **Team, HALT** to *Halt* abreast of the lead team leader.

Forming a file from a column of twos is executed only from the *Halt*. The command is **File from the Left (Right), MARCH**. On the preparatory command, the lead team leader commands **FORWARD**. The trailing team leader commands **STAND FAST**. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the lead team marches forward. The trailing team leader commands **Column Half Left (Right)** when the second Cadet from the rear of the lead team is abreast. He/she gives the command **MARCH** when the last Cadet of the lead team is abreast of him/her and his/her right foot strikes the marching surface. The trailing team leader, followed by the Cadets in his/her team, then inclines right or left to follow the lead team at the correct distance.



Commands are given over the team leader's right shoulder if the direction of movement is to the right or if the team is following an element to its right. Commands are given over the left shoulder if the direction of movement is to the left or if the team is following an element to its left.

## A10. Dismissing the Squad

The squad is dismissed with the members at *Attention*. With unarmed troops, the command is **DISMISSED**. Unless otherwise stated (by the person in charge in his instructions before the command **DISMISSED**), the command **DISMISSED** terminates only the formation, not the duty day.

The command **FALL OUT** may be used; the squad members stay in the immediate area, but not in formation. They remain prepared to **FALL IN** when commanded to do so.