



# CURRICULUM ON MILITARY SUBJECTS

Strand M12: Ceremonial Drill

Level 11

This Strand is composed of the following components:

- A. **Battalion & Brigade Drill**
- B. Reviews and Parades
- C. Reveille and Retreat Ceremonies



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## A. Battalion & Brigade Drill

### OBJECTIVES

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

*A cadet unit is able to execute a drill ceremony within the guidelines of this section and TC 3-21.5. The cadet leaders are able to:*

1. Describe the process of forming a battalion formation using the Adjutant.
2. As a Battalion Commander, inspect your companies in line formation.
3. Determine, based on the formation, whether two-part commands or directives are appropriate in different battalion formations.
4. List the posts (using number of paces from front line of troops or other base) of key personnel in battalion and brigade formations.

## A1. Battalion Formations

The battalion has three basic formations—line, column, and mass. Separate elements may be arranged in several variations within a formation: the battalion may be formed in line with the companies in line with platoons in line, or battalion in line with companies in column with platoons in line. From those formations, the battalion may be positioned in a battalion in column with companies in column, or companies in mass, or companies in column with platoons in line. Battalions in mass is a formation you're not likely to use in the Cadet Corps, but you will see battalions in line with companies in mass. You generally select the type of formation you're going to use based on the size of the field, the size of the unit, and the purpose of the ceremony. Sometimes you need to be innovative and arrange your units in a unique fashion to fit the units into the space you have. In all cases, the steps given here are guidelines - you may adjust them to meet your needs.

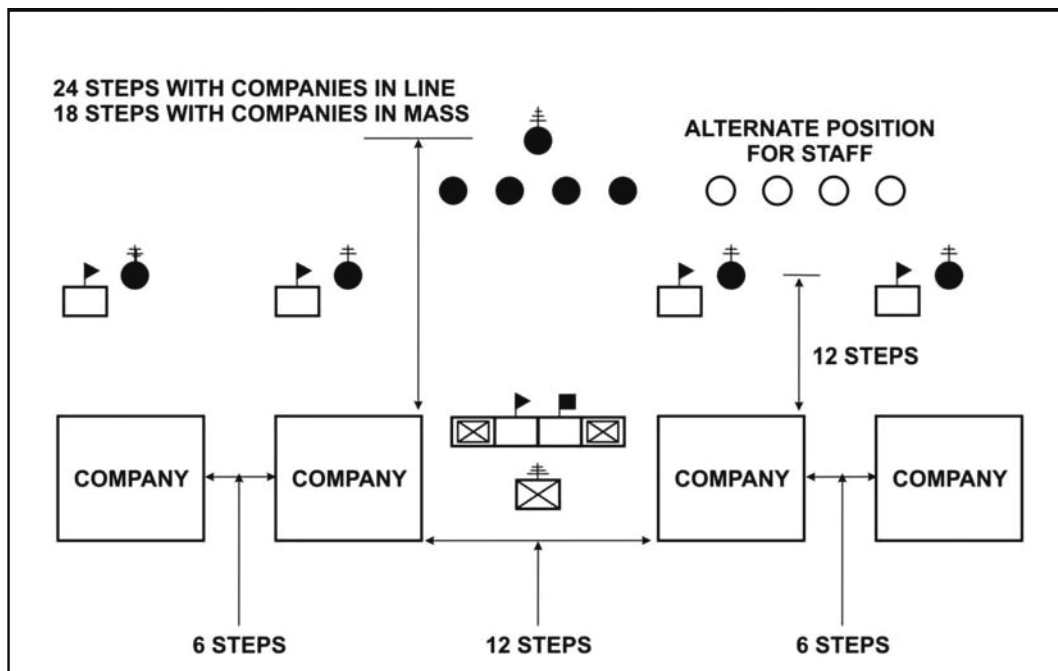


Figure 1: Battalion in Line with Companies in Line or Mass

**Forming the Battalion.** To facilitate the forming of a battalion, the commander normally alerts the companies as to the desired formation, time, place, route, uniform, and the sequence in which the units will form. Unless the right guide's position at the formation site has been previously marked, the guides report to the site and receive instructions before the arrival of the troops.

The commissioned staff (S1 thru S6 if available) forms in one rank, at normal interval and centered on the commander. Staff members are normally arranged in their numerical order from right to left. 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 and centered on the Colors.

When the battalion participates as a separate element of a larger formation, or when space is limited, it is normally formed in a mass formation in the same manner as forming a company mass.

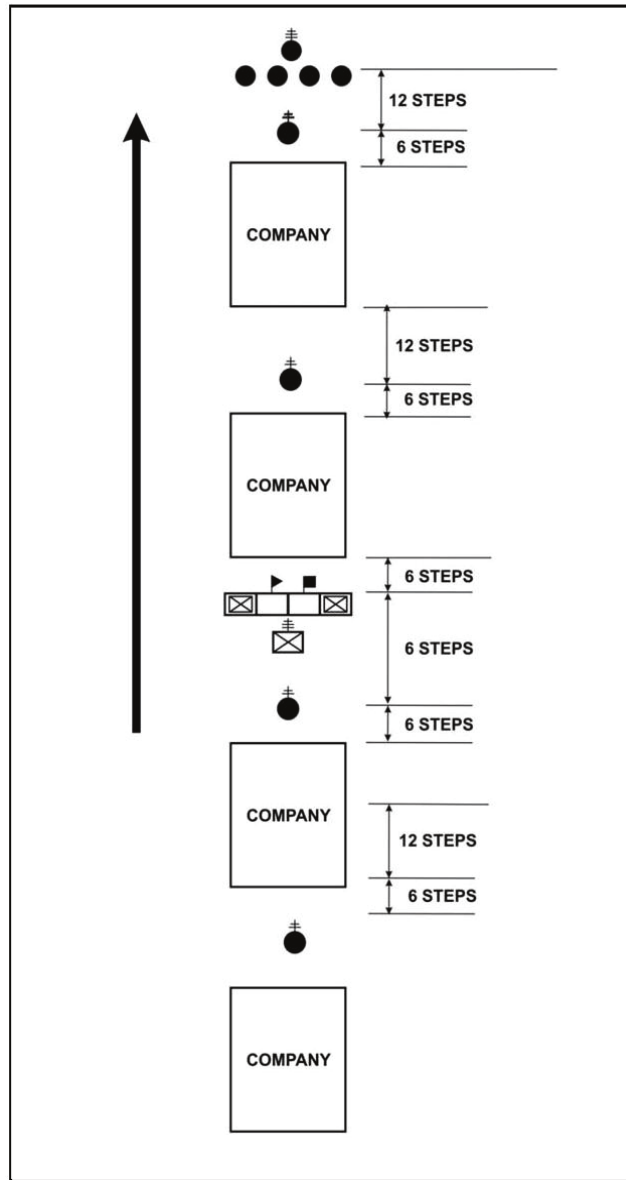


Figure 2: Battalion in Column with Companies in Column or Mass

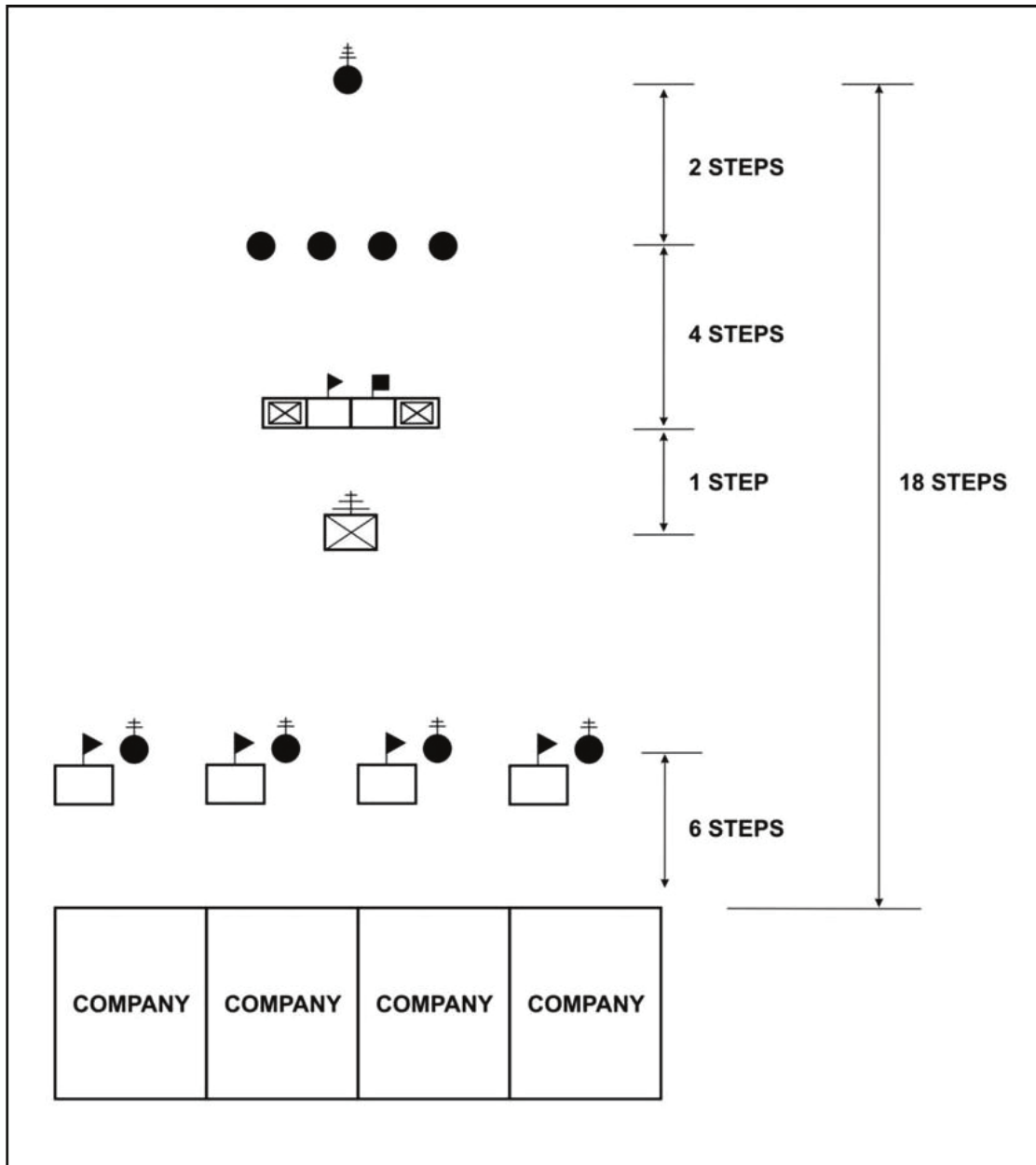
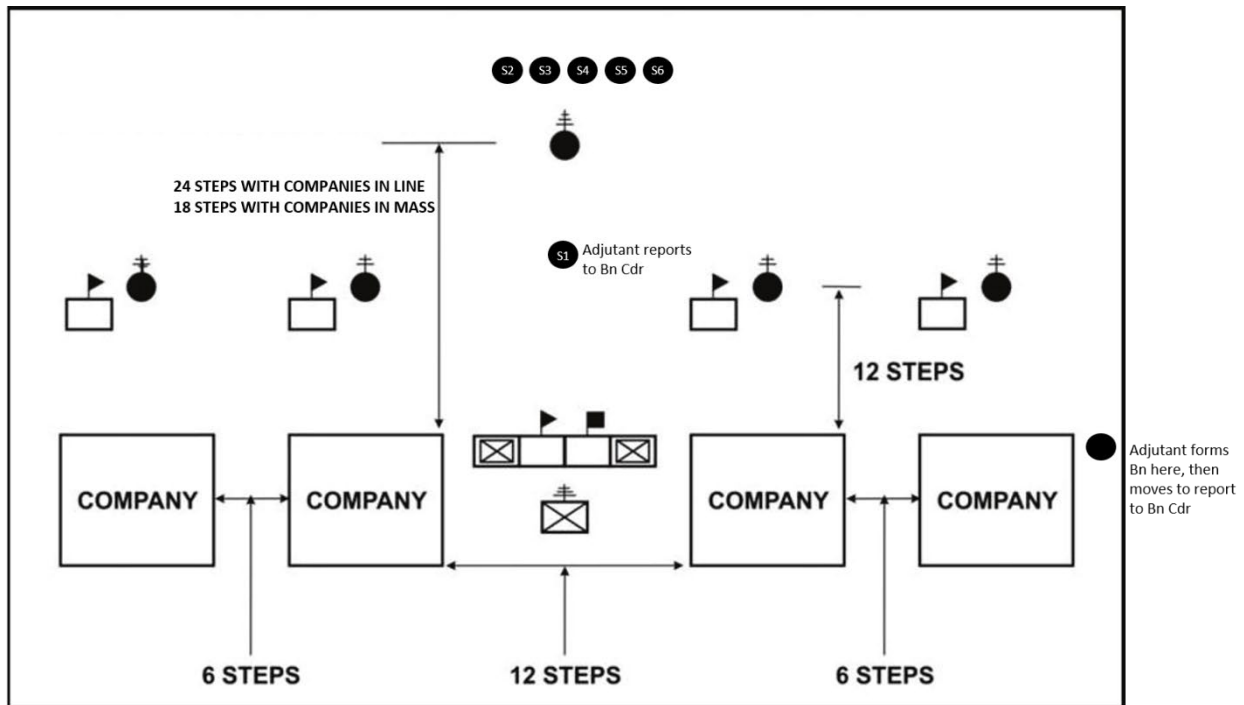


Figure 3: Battalion in Mass Formation:

The adjutant is responsible for the formation of troops. He/she takes a position at the right flank of the line on which the units are to form and faces down the line. He/she remains facing down the line until all units are formed and then marches to his/her post midway between the line of troops and the proposed position of the commander. As the commander and his staff approach, the adjutant commands (directs) the units to **ATTENTION**, faces the commander, salutes, and reports, "**Sir, the battalion is formed.**"

**NOTE:** If guides are used, the adjutant takes his post as soon as the guides have been aligned.



The commander returns the *Salute* and commands **POST**. The adjutant marches forward, passes to the commander's right, and takes his post as the right flank staff officer. The commander then commands or directs such actions as he desires.

Normally, the Colors are positioned at the center of the battalion when formed in line or column, and four steps to the rear of the staff when formed in mass.

**Dismissing the Battalion.** To dismiss the battalion, the commander commands **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR UNITS**. The company commanders and battalion commander exchange *Salutes*. The battalion commander returns all *Salutes* with one *Salute*. He then dismisses his staff.

**NOTE:** In a battalion mass formation, the platoon leaders form as the first rank of troops. The right flank platoon leader serves as the guide.

**Inspecting the Battalion.** When the battalion is to be inspected, the adjutant forms the battalion in line with companies in line and platoons in line. Other formations may be used as necessary, but you can't conduct an inspection in mass formation; platoons must be in line (they may be at close interval).

The adjutant forms the troops, reports, and takes his position with the staff (as previously described). When the adjutant has joined the staff, the battalion commander directs **PREPARE FOR INSPECTION**. Unit commanders face about and give the same directive. The platoon leaders prepare their platoons for inspection in the same manner as in company drill. When all of the platoons in each company have completed opening ranks and have dressed right, the company commander faces the battalion commander. When all company commanders are again facing him, the battalion commander commands **AT EASE**.

**NOTE:** Because of the time involved in inspecting a battalion, the commander normally directs his staff to inspect the companies while he inspects the Colors and makes a general inspection of the battalion. The Color guards do not execute *Inspection Arms*.

As the battalion commander (or his designated staff officer) approaches the company, the company commander faces about, calls the company to *Attention*, faces forward, salutes, and reports, "**Sir, \_\_\_\_\_ Company is prepared for inspection.**" The inspecting officer then proceeds to the first platoon to be inspected. The company commander takes a position to the left of the inspecting officer. The platoons are inspected in the same manner as explained in company drill. In the event a platoon has already been inspected by a staff officer, or is waiting to be inspected by a staff officer, and the battalion commander approaches, the battalion commander is invited to inspect the platoon.

When the inspection has been completed and the battalion commander is en route back to his post, the company commanders bring their units to *Attention* and *Close Ranks* and *At Ease*. When the battalion commander has returned to the front of the formation and all staff officers have completed their inspection, the battalion commander commands **Battalion, ATTENTION** and dismisses the battalion (as previously described).

If the battalion is being inspected by a higher commander and his staff, such as for the Annual General Inspection (AGI), the battalion commander reports to the inspecting officer in the same manner as the company commanders. The battalion commander's staff takes a position to the left of the higher inspecting staff and escorts them to the unit. The battalion commander escorts the higher commander.

Generally, we don't march in battalion formations, except for passing in review. If a battalion is formed and the commander wants to move to another place, he/she will generally tell the company commanders where to go, and let them march as a company. If you do march a battalion, you need to consider the size, and the ability of subordinate commanders to hear your commands. Marching a battalion in mass is generally too wide; you may be successful marching a battalion in column with companies in mass. That's generally how we march for a Pass in Review at a parade or review ceremony.

Whether you give a **two-part command** or a **directive** will depend on your formation. In a battalion in line with companies and platoons in line, the battalion commander or CSM or Adjutant uses directives. Examples are:

- Bring your units to Attention
- Bring your units to Present Arms
- Bring your units to Order Arms and Parade Rest

When your battalion is in line with companies in mass, you give two-part commands:

- **Battalion (Company), ATTENTION**
- **Present (Present), ARMS**
- **Parade (Parade), REST**

You don't give supplementary commands more than one level down from the commander who gives the preparatory command.

- **Company (Platoon), ATTENTION**
- **Battalion (Company), ATTENTION**
- **NOT Battalion (Company)(Platoon), ATTENTION**



### A2. Brigade Formations

The brigade, like the battalion, has three basic formations – line, column, and mass. The battalions may be arranged in several variations within a formation: the brigade may be formed with battalions in mass, or battalions in line with companies in mass. From those formations, the brigade may be positioned in column with battalions in mass, companies in mass, or battalions in column with companies in column. The formation selected is normally dictated by the space available and the desires of the commander.

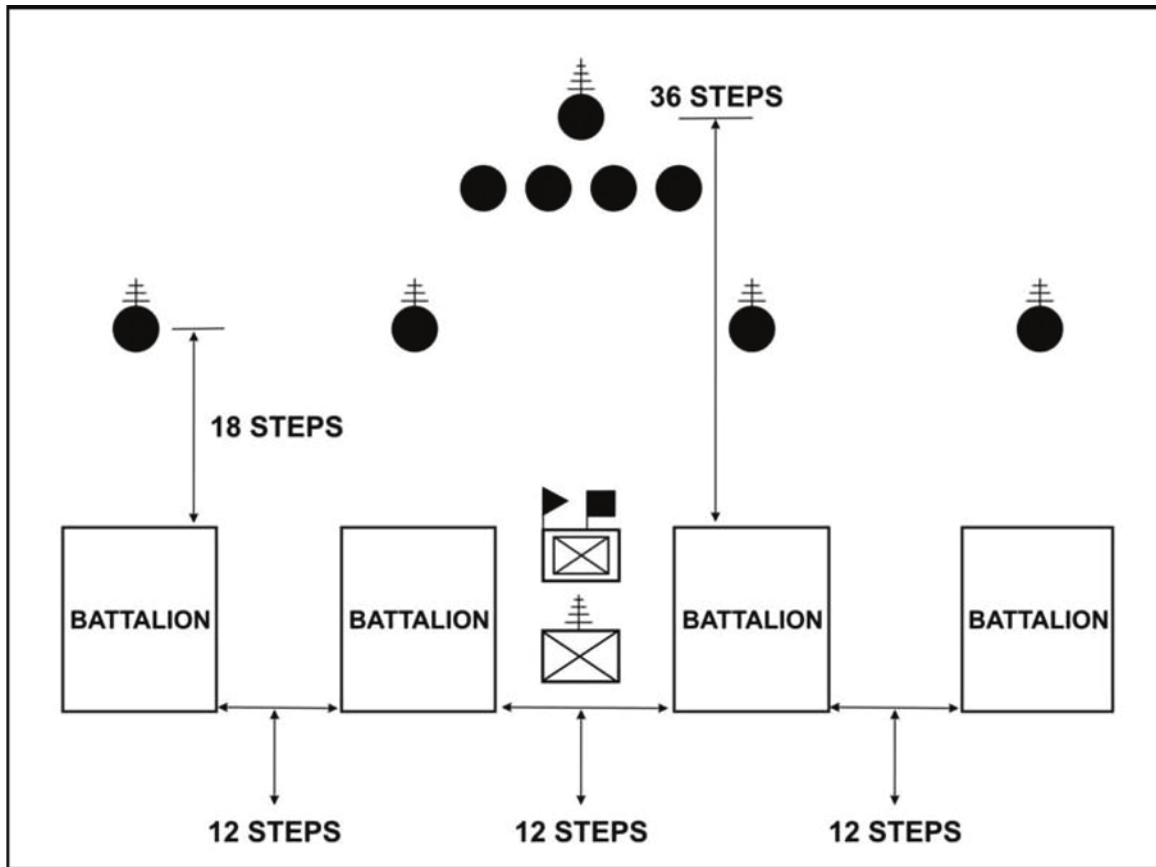


Figure 4: Brigade in Line with Battalions in Mass

The brigade is formed and dismissed in the same manner as the battalion.

Normally, the brigade Color is positioned at the center of the brigade. Subordinate Color-bearing organizations position their Colors to the center of their formation when in a line or column formation, or four steps to the rear of their staff when in a mass formation.

In brigade formations, you use directives to give commands to the formation. For example, **“Bring your Units to Attention,”** or **“Bring your Units to Present Arms,”** instead of *Brigade, ATTENTION* or *Present, ARMS*.

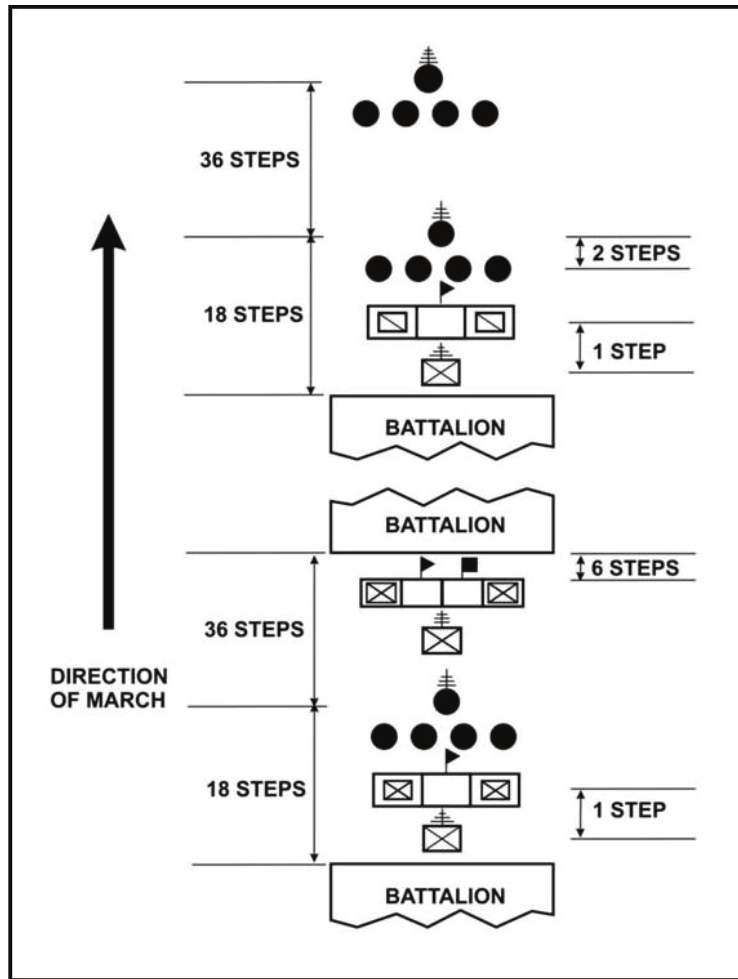


Figure 5: Brigade in Column