

Inspection of Company by Outside Inspector

The company may prepare for inspection prior to the inspector's arrival. If they do not, the inspector approaches the company commander and halts in front of him/her. The company commander would salute the inspector, and the inspector directs **PREPARE FOR INSPECTION**. With the company in line formation, the commander directs **PREPARE FOR INSPECTION**. On that directive, the platoon leaders face about, open ranks, and align the company as described below. Once the company is at open ranks and aligned, the company commander faces about, salutes, and reports "**Sir/Ma'am, the company is prepared for inspection.**" If the company prepares for inspection prior to the inspector's arrival, the company commander simply salutes and reports when the inspector stops in front of him/her.

PREPARING FOR INSPECTION:

The platoon leader commands **Count, OFF** per CR 3-21.5 paragraphs 4-3 and 5-4: The command is **Count, OFF**. The counting is executed from right to left. On the command of execution OFF, each platoon member, except the squad leaders, turns his/her head and eyes to the right, and the squad leaders count in unison in a loud clear voice "**ONE.**" After the squad leader 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 platoon has counted off. The cadence for counting is quick time (120 counts per minute, or two counts "ONE" "TWO" etc. per second).

After the platoon has counted off, the platoon leader commands **Open Ranks, MARCH**. The platoon opens ranks and aligns as described in paragraph 5-7 and paragraph 5-6:

NOTE: Inspections are normally conducted at normal interval unless there's not enough space. To conduct the inspection at close interval, the company and platoon usually fall in at close interval (if they fall in at normal interval, that validates that the space is available), but you may execute Close Interval March after Count Off if desired.

The command for this movement is **Open Ranks, MARCH**. On the command of execution MARCH, the front rank takes two steps forward, the second rank takes one step forward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes two 12-inch steps backward. If additional ranks are present, the fifth rank takes four 12-inch steps backward, and the sixth rank takes six 12-inch steps backward. For platoons with fewer than four squads, the rear squad is the base, and stands fast. The squad in front of them takes one step forward. If there's a squad in front of THEM (i.e. 1st Squad in a three-squad platoon), they take two steps forward.

To align the platoon, the command is **Dress Right, DRESS**. On the command of execution DRESS, the first squad leader stands fast and serves as the base. On the command of execution DRESS, the right flank Cadet stands fast. Each platoon member, except the squad leaders, sharply turns his/her head and eyes to the right and aligns himself/herself with the Cadet on his/her right. Each platoon member except the left flank Cadets extends his/her left arm laterally at shoulder level, elbow locked, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing down. Cadets in 1st Squad ensure their left arms are in line with their bodies and position themselves by short steps right or left until their right shoulder touches the fingertips of the Cadet on their right. Squad Leaders estimate distance between each other, and move to the correct distance

(approximately 40 inches) using small steps. Platoon members in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Squads execute as the first squad, (putting their left arms up and turning heads to the right), except that each squad member raises the left arm only for uniformity, actually covering (glancing out the corner of the left eye) on the cadet to their front, and aligning themselves directly behind the person in front of them, regardless of the length of their arm. If the platoon is to align on an element to the right (i.e. 2nd Platoon aligns on 1st Platoon), the squad leaders turn their head and eyes to the right and align themselves with that element.

The platoon leader faces to the Half Left (Half Right for 2nd, & subsequent platoons) in marching and marches (on the command of execution DRESS) by the most direct route to a position on line with the first squad, halts one step from the squad leader or left flank cadet, and faces down the line. From this position, he/she verifies the alignment of the first squad, directing the cadet to move forward or backward, as necessary, calling them by name or number: "Cadet Jones, forward 2 inches; Number eight, backward 4 inches." The platoon leader remains at Attention, taking short steps to the right or left as necessary, to see down the squad (without leaning his/her body right or left).

NOTE: *Face in Marching* (paragraph 1-16) is often used by individuals (Platoon Sergeant and above) to reposition themselves within a formation. Bottom line is it is a pivot from the halt, stepping off in the new direction (left, right, or half-left/right) with the left foot. To the left, execute the pivot and step 90-degrees (or 45-degrees) to the left with a 24-inch step. To the right, step in one count by swinging the left foot over the stationary right foot, and continue marching in the new direction.

Having aligned the first squad, the platoon leader, after centering himself/herself on the first squad, faces to the left (right for 2nd, & subsequent platoons) in marching, taking three (since they're at open ranks) short steps to the next squad, halts, faces down the line, and aligns the squad in the same manner.

After the last squad is aligned, the platoon leader centers himself/herself on the squad by taking short steps left or right, faces to the right (left for 2nd & subsequent platoons) in marching, returns to his/her position (centered on the platoon), halts perpendicular to the formation, faces to the left (right), and commands **Ready, FRONT**.

NOTE: When the platoon dresses as part of a larger formation, all squad leaders turn their heads and eyes to their right and align themselves on the unit to their right. The platoon sergeant aligns the platoon from the left flank rather than from the right flank when his platoon is not formed as the right flank platoon.

On the command of execution FRONT, each squad member returns sharply to the Position of Attention.

At this point, the platoon is ready to be inspected.

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.

NOTE: The inspector will usually invite the company commander to accompany him/her during the inspection. When so directed, the company commander takes a position at normal interval (close interval if the company is at close interval) to the left of the inspector. If this is a battalion with more than one company, the battalion commander will take the post to the inspector's left, with the company commander to the left of the battalion commander.

The inspector begins the inspection by stepping forward and inspecting the guidon bearer. He/she then faces to the half left in marching and proceeds to the right of the line. As he/she approaches the right flank platoon, the platoon leader commands (over his/her right shoulder) **Platoon, ATTENTION**. When the inspector has halted directly in front of him/her, he/she salutes and reports, "**Sir/Ma'am, the platoon is prepared for inspection**" (if an NCO is inspecting, salutes are not exchanged.) The inspector inspects the platoon leader. The inspector then directs the platoon leader to lead him/her 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 inspector 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 cadet in the first squad and on line with and at normal interval (close interval if the unit is formed at close interval) to the right of the inspector.

NOTE: The inspector halts at a position 15 inches in front of and centered on the cadet being inspected. The inspector remains at a *modified Position of Attention* moving his/her head and eyes only. After inspecting at the center position, he/she takes a short step forward and to the left and inspects, returns to the center and steps forward and to the right and inspects, and returns to the center position. While he/she is doing this, he/she may ask the cadet questions or engage the cadet in conversation. Having inspected the first cadet, the inspector **faces to the right as in marching** and takes two (one if at close interval) steps, halts, and faces the next cadet at the appropriate distance. The inspector continues down the line and inspects all cadets in this manner. To save time the inspector may skip the steps to the left and right, focusing on the uniform and information drawn from the cadet.

The other platoon leaders execute the same actions as the inspector approaches their platoons.

NOTE: As soon as the platoon leader and inspector have halted in front of the first two cadets in the squad, the platoon leader commands **Second, Third, and Fourth Squads** (name just the squads you have in the formation), **AT EASE**. When moving from cadet to cadet during the inspection, the inspector platoon leader and company commander 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 inspector has inspected the last cadet in the front rank, the platoon leader hesitates momentarily and allows the inspector to precede him/her as he/she inspects the front rank from the rear. As the inspector 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 At Ease. Normally, when inspecting the rear of each rank, the inspector conducts a walking inspection. As the inspector inspects the rear of the last cadet in each rank, he/she 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 cadet. The company and battalion commanders march past (behind) the inspector and assume their position to the inspector's left.

The Cadet Corps does not normally conduct company inspections with arms. In the event you want to do so, see TC 3-21.5, paragraph 8-19.

When the inspector has completed the inspection of the platoon, the platoon leader commands the platoon to Attention and overtakes the inspector en route back to the front of the platoon. The platoon leader halts at his post facing to the front. The inspector may share his/her thoughts of the status of the platoon with the platoon leader, or not. They exchange salutes. The inspector faces to the right in marching and moves to the next platoon. As soon as the inspector 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.

To Close Ranks, the command is **Close Ranks, MARCH**. On the command of execution MARCH, the first rank takes four 12-inch steps backward, the second rank takes two 12-inch steps backward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes one 24-inch step forward. On the command of execution MARCH, the platoon leader and platoon sergeant take the appropriate number of steps to maintain their posts. In platoons of fewer than four squads, the squads/ranks take two steps backward for every one step they took forward at Open Ranks March.

When the inspector has completed the inspection of the last platoon (exchanged Salutes with the platoon leader), he/she and the company commander (and the battalion commander, if accompanying the inspector) return to the commander's post at the center of the company. The company commander calls the company to Attention (with supplementary commands from the platoon leaders), then faces about to receive any comments or directions the inspector has. They then exchange salutes, and the inspector departs. The commander may dismiss the company, call the first sergeant forward, or proceed with other business.

REFERENCE: CR 3-21.5