

CHAPTER 4 INDIVIDUAL DRILL

“Maintain discipline and caution above all things, and be on the alert to obey the word of command. It is both the noblest and the safest thing for a great army to be visibly animated by one spirit.”

Archidamus of Sparta: To the Lacaedaenwnian expeditionary force departing for Athens, 431 B.C.

NOTE: The explanation of a movement that may be executed toward either flank is given in this chapter for only one flank. To execute the movement toward the opposite flank, substitute left for right or right for left in the explanation.

Section I. STATIONARY MOVEMENTS

This section contains most of the individual positions and stationary movements required in drill. These positions and the correct execution of the movement, in every detail, should be learned before proceeding to other drill movements.

Movements are initiated from the position of attention. However, some rest movements may be executed from other rest positions.

4-1. POSITION OF ATTENTION

Two commands can be used to put personnel at the *Position of Attention*:

- **FALL IN** is used to assemble a formation or return it to its original configuration.
- The two-part command for *Attention* is used for soldiers at a rest position.

Assume the *Position of Attention* on the command **FALL IN** or the command ***Squad (Platoon), ATTENTION.***

a. To assume this position, bring the heels together sharply on line, with the toes pointing out equally, forming a 45-degree angle. Rest the weight of the body evenly on the heels and balls of both feet. Keep the legs straight without locking the knees. Hold the body erect with the hips level, chest lifted and arched, and the shoulders square.

b. Keep the head erect and face straight to the front with the chin drawn in so that alignment of the head and neck is vertical.

c. Let the arms hang straight without stiffness. Curl the fingers so that the tips of the thumbs are alongside and touching the first joint of the forefingers. Keep the thumbs straight along the seams of the trouser leg with the first joint of the fingers touching the trousers (Figure 4-1, page 4-2).

d. Remain silent and do not move unless otherwise directed.

NOTE: This position is assumed by enlisted soldiers when addressing officers, or when officers are addressing officers of superior rank.



Figure 4-1. Position of Attention.

4-2. REST POSITIONS AT THE HALT

Any of the positions of rest may be commanded and executed from the *Position of Attention*.

a. **Parade Rest.** *Parade Rest* is commanded only from the *Position of Attention*. The command for this movement is **Parade, REST**.

(1) On the command of execution **REST**, move the left foot about 10 inches to the left of the right foot. Keep the legs straight without locking the knees, resting the weight of the body equally on the heels and balls of the feet.

(2) Simultaneously, place the hands at the small of the back and centered on the belt. Keep the fingers of both hands extended and joined, interlocking the thumbs so that the palm of the right hand is outward (Figure 4-2).

(3) Keep the head and eyes as in the *Position of Attention*. Remain silent and do not move unless otherwise directed. *Stand at Ease*, *At Ease*, and *Rest* may be executed from this position.

NOTE: Enlisted soldiers assume this position when addressing all noncommissioned officers or when noncommissioned officers address noncommissioned officers of superior rank.



Figure 4-2. Parade Rest.

b. **Stand At Ease.** The command for this movement is *Stand at, EASE*. On the command of execution **EASE**, execute *Parade Rest*, but turn the head and eyes directly toward the person in charge of the formation. *At Ease* or *Rest* may be executed from this position.

c. **At Ease.** The command for this movement is **AT EASE**. On the command **AT EASE**, the soldier may move; however, he must remain standing and silent with his right foot in place. The soldier may relax his arms with the thumbs interlaced. *Rest* may be executed from this position.

d. **Rest.** The command for this movement is **REST**. On the command **REST**, the soldier may move, talk, smoke, or drink unless otherwise directed. He must remain standing with his right foot in place. **AT EASE** must be executed from this position to allow soldiers to secure canteens, other equipment, and so forth.

NOTE: On the preparatory command for *Attention*, immediately assume *Parade Rest* when at the position of *Stand at Ease*, *At Ease*, or *Rest*. If, for some reason, a subordinate element is already at attention, the members of the element remain so and do not execute parade rest on the preparatory command, nor does the subordinate leader give a supplementary command.

4-3. FACING AT THE HALT

Five facing movements can be executed from the *Position of Attention: Left (Right), FACE, Half Left (Half Right), FACE, and About, FACE.*

NOTE: *Half Left (Half Right), FACE* should only be used in situations when a 90-degree facing movement would not face an element in the desired direction (for example, for a stationary element to face the direction of the flag to render honors [reveille or retreat]).

a. *Facing to the Flank* is a two-count movement. The command is *Left (Right), FACE.*

(1) On the command of execution **FACE**, slightly raise the right heel and left toe, and turn 90 degrees to the left on the left heel, assisted by a slight pressure on the ball of the right foot. Keep the left leg straight without stiffness and allow the right leg to bend naturally.

(2) On count two, place the right foot beside the left foot, resuming the *Position of Attention*. Arms remain at the sides, as in the *Position of Attention*, throughout this movement (Figure 4-3).



Figure 4-3. Left Face.

b. *Facing to the Rear* is a two-count movement. The command is ***About, FACE.***

(1) On the command of execution **FACE**, move the toe of the right foot to a point touching the marching surface about half the length of the foot to the rear and slightly to the left of the left heel. Rest most of the weight of the body on the heel of the left foot and allow the right knee to bend naturally.

(2) On count two, turn to the right 180 degrees on the left heel and ball of the right foot, resuming the *Position of Attention*. Arms remain at the sides, as in the *Position of Attention*, throughout this movement (Figure 4-4, page 4-6).



Figure 4-4. About Face.

NOTE: Throughout these movements, the remainder of the body remains as in the *Position of Attention*.

4-4. HAND SALUTE

The *Hand Salute* is a one-count movement. The command is ***Present, ARMS***. The *Hand Salute* may be executed while marching. When marching, only the soldier in charge of the formation salutes and acknowledges salutes. When double-timing, an individual soldier must come to *Quick Time* before saluting.

a. When wearing headgear with a visor (with or without glasses), on the command of execution **ARMS**, raise the right hand sharply, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm facing down, and place the tip of the right forefinger on the rim of the visor slightly to the right of the right eye. The outer edge of the hand is barely canted downward so that neither the back of the hand nor the palm is clearly visible from the front. The hand and

wrist are straight, the elbow inclined slightly forward, and the upper arm horizontal (1, Figure 4-5).

b. When wearing headgear without a visor (or uncovered) and not wearing glasses, execute the *Hand Salute* in the same manner as previously described, except touch the tip of the right forefinger to the forehead near and slightly to the right of the right eyebrow (2, Figure 4-5).

c. When wearing headgear without a visor (or uncovered) and wearing glasses, execute the *Hand Salute* in the same manner as previously described, except touch the tip of the right forefinger to that point on the glasses where the temple piece of the frame meets the right edge of the right brow (3, Figure 4-5).

d. *Order Arms* from the *Hand Salute* is a one-count movement. The command is **Order, ARMS**. On the command of execution **ARMS**, return the hand sharply to the side, resuming the *Position of Attention*.

e. When reporting or rendering courtesy to an individual, turn the head and eyes toward the person addressed and simultaneously salute. In this situation, the actions are executed without command. The *Salute* is initiated by the subordinate at the appropriate time (six paces) and terminated upon acknowledgment. (See Appendix A for more information on saluting.)



Figure 4-5. Hand Salute.

Section II. STEPS AND MARCHING

This section contains all of the steps in marching of the individual soldier. These steps should be learned thoroughly before proceeding to unit drill.

4-5. BASIC MARCHING INFORMATION

This basic marching information pertains to all marching movements.

a. All marching movements executed from the *Halt* are initiated from the *Position of Attention*.

b. Except for *Route Step March* and *At Ease March*, all marching movements are executed while marching at *Attention*. Marching at *Attention* is the combination of the *Position of Attention* and the procedures for the prescribed step executed simultaneously.

c. When executed from the *Halt*, all steps except *Right Step* begin with the left foot. (See Chapter 3, paragraph 3-1a and paragraph 4-15a.)

d. For short-distance marching movements, the commander may designate the number of steps forward, backward, or sideward by giving the appropriate command: ***One step to the right (left), MARCH***; or, ***Two steps backward (forward), MARCH***. On the command of execution **MARCH**, step off with the appropriate foot, and halt automatically after completing the number of steps designated. Unless otherwise specified, when directed to execute steps forward, the steps will be 30-inch steps.

e. All marching movements are executed in the cadence of *Quick Time* (120 steps per minute), except the 30-inch step, which may be executed in the cadence of 180 steps per minute on the command ***Double Time, MARCH***.

f. A step is the prescribed distance from one heel to the other heel of a marching soldier.

g. All 15-inch steps are executed for a short distance only.

4-6. THE 30-INCH STEP

To march with a 30-inch step from the *Halt*, the command is ***Forward, MARCH***.

a. On the preparatory command ***Forward***, shift the weight of the body to the right foot without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH**, step forward 30 inches with the left foot and continue marching with 30-inch steps, keeping the head and eyes fixed to the front. The arms swing in a natural motion, without exaggeration and without bending at the elbows, approximately 9 inches straight to the front and 6 inches straight to the rear of the trouser seams. Keep the fingers curled as in the *Position of Attention* so that the fingers just clear the trousers.

b. To *Halt* while marching, the command ***Squad (Platoon), HALT*** is given. The preparatory command ***Squad (Platoon)*** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface as long as the command of execution **HALT** is given the next time that **same foot** strikes the marching surface. The *Halt* is executed in two counts. After **HALT** is commanded, execute the additional step required after the command of execution and then bring the trail foot alongside the lead foot, assuming the *Position of Attention* and terminating the movement.

4-7. CHANGE STEP

This movement is executed automatically whenever a soldier finds himself out of step with all other members of the formation. It is only executed while marching forward with a 30-inch step. To change step, the command ***Change Step, MARCH*** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more step with the left foot, then in one count place the right toe near the heel of the left foot and step off again with the left foot. The arms swing naturally. This movement is executed automatically whenever a soldier finds himself out of step with all other members of the formation.

4-8. MARCHING TO THE REAR

This movement is used to change the direction of a marching element 180 degrees in a uniform manner. It is only executed while marching forward with a 30-inch step. To *March to the Rear*, the command ***Rear, MARCH*** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more step with the left foot, pivot 180 degrees to the right on the balls of both feet, and step off in the new

direction taking a 30-inch step with the trail foot. Do not allow the arms to swing outward while turning.

4-9. REST MOVEMENT, 30-INCH STEP

Rest movements with the 30-inch step include *At Ease March* and *Route Step March*.

a. **At Ease March.** The command *At Ease, MARCH* is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, the soldier is no longer required to retain cadence; however, silence and the approximate interval and distance are maintained. *Quick Time, MARCH* and *Route Step, MARCH* are the only commands that can be given while marching at ease.

b. **Route Step March.** *Route Step March* is executed exactly the same as *At Ease March* except that the soldier may drink from his canteen and talk.

NOTE: To change the direction of march while marching at *Route Step* or *At Ease March*, the commander informally directs the lead element to turn in the desired direction. Before precision movements may be executed, the unit must resume marching in cadence. The troops automatically resume marching at *Attention* on the command *Quick Time, MARCH*, as the commander reestablishes the cadence by counting for eight steps. If necessary, soldiers individually execute change step to get back in step with the unit.

4-10. THE 15-INCH STEP, FORWARD/HALF STEP

Use the following procedures to execute the 15-inch step, forward/half step.

a. To march with a 15-inch step from the *Halt*, the command is *Half step, MARCH*. On the preparatory command *Half step*, shift the weight of the body to the right foot without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH**, step forward 15 inches with the left foot and continue marching with 15-inch steps. The arms swing as in marching with a 30-inch step.

b. To alter the march to a 15-inch step while marching with a 30-inch step, the command is *Half step, MARCH*. This command may be given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more 30-inch step and then begin marching with a 15-inch step. The arms swing as in marching with a 30-inch step.

c. To resume marching with a 30-inch step, the command *Forward, MARCH* is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more 15-inch step and then begin marching with a 30-inch step.

d. The *Halt* while marching at the *Half Step* is executed in two counts, the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.

e. While marching at the *Half Step*, the only commands that may be given are: *Mark Time, MARCH*; *Forward, MARCH*; *Normal Interval, MARCH*; and **HALT**.

4-11. MARCHING IN PLACE

To march in place, use the following procedures.

a. To march in place, the command *Mark Time, MARCH* is given as either foot strikes the marching surface and only while marching with a 30-inch or 15-inch step forward. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more step, bring the trailing

foot alongside the leading foot, and begin to march in place. Raise each foot (alternately) 2 inches off the marching surface; the arms swing naturally, as in marching with a 30-inch step forward.

NOTE: While marking time in formation, the soldier adjusts position to ensure proper alignment and cover. The proper distance between soldiers while marching is one arm's length plus 6 inches (approximately 40 inches).

b. To resume marching with a 30-inch step, the command **Forward, MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more step in place and then step off with a 30-inch step.

c. The *Halt* from *Mark Time* is executed in two counts, basically the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.

4-12. THE 15-INCH STEP, RIGHT/LEFT

To march with a *15-Inch Step Right (Left)*, use the following procedures:

a. To march with a *15-Inch Step Right (Left)*, the command is **Right (Left) Step, MARCH**. The command is given only while at the halt. On the preparatory command of **Right (Left) Step**, shift the weight of the body without noticeable movement onto the left (right) foot. On the command of execution **MARCH**, bend the right knee slightly and raise the right foot only high enough to allow freedom of movement. Place the right foot 15 inches to the right of the left foot, and then move the left foot (keeping the left leg straight) alongside the right foot as in the *Position of Attention*. Continue this movement, keeping the arms at the sides as in the *Position of Attention*.

b. To *Halt* when executing *Right* or *Left Step*, the command is **Squad (Platoon), HALT**. This movement is executed in two counts. The preparatory command is given when the heels are together; the command of execution **HALT** is given the next time the heels are together. On the command of execution **HALT**, take one more step with the lead foot and then place the trailing foot alongside the lead foot, resuming the *Position of Attention*.

4-13. THE 15-INCH STEP, BACKWARD

To march backward using the 15-inch step, use the following procedures:

a. To march with a *15-Inch Step Backward*, the command is **Backward, MARCH**. The command is given only while at the *Halt*. On the preparatory command **Backward**, shift the weight of the body without noticeable movement onto the right foot. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take a 15-inch step backward with the left foot and continue marching backward with 15-inch steps. The arms swing naturally.

b. The *Halt* from *Backward March* is executed in two counts, basically the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.

4-14. THE 30-INCH STEP, DOUBLE TIME

To *Double-Time* using the 30-inch step, use the following procedures:

a. To march in the cadence of 180 steps per minute with a 30-inch step, the command is **Double Time, MARCH**. It may be commanded while at the *Halt* or while marching at *Quick Time* with a 30-inch step.

b. When at the *Halt* and the preparatory command **Double Time** is given, shift the weight of the body to the right foot without noticeable movement. On the command of execution **MARCH**, raise the forearms to a horizontal position, with the fingers and thumbs closed, knuckles out, and simultaneously step off with the left foot. Continue to march with 30-inch steps at the cadence of **Double Time**. The arms swing naturally to the front and rear with the forearms kept horizontal. (When armed, soldiers will come to *Port Arms* on receiving the preparatory command of **Double Time**.) Guides, when at *Sling Arms*, will *Double-Time* with their weapons at *Sling Arms* upon receiving the directive **GUIDE ON LINE**.

c. When marching with a 30-inch step in the cadence of *Quick Time*, the command **Double Time, MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take one more 30-inch step at *Quick Time*, and step off with the trailing foot, double-timing as previously described.

d. To resume marching with a 30-inch step at *Quick Time*, the command **Quick time, MARCH** is given as either foot strikes the marching surface. On the command of execution **MARCH**, take two more 30-inch steps at *Double Time*, lower the arms to the sides, and resume marching with a 30-inch step at *Quick Time*.

NOTE: *Quick Time, Column Half Left (Right), and Column Left (Right)* are the only movements that can be executed while double-timing. Armed troops must be at *Port Arms* before the command **Double Time, MARCH** is given.

4-15. FACING IN MARCHING

Facings in Marching from the *Halt* are important parts of the following movements: alignments, column movements, inspecting soldiers in ranks, and changing from *Normal Interval* to *Double Interval* or *Double Interval* to *Normal Interval*.

a. For instructional purposes only, the command **Face to the Right (Left) in Marching, MARCH** may be used to teach the individual to execute the movement properly. On the preparatory command **Face to the Right (Left) in Marching**, shift the weight of the body without noticeable movement onto the right foot. On the command of execution **MARCH**, pivot to the right (left) on the ball of the right foot (90 degrees) and step off in the indicated direction with the left foot. Execute the pivot and step in one count, and continue marching in the new direction. (See paragraph 4-5c and Chapter 3, paragraph 3-1a.)

b. *Facing to the Half-Right (Half-Left) in Marching* from the *Halt* is executed in the same manner as *Facing to the Right (Left) in Marching* from a *Halt*, except the facing movement is made at a 45-degree angle to the right (left).

c. The *Halt* from *Facing in Marching* is executed in two counts, the same as the *Halt* from the 30-inch step.