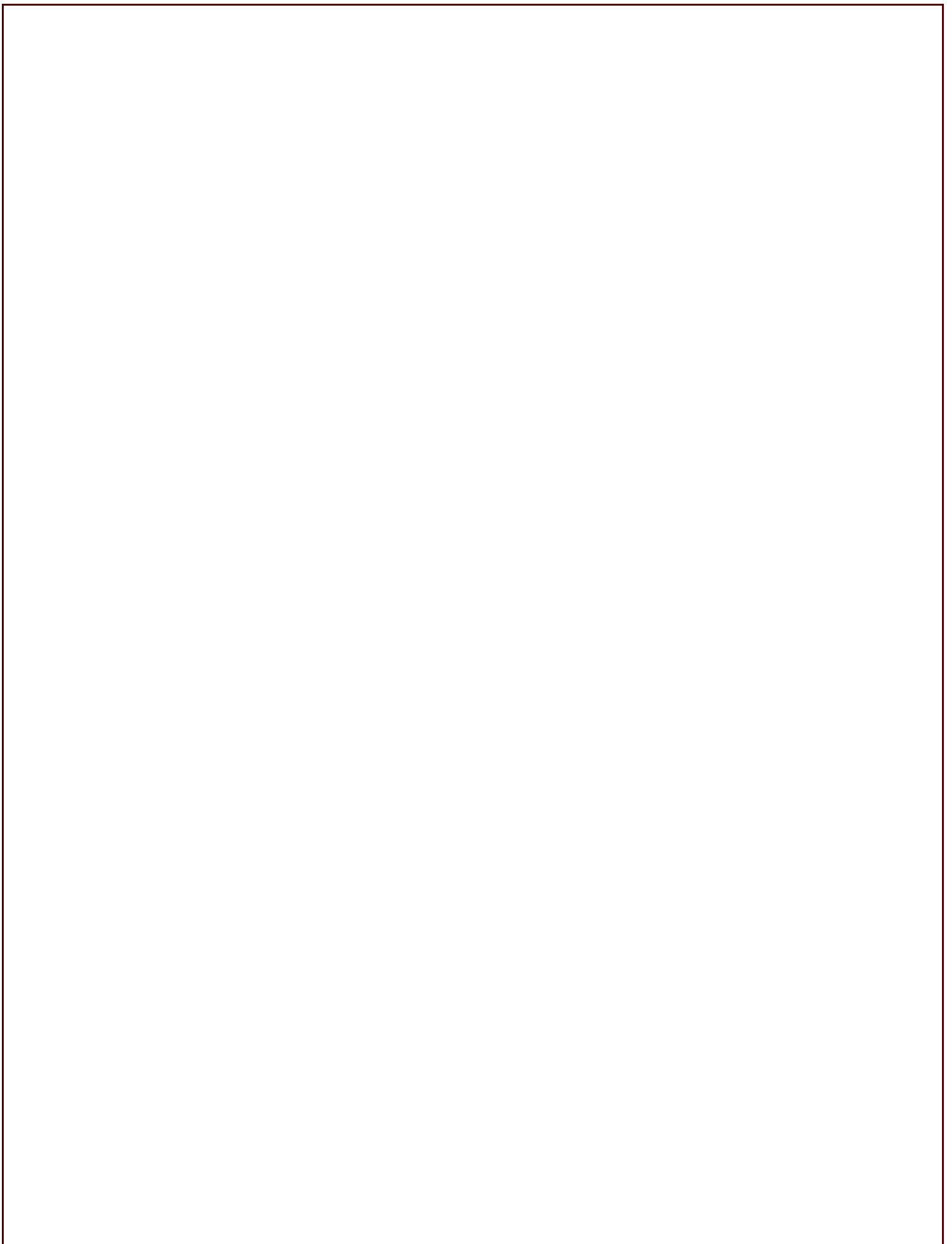


**STANDARD ORDER 3.2**  
**Aggie Drill & Ceremonies**  
**Manual**



**Corps of Cadets**  
**Texas A&M University**  
**August 2021**



## **Preface**

This manual describes the movements and procedures for drill, ceremonies, and reviews. The Aggie D&C Manual is for general use throughout the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and is a guide for individuals teaching, learning, or participating in drill and ceremonies specific to the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M. This document seeks to standardize drill across the Quad for specific drill movements.

## **Intent**

Military units and other organizations use close order drill to instill discipline and unit cohesion. The Corps of Cadets upholds the fine tradition of drill and ceremonies through daily formations, parades and reviews. The Corps demonstrates its individual and collective level of discipline in how it executes close order drill. This manual addresses how the Corps executes close order drill to instill individual and collective discipline.

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**Record of Changes**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
13 Sep 2018	Added procedures for Open Ranks Inspections.



## CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION TO DRILL AND CEREMONIES

1. **Purpose of Drill.** Commanders use close order drill to instill habits of discipline that ultimately translate into the leadership development of each cadet as they pursue their personal and professional endeavors. The purposes of conducting close drill include:
  - A. Moving units from one place to another in a consistent and orderly manner
  - B. Teaching discipline by instilling habits of precision and automatic response to orders
  - C. Increasing confidence of cadet officers and noncommissioned officers (NCO) through the exercise of command, by giving of proper commands and directing cadets
2. **Purpose of Formations.** Ultimately, the importance of formation is two-fold: to acquire personnel accountability across the Quad and to pay respect to the colors.
  - A. Maintain control and accountability of personnel
  - B. Pass on information
  - C. Develop command presence in unit leaders
  - D. Instill and maintain high standards of military bearing and appearance
  - E. Provide opportunities to inspect the appearance and readiness of personnel
  - F. Build cohesion and esprit de corps
3. **Drill Instruction.** Every cadet (regardless of class) must be proficient in drill and able to execute all drill movements with precision upon command.
  - A. Upperclassmen must be able to teach drill in a proficient and understandable manner.
  - B. Having a thorough knowledge of each drill movement and the associated commands along with developing the proper command voice is key to effective drill instruction. Each respective service drill manual specifically addresses commands, command voice and individual drill instruction.
  - C. A common rule of thumb when executing drill instruction is to use the “By the numbers” approach. This technique is addressed in all drill manuals.
4. **Responsibility**
  - A. Commanders (Major Unit and Company/Squadron/Battery) are responsible for implementing the associated service drill manual within their unit for daily formations, training events and unit runs. The purpose of utilizing the service drill manuals is to support the ROTC programs in preparing cadets for summer programs and military duty upon commissioning. Unit commanders will identify subject matter experts at the cadet officer and NCO level to ensure each unit is properly trained in drill.
  - B. For march-ins, parades and reviews certain drill movements will differ from the military service drill manuals. See Chapter 8 to ensure standardization when the Corps is on parade.

5. **Source References.** All units will reference their associated military service drill and ceremonies manuals.

A. Brigades: TC 3-21.5 Drill and Ceremonies (January 2012)

B. Regiments: MCO P5060.20 Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual (May 2003)

C. Wings: AFM 36-2203 Drill and Ceremonies (November 2013)



## CHAPTER 2 – DAILY DRILL AND FORMATIONS

- 1. Introduction.** For morning and evening formations all units will form up in platoon/flight line formation in accordance with their respective associated service's drill manual. Commanders will maintain platoon/flight, squad and team integrity. Reference the following illustrations for proper formation alignment. Ensure specific spacing as identified in the appropriate drill manual.

### Legend and Symbols

ASL – Assistant Squad Leader

C – Cadet

CO – Commanding Officer

F – Flag

G – Guidon

J – Junior Cadet

OD – Officer of the Day

PSG/FSG – Platoon/Flight Sergeant

PL/FL – Platoon/Flight Leader

RG – Right Guide (N/MC / AF Platoon/Flight Guidon Position)

S – Senior Cadet

SGM – Sergeant Major

SL – Squad Leader

STAFF – Major Unit, Company/Squadron Staff Cadet

TL – Team Leader

XO – Executive Officer

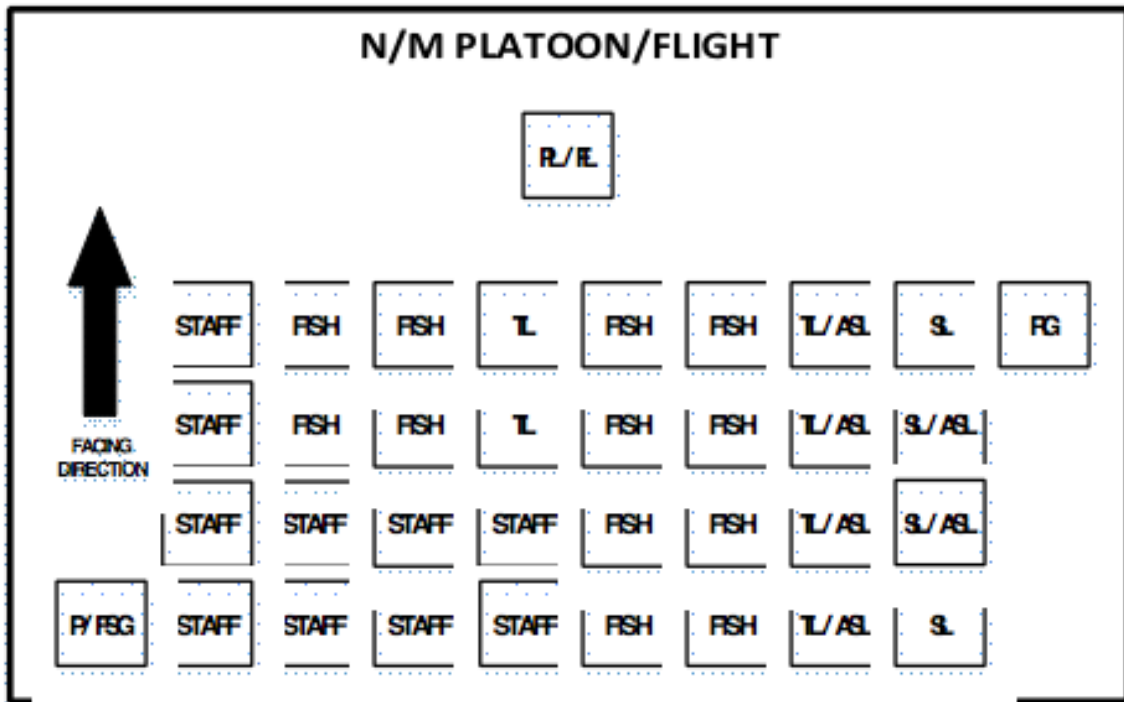
1SG – First Sergeant



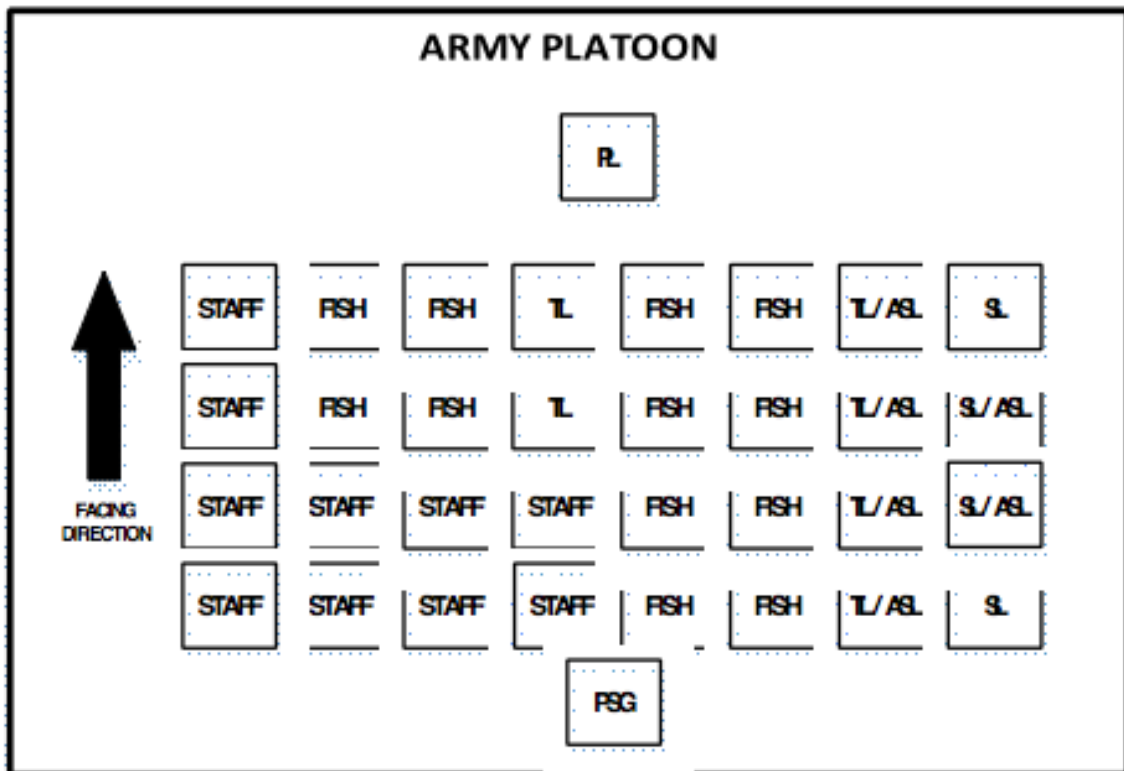
CADET

## PLATOON/FLIGHT LINE FORMATION

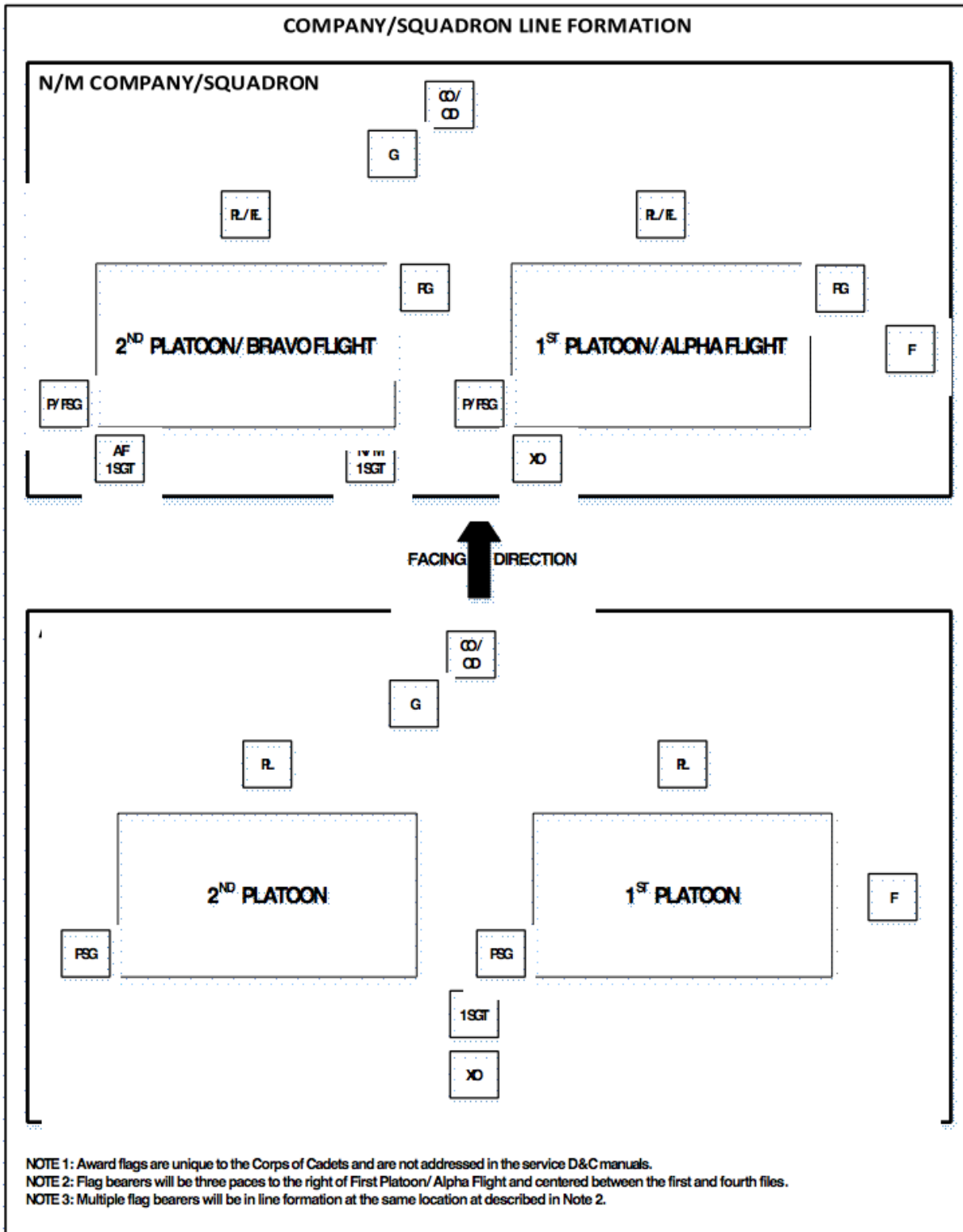
### N/M PLATOON/FLIGHT



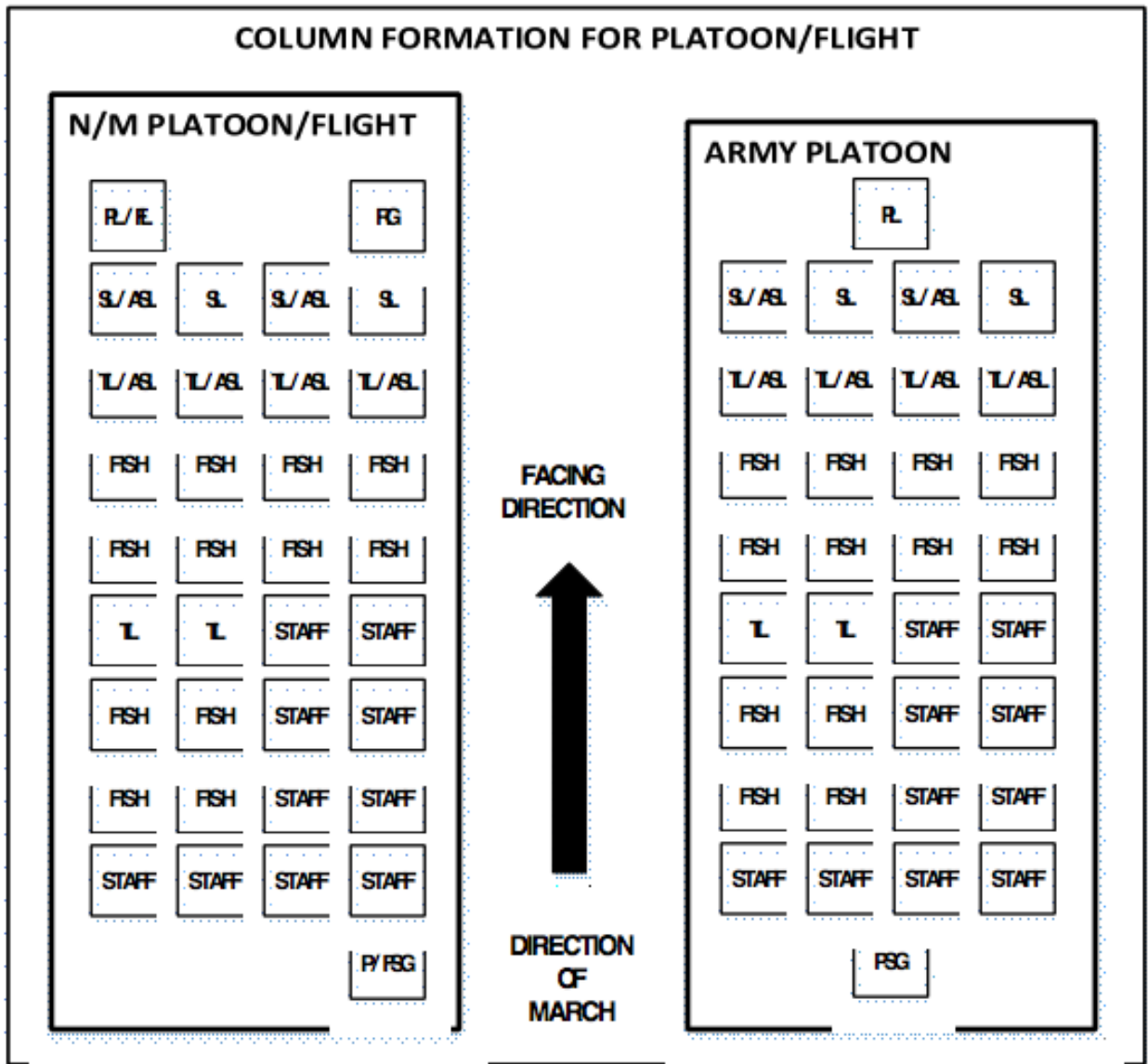
### ARMY PLATOON



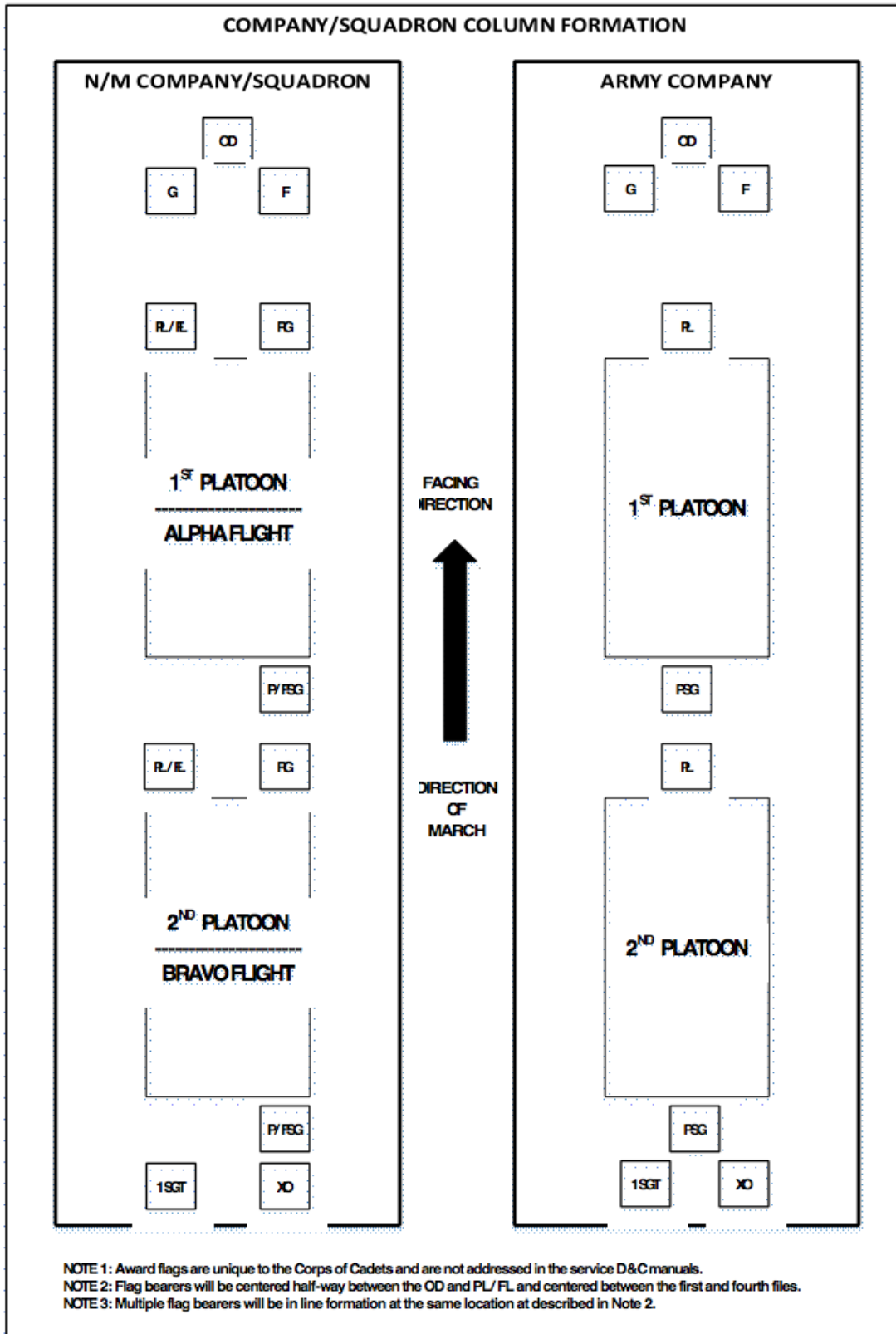
2. **The Company/Squadron/Battery formation** for morning and evening formations is illustrated below. Ensure specific spacing as identified in the appropriate drill manual.



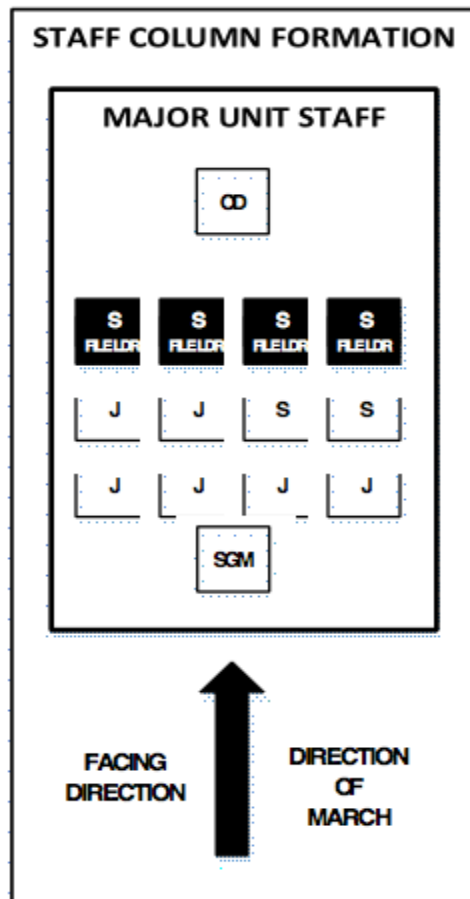
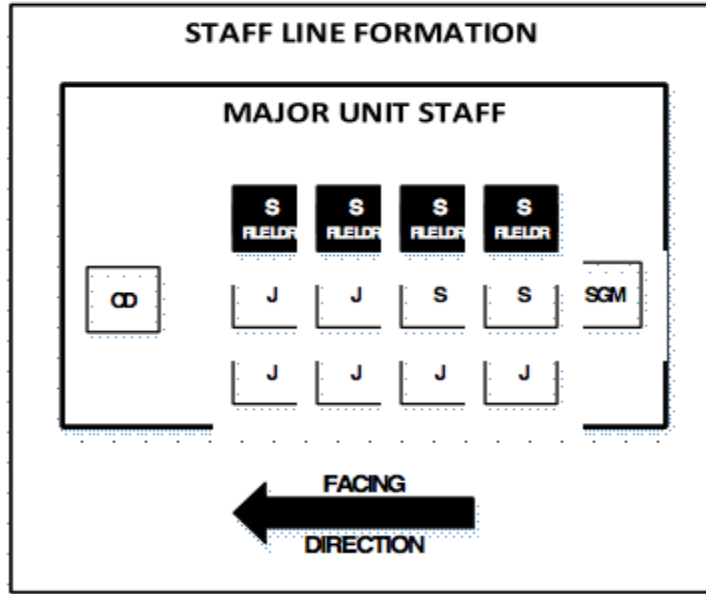
3. **Platoon/Flight column formation** for marching to breakfast and dinner is illustrated below. Ensure specific spacing as identified in the appropriate drill manual.



4. **Company/Squadron/Battery column** formation for marching to breakfast and dinner is illustrated below. Ensure specific spacing as identified in the appropriate drill manual.



5. **Staff formations** for the military services differ in function as compared to the Corps of Cadets. Therefore, Major Unit staff line formation for morning and evening formations are illustrated below. Ensure spacing is in accordance with service drill manuals.



## 6. Daily Formation Plan



Note: Major Units will face inboard toward the flag.

## 7. Open Ranks Inspections

### A. To Open Ranks

- (1) The purpose of this movement is to increase the distance between ranks to 70 inches in order to accommodate the movements of an inspection party. It may be executed when halted in line at attention, and at normal or close interval. If armed, rifles will be at order arms. The commands are **“Open Rank,” “MARCH;” “Ready, FRONT;”** and **“COVER.”**
- (2) When at normal interval, on the command of execution **“MARCH,”** the front rank takes two 30-inch steps forward, halts, and executes dress right dress. The second rank takes one 30-inch step forward, halts, and executes dress right dress. The third rank stands fast and executes dress right. If there is a fourth rank, it takes two 15-inch back steps, halts, and executes dress right. When at close interval, all ranks will execute at close interval, dress right dress in place of dress right dress.
- (3) The platoon commander verifies alignment as for dress right dress, except that he/she will verify the 70-inch distance between ranks by taking two 30-inch steps and one 10-inch step when moving from one rank to the next. After verifying the alignment of the rear rank, he/she faces to the right in marching, marches 3 paces beyond the front rank, and 1 pace to the guide's right, halts, faces to the left, and commands **“Ready,**

**FRONT**” and **“COVER.”** The platoon responds to these commands in the same manner as when they are given following dress right dress.

- (4) If the platoon is about to be inspected, after the command **“COVER”**, the platoon commander will take one step to the front so that he/she is 3 paces directly in front of the guide, and then execute a right face. From this position the platoon commander reports the platoon to the inspecting officer.

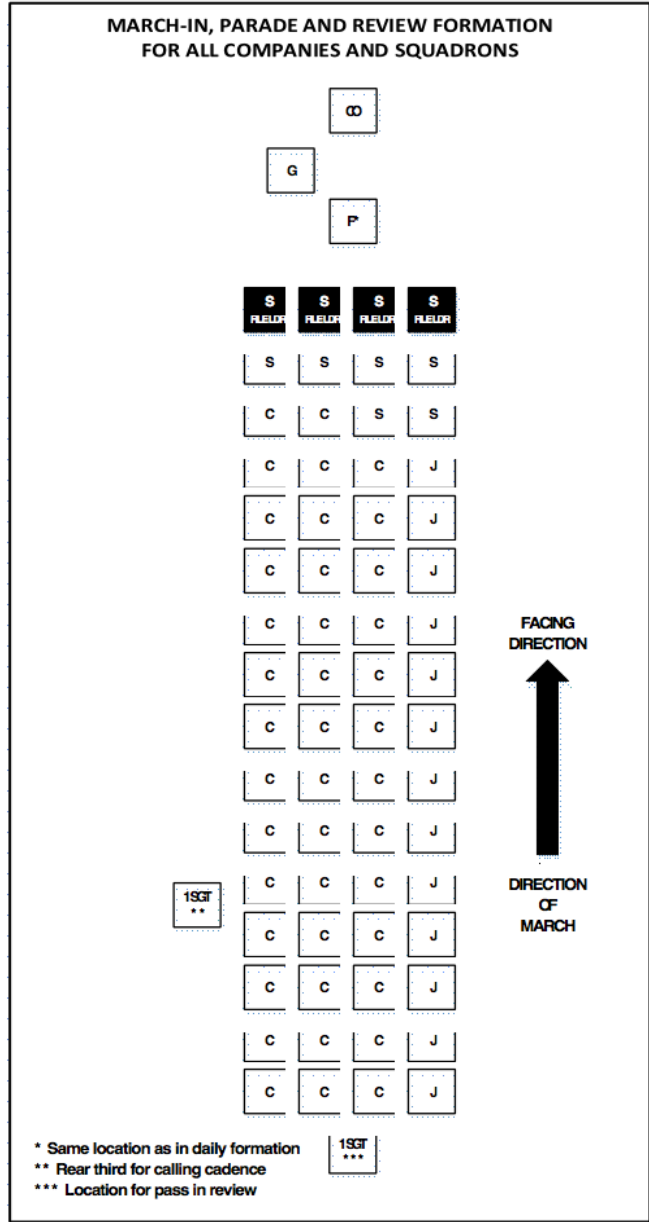
#### B. To Close Ranks

- (1) The purpose of this movement is to decrease the distance between opened ranks to a normal distance (40 inches). It may only be given when the platoon is at attention at open ranks. The command is **“Close Ranks, MARCH.”** It should be given immediately after the reason for opening ranks is accomplished, and before the platoon is given further drill movements or dismissed.
- (2) On the command of execution **“MARCH,”** the front rank stands fast while the second rank takes one 30-inch step to the front and halts. At the same time, the third rank takes two 30-inch steps to the front and if there is a fourth squad, it takes 3 steps and halts. Each individual maintains cover and alignment while moving. No dressing movements are executed.
- (3) After the platoon is inspected, the platoon commander returns to a position 3 paces in front of the guide and halts facing to the front. It is from this position that the inspecting officer would critique the inspection. The platoon commander would exchange salutes with the inspection officer and after that officer has departed, the platoon commander would face to the left and then command **“Close Ranks, MARCH.”** The platoon commander, on the command **“MARCH,”** then moves to his/her position 6 paces and centered on the platoon.



## CHAPTER 3 – MARCH-INS, PARADES, AND REVIEWS

1. **General.** Unit forms into a Block. For march-ins, parades and reviews the unit formation is modified to ensure standardization across the Corps. These modifications are identified as “Aggie Drill” and are shown below.



- Notes:
- Unit 1SG can be positioned in the rear or at the rear two-thirds of the formation in order to effectively guide the platoon.
  - Staffs form in column formation as previously illustrated.

## 2. Military Reviews

### A. Order of March

- (1) Major Units: Corps Staff, Band, D Co, 1st Brigade, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Brigade, 1st Regiment, 2nd Regiment, 1st Wing, 2nd Wing, 3rd Wing, and Parsons Mounted Cavalry. The order of march may be changed by the Corps Commander and will be published via a Corps operations order.
- (2) Company, Squadron and Battery: Alphanumeric order within the BDE, REG, or WNG.

### B. Formation and Accountability

- (1) The Corps units move into position and assume the position of Parade Rest (by unit). Corps Staff moves to the center of the drill field, facing the reviewing stand. The Corps Commander directs the Corps Adjutant to **“Take Your Post.”** The Adjutant assumes his position behind Corps Staff.
- (2) After the announcer speaks, the Corps Adjutant directs the Fighting Texas Aggie Band to **“Sound Attention.”**
  - (a) MUC’s face their units and call their units/staff to attention.
  - (b) Corps Adjutant directs the Corps to report their accountability.
- (3) After receiving the reports, the Corps Adjutant resumes his position in front of the Corps Commander and reports **“All Present.”** The Adjutant assumes his post in the staff.

### C. Honors to the Colors and Reviewing Officer

- (1) The Reviewing Officer moves to the center of the reviewing area.
- (2) The Corps Commander directs **“Present Arms”** for the playing of Ruffles and Flourishes and the National Anthem. MUC’s face their units and call them to Present Arms. MUC’s face the units and echo **“PRESENT”**. The command of execution is made by the Corps Commander. After facing forward, they call their staffs to Present Arms.
- (3) The Corps Commander directs **“Order Arms”** when the music is completed. MUC’s face their units and echo **“Order”**. After the Corps Commander announces **“ARMS”**, MUC face forward and call their staff to **“Order Arms”**.

### D. Cadet Oath (Final Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Pass)

- (1) The Corps Commander will direct Commanders: **“Officers, Return SABER.”**
- (2) All cadets will raise their right hand, with arms parallel to the deck, and recite the Cadet Oath.
- (3) The Corps Commander will direct Commanders as such: **“Officers, Draw SABER.”**

### E. Officers Center. If applicable, the Corps Commander will direct Commanders with: **“Officers, Center.”**

- (1) Commanders and guidon bearers will execute a two-count facing movement towards the center of the formation on the command “**CENTER.**”.
- (2) At the command of “**MARCH**”, the above stated personnel march to the center of the formation and form opposing straight lines. Major Unit Commanders will assemble at the front of the formation, with Unit Commanders assembled immediately behind their position. Guidon bearers will assemble immediately behind the Unit Commanders. (Unit Commanders must angle slight forward of their assembly position to create space between their line and that of the guidon bearers.)
- (3) Coinciding with the command of, “**MARCH**”, the Corps Commander will center six paces in front of the Major Unit Commanders line and execute an About Face. Corps Staff and the two center-most Major Units will execute outboard facing movements and allow the Commanders and Guidon Bearers to march forward toward the Reviewing Officer.
- (4) Once all officers and bearers are in place, the Corps Commander commands, “**Forward MARCH**”. At the designated spot, approximate 12 spaces from the Reviewing Officer, the Corps Commander will direct: “**Officers, HALT.**” Immediately after executing a halt, Commanding Officers will execute a two-count Present Arms. Guidon Bearers will execute a Present Arms.
- (5) Once the Reviewing Officer returns the salute, the Corps Commander orders: “**Ready TWO**” whereupon the details executes Order Arms. The Corps Commanders follows this action with “**POST.**” All Commanders and Guidon Bearers execute an About Face.
- (6) The Corps Commander orders: “**MARCH**”, at which all Commanders and Guidon Bearers return to their initial opposing line formations. The Corps Commander orders: “**Officers, HALT.**”
- (7) At the command of “**POST**”, Commanders and Guidon Bearers will execute an outboard facing movement. At the command of “**MARCH**”, Commanders and Guidon Bearers will return to their ranks to the beat of the drums, at four-count intervals.
- (8) The Corps Commander will return directly to his/her position. Staffs will return to their positions and face the Reviewing Officer.

#### F. Pass in Review

- (1) The Corps Commander will salute the Reviewing Officer and request permission to Pass in Review.
- (2) At the Reviewing Officer’s approval, the Corps Commander directs the Corps to “**Pass in Review.**”
- (3) Units will march along the perimeter of the Drill Field.

### 3. **March-Ins**

The March-In is a long-standing Aggie ceremony that serves as a visual representation of the support Aggies have for their team as members of the 12th Man, a tribute to the University’s

earliest days of military tradition, and a tradition rooted in pure motivation to BTHO out of the visiting football team. March-Ins occur before kick-off on Gameday.

A. Assembly and Accountability

- (1) Units will assemble on the Quadrangle/ Corps Plaza, as found in the OPORD published on Cadets.tamu.edu.
- (2) SGM's will assemble accountability for their MUC and CSGM and report up the Chain of Command.

B. Execution

- (1) Corps Staff followed by the Band and D CO lead the march off the quad. The Order of March changes to reflect the ROTC affiliation of the Reviewing Officer for the March In and will be announced in the March In OPORD.
- (2) The Corps will follow the prescribed route of march to the stadium forming in preparation to march into the stadium. For some games the March-in will be around campus vice into the stadium.
- (3) The Band enters first in order to enter the stands and be prepared to play for the March In.
- (4) Parsons Mounted Cavalry parades prior to the Corps while the band is silent.
- (5) The Corps enters and parades around the interior of the stadium once PMC has cleared the track. Unit will exit the stadium via the same gate they enter the stadium. Units can disperse once they exit the stadium.
- (6) Honors rendered to the Reviewing Officer. Commanders will direct their units to **"Eyes Right"**, following which the Commander and front rank of cadets will render Present Arms. See information contained below in Grading Criteria for details as to the execution of Present Arms, Ready Front and other details pertaining to the March In.

4. **Exceptions to Service Drill**

- A. As previously mentioned commanders will use instructions in their ROTC service drill manual for most drill movements. Exceptions include the previously discussed Daily Formations, Military Reviews, and March Ins. Additional exception include Saber Drill and Guidon Drill (discussed in subsequent chapters) and the execution of turning movements while marching.
- B. Column movements: All units except the Band will execute column movements as opposed to turning movements in order to change direction.
- (1) The commander gives the preparatory command (*Column Right* or *Column Left* as appropriate) over the right shoulder as the foot corresponding to the desired new direction of march strikes the ground. If the unit is marching in a Corps "block" formation (company/squadron/battery mass at normal interval between ranks and files), no supplementary commands are issued by platoon or flight leaders. The commander gives the command of execution MARCH the next time the same foot strikes the ground after the supplementary commands have been given.

- (2) The commander and guidon bearer execute their turn movement on the command of execution and not before.
- (3) As each rank executes the column movement, those on the inside of the turn will pick up the half step as they come on line with those in their rank until the outer most person comes on line. When the rank has completed coming on line in the new direction of march, all those in the rank will step off in quick time (full 30-inch step at standard cadence) together without command. Each succeeding rank does likewise. There is no command of *Forward*, MARCH after a column movement.



## CHAPTER 4 – SABER DRILL

1. Authorization for use of the saber
  - A. The cadet officers saber is authorized for use by all cadet commanders and all cadet staff officers at parades, reviews, and other ceremonies.
  - B. A cadet is considered under arms when armed with the saber. Although the saber is a ceremonial weapon, the saber will be treated with highest respect and be carried only in prescribed manner.
  - C. Cadet Corps uniform regulations prescribe the appropriate uniforms for wear when armed with a saber. However, for instructional purposes, Corps Commander may authorize the wear of sabers while in Class C's or PT gear during rehearsals and when conducting drill and ceremonies training.
2. Drill movements with the saber are made with a fluid, deliberate motion. Trying to “snap” or “whip” the saber will usually result in the execution of the movement seeming to be awkward or ragged. Cadet Officers execute the saber manual in the same manner with the following exceptions:
  - A. The officer's scabbard is rotated to draw or return saber. The Cadet officer's scabbard is worn with the convex edge to the rear except when rotated 180-degrees to draw or return saber.



Front View



Left



Properly Worn

- B. Cadet Staff Officers draw and return when the staff commander executes the movement and, unless directed otherwise, execute all other movements on the commander's separate commands to the staff. Except when directed, unit commanders execute all movements of saber manual on the major unit commander's command to the major unit.
  - C. When marching with saber at the carry, the right arm should swing 6 inches to the front and 3 inches to the rear. The exception to this is during eyes right while on the march, the right arm is held straight at the side. Cadets will hold the scabbard with the left hand while marching, thumb along the trouser.
  - D. When not in formation, keep the saber in its scabbard. Salute by executing a hand salute.
3. Officers assume the position of 'Carry Saber' when:
- A. Giving commands.
  - B. Changing position in formation at quick time.
  - C. Addressing or being addressed by a senior (except when saluting).
  - D. The preparatory command for any quick time marching movement.
  - E. Marching at quick time.
  - F. Any manual of arms movement has been ordered except parade rest, at ease, rest, present arms, or eyes right (left). (Organization staffs excluded).
  - G. In formation with personnel to your front at normal distance or less. (Organization staffs excluded), remain at carry saber except during rest or at ease.
4. Officers assume the position of 'Present Saber' when:
- A. Saluting with the saber.
  - B. The unit is presented to the colors or any person, or when the "*National Anthem*," "*Ruffles and Flourishes*," "*To the Color*," "*Retreat*," "*Hail to the Chief*," memorial "*Taps*" or other musical honors to flag and general officers is played.
  - C. Executing eyes right while marching past a reviewing officer or stand. If in the interior or rear of a formation, remain at carry saber.



5. Draw Saber

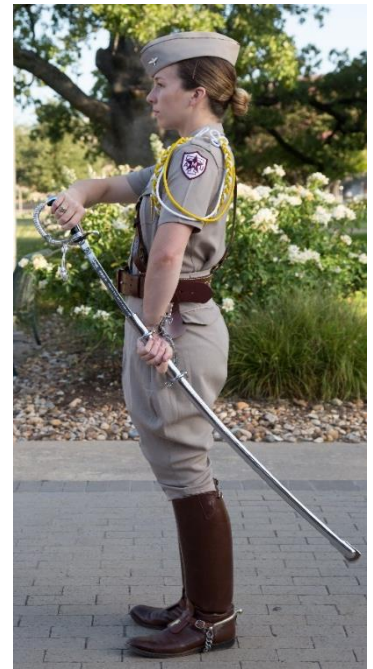
- A. The command is **“Draw, SABER.”**
- B. On the Preparatory Command **“Draw”** Officers. Turn the scabbard clockwise 180 degrees to the rear to form an angle of 45 degrees with the deck. At the same time, reach across the body and grasp the saber grip with the right hand; draw the saber approximately 10 inches from the scabbard until the right wrist and forearm are straight and parallel to the deck. The left hand holds the scabbard against the side.

C. On The Command of Execution **“SABER”**

- (1) Draw the saber smartly, raising the right arm to its full extent, directly to the front at an angle of about 45 degrees, the saber in a straight line with the arm, true edge down; drop the left hand to the side.
- (2) Pause for one count.
- (3) Bring the false edge of the blade against the shoulder seam, blade vertical, back of the grip to the rear, and the arm nearly extended. The right thumb and forefinger embrace the lower part of the grip, with the thumb against the trouser seam, and the remaining fingers joined in a natural curl behind the end of the hilt as if holding a pen or pencil. Turn the scabbard back to the original position. This is the position of carry saber.



Front View



Side View



Side View **“Saber”**

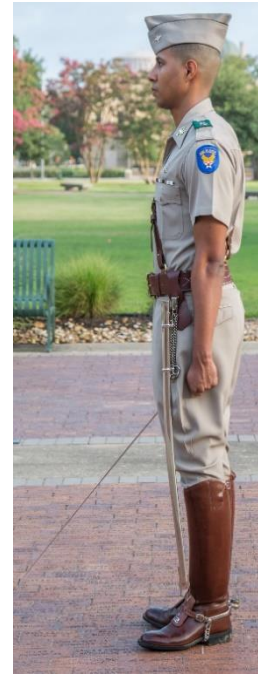
6. Present Arms from CARRY or ORDER

- A. The command is **“Present, (ARMS).”** It may be given only when halted at order or carry saber. It is executed in two counts.
- B. On **“Present,”** raise the right hand to the level of and 6 inches in front of the neck. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist slightly bent, and inner forearm against the body. The blade should incline forward at a 30-degree angle from vertical.
- C. On **“(ARMS),”** bring the point down smartly, without whipping, to a position 3 inches above the deck and slightly right of the right foot. Straighten the arm so the knuckle bow is against the trouser seam. The blade is inclined down and to the front with the true edge to the left. The thumb remains on the left side of the grip.

- D. When at carry or order saber and it becomes necessary to salute without command, execute present saber. After the salute has been returned, go to order saber (then to carry saber if walking).



On Command **“Present”**



On Command **“ARMS”**

7. ORDER SABER from PRESENT SABER

- A. The command is **“Order, (ARMS).”** It is executed in one count. On **“SABER (ARMS),”** turn the true edge down. In this position, the right arm hangs naturally with the thumb along the trouser seam. The blade slants down to the front with the point 3 inches from the deck.



Present Saber



Order Saber

8. CARRY SABER from ORDER SABER or PRESENT SABER

- A. The command is “**Carry, SABER**” it may be given only when halted at order saber or present saber.
- B. When at order saber and the command “**Carry, SABER**” is given. On the command of execution “**SABER,**” bring the false edge of the blade against the shoulder seam, blade vertical, back of the grip to the rear, and the arm nearly extended. The right thumb and forefinger embrace the lower part of the grip, with the thumb against the trouser seam, and the remaining fingers joined in a natural curl behind the end of the hilt. This is the position of carry saber.
- C. When at present saber and the command of “**Carry, SABER**” is given.
  - (1) On the preparatory command of “**Carry,**” turn the true edge down. In this position, the right arm hangs naturally with the thumb along the trouser seam. The blade slants down to the front with the point 3 inches from the deck.
  - (2) On the command of execution “**SABER,**” bring the false edge of the blade against the shoulder seam, blade vertical, back of the grip to the rear, and the arm nearly extended. The right thumb and forefinger embrace the lower part of the grip, with the thumb against the trouser seam, and the remaining fingers joined in a natural curl behind the end of the hilt. This is the position of carry saber.

9. EYES RIGHT from CARRY or ORDER SABER

- A. The command is “**Eyes, RIGHT.**” It may be given when halted at order saber or when marching at carry saber. It is executed in two counts. Below describes the execution when marching.
- B. The preparatory command “**Eyes**” is given as the right foot strikes the deck.
- C. As the left foot strikes the deck raise the right hand to the level of and 6 inches in front of the neck. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist slightly bent, and inner forearm against the body. The blade should incline forward at a 30-degree angle from vertical. This movement is the same as that made on the preparatory command of “**Present.**” The left arm continues to swing naturally.
- D. The command of execution “**RIGHT**” is given as the right foot strikes the deck.
- E. As the left foot strikes the deck bring the point down smartly, without whipping, to a position 3 inches above the deck and slightly right of the right foot. Straighten the arm so the knuckle bow is against the trouser seam. The blade is slanted down and to the front, with the true edge to the left. The thumb remains on the left side of the grip. At the same time, turn the head and eyes 45 degrees to the right. If in extreme right file, continue looking straight ahead. The right arm does not swing.

10. CARRY SABER from EYES RIGHT

- A. The command is “**Ready, FRONT.**” Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- B. The preparatory command “**Ready**” is given as the left foot strikes the deck.
- C. As the right foot strikes the deck turn the true edge of the saber down.
- D. The command of execution “**FRONT**” is given as the left foot strikes the deck.



- E. As the right foot strikes the deck raise the saber to carry. At the same time, turn the head and eyes to the front.

11. PARADE REST from ORDER SABER

- A. The command is **“Parade, REST.”** This command is normally given from order saber, in which case it is executed in one count.
- B. If given when at carry saber, go to order saber on the command of **“Parade.”**
- C. On **“REST,”** move the left foot smartly 12 inches to the left. At the same time, lower the point of the saber to the deck and release the scabbard, place the left hand behind you, just below the belt.



Front View

Side View

12. ORDER SABER from PARADE REST

- A. The command is **“Company, ATTENTION.”** It is executed in one count.
- B. On **“ATTENTION,”** bring the left heel smartly against the right and the left-hand back to the side. Raise the blade so the point is 3 inches from the deck. Resume the left hand grasp of the scabbard.

13. AT EASE from any position of the Saber

- A. The command is **“AT EASE.”**
- B. On **“AT EASE,”** go to order saber if not already at that position. Move the left foot 12 inches to the left and lower the point of the saber to the deck. Rest the weight equally on both feet with the legs straight. At the same time, place the left hand behind you. Keep the fingers straight and joined, the palm flat and facing rear. You may relax and, except for your right foot and saber point, move about. Do not talk.

14. To return to ATTENTION

- A. The command is **“Platoon (Company or Detail), ATTENTION.”** Execution is begun on the preparatory command.
- B. On **“Platoon (Company or Detail)”** go to parade rest.
- C. On **“ATTENTION,”** bring the left heel smartly against the right and the left-hand to the side. Raise the blade so the point is 3 inches from the deck. Resume left hand grasp of scabbard.



## 15. RETURN SABER from CARRY or ORDER SABER

A. The command is **“Return, SABER.”** Execution is begun on the preparatory command.

B. On the preparatory command **“Return.”**

- (1) Officers raise the right hand and saber to a position 6 inches in front of the neck, as in the first count of present saber.
- (2) At the same time, turn the scabbard clockwise 180 degrees to the rear. The scabbard should form a 45-degree angle with the deck.
- (3) Lower the saber point to a position just above the opening of the scabbard. Look down at the opening. Guide the point into the opening with the left thumb and forefinger until the right wrist and forearm is parallel to the deck.
- (4) At the same time, raise the head back to attention. The left hand holds the scabbard against the side.
- (5) On the command of execution **“SABER,”** push smartly down on saber and release the hand grip so it will slide all the way into the scabbard. Then bring the right hand smartly back to the right side. Return scabbard to the normal position.



Raise Saber



Insert Saber into Scabbard



Final Position on Command **“Return”**



## CHAPTER 5 – GUIDON DRILL

### 1. General

- A. The guidon is a company, squadron, or battery identification flag. It is carried on an 8-foot staff for unit formation, ceremonies, and at other times prescribed by the commander.
- B. In selecting a guidon bearer, the company commander should choose an individual who is outstanding in bearing, appearance, and ability.
- C. The guidon is brought to present guidon, parade rest, and order guidon upon orders to the unit by the commander.
- D. When at order guidon, bring the guidon to carry on the preparatory command for any facing or marching movement.
- E. The two grasps of the guidon are identified as the “V” grip and the strong grip.
  - (1) The “V” grip is used at the order and when executing “Present Guidon” and during “Eyes Right” and “Officers Center.” The staff is placed in the “V” formed by the thumb and fingers of the right hand. Thumb along the trouser seam with the fingers extended and joined.
  - (2) The strong grip is used while on the march and for facing movements. The strong grip is formed when the thumb is wrapped around the front of the staff with the fingers wrapped to the rear.



“V” Grip



Strong Grip

### 2. ORDER GUIDON

At order guidon, the ferrule (bottom of staff) rests on the deck touching the outside edge of the right shoe close to the little toe. The staff is grasped in the "V" grip with the right elbow close to the side so that the forearm helps to support the staff. The upper staff rests in the hollow of the right shoulder. The staff is vertical with the flat side of the spearhead facing front. The rest of the body is at attention.

### 3. CARRY GUIDON

This is the normal position of the guidon while marching at quick time. It is carried using the strong grip with the ferrule 6 inches above the deck and the flat side of the spearhead facing front.



4. DOUBLE TIME with the Guidon

For marching at double time, on the preparatory command, bring the staff across the body with the spearhead to the left. The right hand grasps the same spot as at carry. The right forearm is level with the deck and the elbow against the body. Grip the staff with the left hand in front of the point where the neck and left shoulder join. The flat side of the spearhead should face front.



5. CARRY GUIDON from ORDER GUIDON

This movement is executed on the preparatory command for any movement that will require the guidon bearer's feet to be moved. Execution is begun on a preparatory command such as "FORWARD, ..." "ABOUT, ..." etc.

- A. On the preparatory command, reach across the body and grasp the staff with the left hand 2 inches above the right.
- B. Change the grasp to the strong grip, while raising the staff with the left hand until the ferrule is 6 inches above the deck. Hold the staff vertical with the right hand.
- C. Move the left hand smartly back to the side.



Order Guidon



Carry Guidon 6" off deck



6. PRESENT GUIDON from ORDER or CARRY GUIDON

- A. On the preparatory command, “**Present**”, raise the guidon vertically, by grasping the staff with the right hand. Keep raising the guidon until the right hand is on line with the right shoulder. Hold the guidon in this position until the command of execution is given.
- B. On the command of execution, “**Arms**”, lower the guidon to the front using the right hand, keeping the left hand in the same position as Raised Guidon until the guidon is in the horizontal position resting under the arm pit. As soon as the staff is horizontal, return the left hand sharply to the left side. Guidon bearer will be granted one opportunity to smartly fix guidon field with a flip of the stick.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4 - Front View



Step 4 - Side View



7. ORDER GUIDON from PRESENT GUIDON

On the command “**Order**”, regrasp the staff with the left hand at its original position and execute Raised Guidon. On the command of execution, “**Arms**”, lower the guidon back to the carry or order position.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

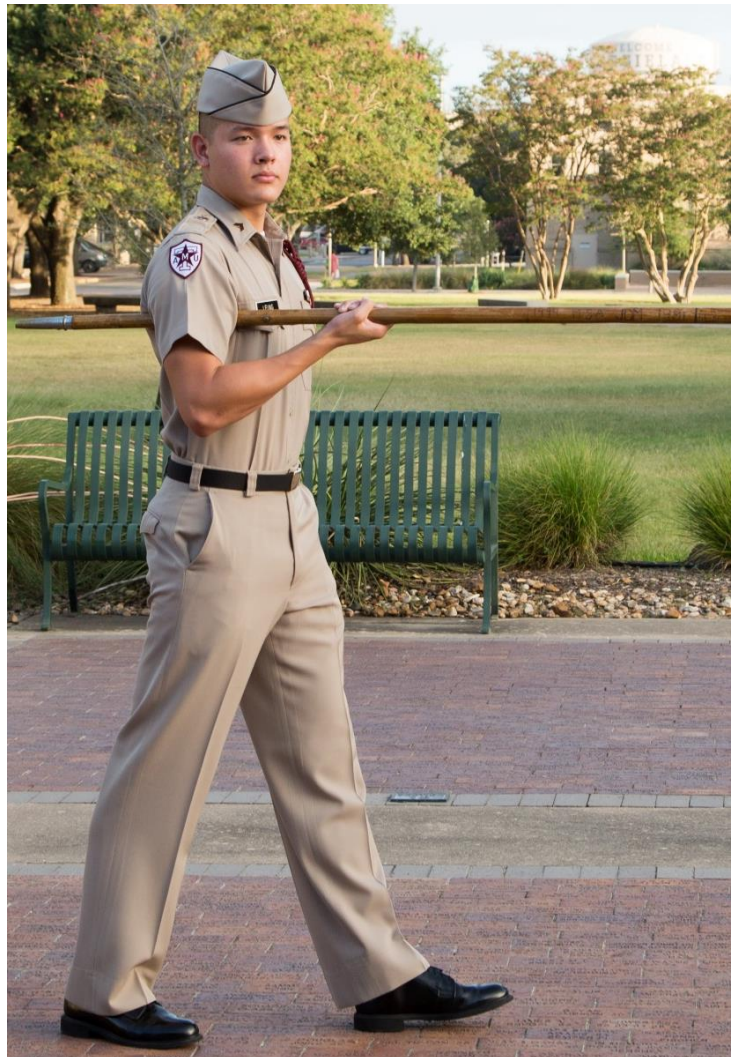


8. EYES RIGHT with Guidon

- A. On the preparatory command, **Eyes** (of Eyes, **RIGHT**), raise the guidon vertically, by grasping the staff with the right hand. Keep raising the guidon until the right hand is on line with the right shoulder. Hold the guidon in this position until the command of execution is given.
- B. On the command of execution, **RIGHT**, lower the guidon to the front using the right hand, keeping the left hand in the same position as Raised Guidon until the guidon is in the horizontal position resting under the arm pit. As soon as the staff is horizontal, return the left hand sharply to the left side and swing naturally when marching.
- C. On the command **Ready** (of Ready, **FRONT**), regrasp the staff with the left hand at its original position and execute Raised Guidon. On the command of execution, **FRONT**, lower the guidon back to the carry or order position.



Step 1. Side View



Step 2. Side View

9. GUIDON Salute from CARRY or ORDER GUIDON

- A. The command is “**Guidon (Rifle), SALUTE.**”
- B. This movement may be executed on command, when in formation, or individually if the guidon bearer is in route to or from a formation. It is executed in two counts.
- C. On “**SALUTE,**” move the left hand, palm down, smartly to a position above the right hand with the left arm parallel to the deck. Keep the thumb and fingers straight and together. Touch the staff with the first joint of the forefinger.
- D. Turn the head and eyes toward the person being saluted. After the salute is returned, or the command “**Order (Ready), ARMS (TWO)**” is given move the left hand smartly back to the left side and look to the front.



Guidon Salute. Forearm and Palm parallel to deck.

10. PARADE REST from ORDER Guidon

- A. The command is “**Parade, REST.**” It is executed in one count. It may be given only when halted at attention.
- B. On the command of execution “**REST,**” slide the right hand up the staff to shoulder height. The staff remains in place and vertical. Without loss of motion, straighten the right arm so the staff of the guidon tilts forward at 30 degrees.
- C. The fingers and thumb of the right hand are wrapped around the staff. The ferrule remains in the same position as at order guidon. The flat side of the spearhead remains facing front.
- D. Place the left hand behind the back, just below the belt. Keep the fingers straight and touching. The palm is flat and facing the rear. At the same time, move the left foot smartly 12 inches to the left of the right foot.



Step 1



Step 2

11. ORDER GUIDON from PARADE REST.

From PARADE REST, the command is “**Platoon, Company etc., ATTENTION.**” At the command “**ATTENTION,**” go smartly to ORDER GUIDON.



Step 1

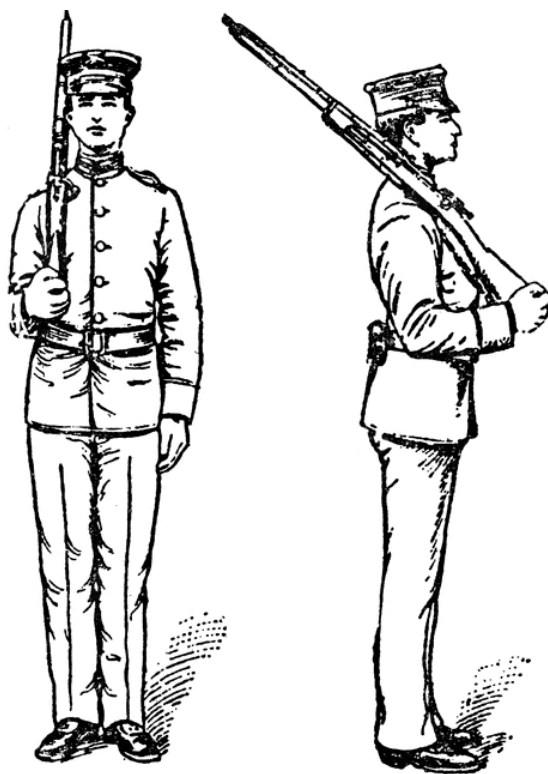


Step 2



## CHAPTER 6 – MARCHING TOURS

1. Marching Tours will be conducted as part of a Discipline Sanction.
2. Marching Tours will be conducted in the Uniform of the Day.
3. Cadets will carry their weapon at the position of Right Shoulder Arms. They will place their right hand on the butt plate of the rifle while resting the rifle on their shoulder.
4. When carrying the rifle, the right elbow should be pinned against the cadet's torso, making a 90 degree angle with the arm holding the weapon.
5. The left arm will swing naturally as if the cadet is marching without a rifle.



Right Shoulder Arms, Diagram





## CHAPTER 7 – COLORS

### 1. Rendering Honors Outdoors

- A. Whenever the National Anthem, "To the Colors," "Hail to the Chief," or "Ruffles and Flourishes" is played, at the first note of music, all dismounted personnel in uniform, who are not in formation, who are within saluting distance of the National Flag, will face in the direction of the flag, or music if the flag is not in view, and salute, maintaining the salute until the last note of the music is sounded. Cadets who are not in uniform will face the direction of the music or the National Colors, come to attention, and place their right hand over their heart. Cadets will follow these procedures to render honors when attending an event in Kyle Field (Aggie Football Game).
- B. Rendering Honors Indoors: When the National Anthem or other music identified above is played indoors, cadets stand at attention and face the music or the National Flag if one is present. Cadets do not salute unless they are under arms.
- C. National Anthems of countries friendly to the United States of America. The honors described above are rendered when the National Anthem of countries friendly to the United States is played at official functions (Including Kyle Field). Cadets not in uniform assume the position of attention.
- D. Honors to Texas Flag. When the Texas state song (Texas Our Texas) is played, cadets will stand, face the flag (or the music if no flag is present) and assume the position of Attention for the duration of the song

### 2. Flag Detail

- A. The Flag of the United States of America is displayed at full mast in on the Quad between Reveille and Retreat each day of the school year when Corps of Cadets is present, unless otherwise directed by the Commandant. This includes Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays even if Reveille and Retreat Formations are not conducted. Responsibility for this daily display of the flag of the United States of America is assigned to the Company B-2
- B. The Duty Company raises and lowers the National Colors each day on campus on the Academic Plaza and at the Williams Administration Building. The Texas Flag is also raised and lowered at the Administration Building.
- C. When the **FOLDED** flag passes by during Flag Detail, it is treated as a cased Color and is not to be saluted by persons meeting the detail.
- D. Frayed, torn, or otherwise damaged flags will be promptly reported to the Corps Operations Officer for replacement.
- E. On the occasion of Silver Taps, Aggie Muster, and when specified by the Office of the Commandant, the National Flag (and Texas Flag), having been rapidly raised to full staff, will be lowered slowly to half-staff. To retrieve the colors at the end of the day, the Duty Company raises the flag to full staff before lowering and recovery the flags.



## CHAPTER 8 – MARCHING GRADE/INSPECTION CRITERIA

1. The following commands, movements, and criteria will be graded whenever deemed appropriate by the Corps Commander and Commandant. The score for each graded event is weighted and combined with other graded events to determine annual award rankings. Results of each graded event will be published and distributed following the graded event.

Items to be Graded:	Total Points	
	UNITS	BAND
A. Arm Swing and Step	20	25
B. Military Appearance	20	25
C. Distance and Alignment	20	25
D. General Appearance	20	25
E. Eyes Right, Saber and Guidon	5	N/A
F. Eyes Right, Unit	5	N/A
G. Ready Front, Saber and Guidon	5	N/A
H. Ready Front, Unit	5	N/A

Note: An unexcused absence from a graded event will reduce the graded points awarded by one point for each cadet not excused.

2. Criteria for Graded Items:
  - A. Arm Swing and Step (each individual cut is one point of the possible total points):
    - (1) The swing of the arms will measure 6 inches to the front (measured from the rear of the hand to the front of the thigh) and 3 inches to the rear (measured from the front of the hand to the back of the thigh). Arm swing is the same with the saber.
    - (2) Arm swing is natural without locked elbows or clenched fists. Arm swing and step are synchronized as in normal walking.
    - (3) Step: 30 inches, measured heel to heel. No “high stepping.” Unit is in step. Marching is at the position of attention.
  - B. Military Appearance (each individual cut is one point of the possible total points):
    - (1) The prescribed uniform should be neat, clean, and properly fitted.
    - (2) Proper name tags are worn.
    - (3) Shoe and boot condition and shine, and haircut/style conform to Corps standards.
    - (4) Discipline within the ranks is evaluated both while marching and at the halt. Movement, talking, and improper position of attention, parade rest, and present arms are cuts.
    - (5) Sunglasses or other tinted glasses are unauthorized during graded events or in other unit formations. Exceptions will only be made based on written request of a medical

authority. Commanders of cadets who are required by medical authority to wear tinted glasses while outdoors will submit a list of those cadets to the ACOT. Unauthorized tinted glasses are a “pull out.”

- (6) “Pull outs” are closely observed. A “pull out” is an automatic deduction of half the total points possible.

C. Distance (from last cadets in preceding marching element). Each yard deviation from that prescribed will result in the loss of one point of the total possible points.

- (1) Unit: The Unit Commander will be twelve (12) paces from the last cadet/cadets of the preceding marching element for Reviews/Corps Trips and six (6) paces for March-Ins.
- (2) Band: The head drum major will be twelve paces from the Corps Color Guard.
- (3) Staff: The Commander will be twelve paces from the last cadet(s) of the preceding marching element.
- (4) Color Guard: The Color Guard will maintain six paces between the last cadet(s) of the preceding staff element.

D. Alignment

- (1) Alignment: Each rank or file (unit) or individual (staff or color guard) not correctly aligned will result in the loss of .5 point (unit) or 1.5 points (staff and color guards) of the 10 possible points. Commander, Guidon and First Sergeant mis-alignment results in the loss of one point each. Each rank or file not properly aligned in the Band will result in the loss of .25 points of the 12.5 possible points.
- (2) Unit Alignment: Interval is normal (30 inches) between ranks and files at all graded events. The Commander is centered on the rear of the preceding unit. The first rank stays centered on and six paces to the rear of the Commander. The Guidon is one pace to the rear and one pace to the left of the Commander. The First Sergeant is two paces to the rear and centered on the last rank of the unit.
- (3) Band Alignment: Extended interval (60 inches) between ranks and files.
- (4) Staff Alignment: The Commander is centered on the rear of the preceding marching element. The first rank stays centered on and two paces to the rear of the Commander. The interval will be normal (30 inches) between staff ranks and files.
- (5) Color Guard Alignment: Interval is normal (30 inches).

E. General Appearance (each cut is one point of the possible 20 or 25 points):

- (1) Sizing: Units (other than the Band), are sized in one block (junior, sophomore, and freshman separate class sizing NOT authorized) with the tallest cadets to the right and front. Exceptions are the Right Guide and First Sergeant. Units may have an all upper-class right file (no more upper-class left files) and they must be sized from tallest to shortest. Seniors must be sized within the “boot” rank(s). NOTE: If seniors are also on the second row, that row should be all white belts and not part of the block sizing.

- (2) Files: Corps units march in four files (four-person front). Exception to the four-file rule for units is as follows: when the situation allows for greater room to march and the unit present for duty strength results in the number of ranks being greater than ten, units may expand to a five or six-person front.
  - (3) Conduct: Cadet behavior is closely evaluated both while marching and at the halt from the assembly area to the dismissal area. Normally the unit is at *attention* or *parade rest* (a modified position of *attention*) at a halt. As such, no moving, talking, looking around, laughing, chewing, or other actions in violation of the requirements of these positions are permitted. This standard is applied equally to all classes. For extended halts, other than on the final line of a review, the commander may command the unit to a rest position (*at ease* or *rest*). Such a command will apply to all members of the unit. While both rest positions allow movement except for the right foot, only *rest* allows talking (in a quiet manner).
  - (4) Snake Effect or Weaving: Units are graded on their *dress*, or alignment with the person to the side, while marching.
  - (5) Bouncing: Units are graded on the number of cadets *bouncing*, caused by being out of step and causing the body to move out of unison with the other cadets.
  - (6) A “pull out” is an automatic deduction of half the total points possible.
- F. Eyes Right, Saber and Guidon (each cut is one point of the five possible):
- (1) Command voice will be judged for content, volume, distinctness, pronunciation, inflection and timing. The preparatory command **EYES** and command of execution **RIGHT** are both given as the right foot strikes the ground. The command of execution is given when the commander is parallel to the marker (which is placed six paces before the reviewing stand). The command is properly timed if the commander is within plus or minus one pace of the marker when the command is delivered. Each pace outside this tolerance is a cut. No preparatory unit size command is given (such as *Company, Squadron, Staff*).
- G. Eyes Right Unit (each cut is one point of the five possible):
- (1) When the left foot strikes the ground immediately following the command of execution **RIGHT**, all cadets except for the right file, sharply execute **EYES RIGHT** (head and eyes held at 45 degrees to the right, shoulders parallel to the front rank).
  - (2) When the left foot strikes the ground immediately following the command of execution **RIGHT**, all unit cadet officers also execute the *hand salute*. All cadet officers on a staff likewise execute present saber in unison with the commander. No cadet non-commissioned officers (including those on a staff) execute a salute unless acting as the commander in the absence of all cadet unit or staff officers.
- H. Ready Front, Saber and Guidon (each cut is one point of the five possible):
- (1) Command voice will be judged for correct content, volume, distinctness, pronunciation, inflection and timing. The preparatory command **READY** and command of execution **FRONT** are both given as the left foot strikes the ground. The commander gives the preparatory command two paces before the last rank or cadet of the unit or staff passes the marker (which is placed six paces beyond the reviewing

stand). The command of execution is given the next time the left foot strikes the ground when the last rank or cadet of the unit or staff is parallel to the marker. The command is properly timed if the last rank or cadet of the unit is within plus or minus one pace of the marker when the command is delivered. Each pace outside this tolerance is a cut.

I. Ready Front, Unit (each cut is one point of the five possible):

- (1) When the right foot strikes the ground immediately following the command of execution, **FRONT**, all cadets (except for the right file) sharply execute *ready front* (head and eyes turned sharply to the front).
- (2) When the right foot strikes the ground immediately following the command of execution, **FRONT**, all unit cadet officers also execute *order arms*. All cadet officers on a staff likewise execute *carry saber*.

J. Discipline, conduct, and “pull outs”:

- (1) Use of tobacco or gum in formation; silent commands of execution; talking in ranks, looking around or laughing; improperly worn uniform, extreme hair length; dirty or scuffed foot gear or dirty and/or wrinkled uniforms; etc., are indicative of poor leadership, training, and discipline within units and present an unfavorable public image of the Corps of Cadets. Evaluators noting any of the above, regardless of grading area responsibility, will mark that unit accordingly and these observations will be provided to the evaluators of military and general appearance. Each such cut will result in the loss of one point in the areas of military or general appearance.
- (2) “Pull outs” (such as improper name tags, improper head gear, rank insignia or brass; unauthorized cords, awards, patches or other unauthorized modifications to the prescribed uniform or guidon; or conduct considered so unbecoming as to reflect discredit upon the Corps and A&M) will be an automatic deduction of half the possible points in the area of evaluation in addition to any other point loss assessed. Conduct or appearance of such a discreditable nature so as to cause the Corps or A&M to suffer humiliation or public embarrassment, may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

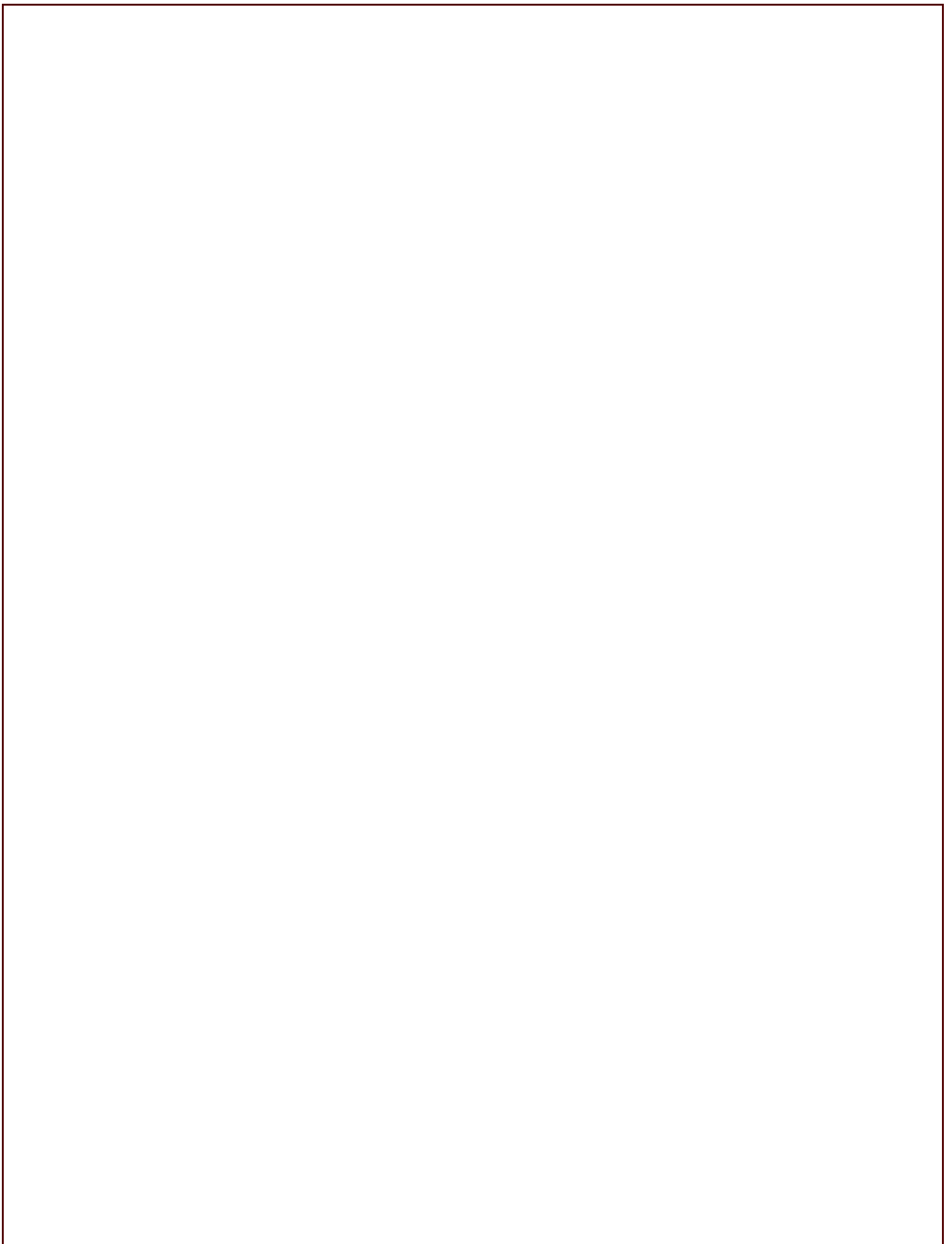
K. Participation and Absence Exemptions:

- (1) Corps formations, activities and graded marching events are mandatory for all cadets. Accepting membership in the Corps of Cadets carries with it the privilege and obligation to represent one’s unit, the Corps and Texas A&M University as part of the largest uniformed student body at a state college or university and as the embodiment of the traditions of selfless service and dedication for which Aggies are widely known. Unless there is a compelling reason for a cadet to be absent, he or she is expected to attend all scheduled Corps events. This obligation is even more important for upper class cadets who must set the example for under class cadets.
- (2) There are situations that preclude a cadet from attendance at a Corps event. In order to obtain an exemption from being considered absent without permission, the following procedures must be strictly followed. At graded events, failure to do so results in the unit losing points in its marching score as described above.

- (3) A cadet requesting an excused absence from a Corps event must submit a request through the chain of command to the Major Unit Commander stating the reason for the absence. Staff members submit their request to the commander of their staff. This request must be done a minimum of five class days prior to the event. In cases of emergency situations or unforeseeable circumstances, late requests may be considered.
- (4) Commanders will ensure accountability is reported via the format established by Corps Staff. The Corps Adjutant will provide accountability reports to Assistant Commandant for Operations and Training the first work day following the subject March-in.
- (5) **Any unit which permits an unauthorized person to march in or with their formation will receive zero points for the event and the commander may be subject to further sanctions.**









*"We Make Leaders"*