



JROTC Virtual Learning

LET 1 / JROTC

Steps from the Past

April 27, 2020



Lesson: April 27, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will summarize the origin of drills dating back to the Continental Army of the United States, Identify five purpose of drill in times of war and peace, compare the quality of discipline instilled in the continental Army to what military drills develop today.

Unit 2

Leadership Theory and Application

LESSON 1: STEPS FROM THE PAST



Reflection:

- How are your everyday patterns similar to or different from drills?
- What is the impact of drill on military life?

Student Learning Plan

Unit 2: Leadership Theory and Application

Steps from the Past [U2C2L1]



What you will accomplish in this lesson:

Explain the importance of drill in military discipline



Why this lesson is important:

This lesson introduces you to the importance of drill and ceremonies, their history and purpose. The precision and timing of drill promotes skill, teamwork, and discipline. In later lessons and in Leadership Lab, you will see how you can polish your image and personal appearance with the right look, prepare yourself for inspections, understand the roles of leaders and followers in drill, and practice individual drill movements. In this learning plan, you will examine the origins of drill in the Continental Army and identify how drill is used in today's military and in your life.



What you will learn in this lesson:

- Summarize the origin of drill dating back to the Continental Army of the United States
- Identify five purposes of drill in times of war and peace
- Compare the qualities of discipline instilled in the Continental Army to what military drill develops today
- Define key words: discipline, drill, maneuver, precision, unison



You will have successfully met this lesson's purpose:

- when you create a skit, poem, rap, or song about the origins of drill and the purpose it serves in the American military and in daily life
- when your product describes the condition of the Continental Army prior to the establishment of drill
- when your product explains who Baron Friedrich von Steuben was and what he did to establish drill in the Continental Army
- when your product explains five purposes of drill in wartime and peacetime
- when your product describes two examples of the role of drill in your daily life
- when your skit, poem, rap or song engages your audience



Learning Activities:

These learning activities are designed to help you learn the target skills and knowledge for this lesson. Your instructor may assign additional or alternative learning activities.

INQUIRE PHASE: What do you already know?



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1. THINK ABOUT what you know about drilling and military ceremonies. PREPARE for this lesson by discussing *What you will accomplish in this lesson; What you will learn in this lesson; Why this lesson is important, and When you will have successfully meet the lesson's purpose.*
 2. VIEW a video clip of drills in daily life and a drill competition.
 3. CREATE a chart to define drill and identify non-military drills.
 4. REFLECT on drilling. ANSWER the reflection questions presented by your instructor.

GATHER PHASE: So, what else do you need to know or learn?



- _____1. EXPLORE the origins and purpose of drill in the Continental Army by researching an assigned question in your text and on the Internet. RECORD research on chart paper.
- _____2. DISCUSS the role of drill in the military and in everyday life.
- _____3. REFLECT on your learning experience. ANSWER the reflection questions presented by your instructor.

PROCESS PHASE: Now what can you do with this new information you've learned? ...



- _____1. OBSERVE a drill demonstration by senior Cadets.
- _____2. PARTICIPATE in an initial drill activity.
- _____3. REFLECT on your participation in drill. ANSWER the reflection questions presented by your instructor.



Assessment Activities:



- _____1. DISCUSS how you would explain the origins and purpose of drill to someone from a different country.
- _____2. CREATE a skit, rap, poem, or song about the answers to your assigned questions. USE musical tapes or CDs, or visual aids found in your research to enhance your product.
- _____3. PRESENT your product to the class.
- _____4. COMPLETE the Steps from the Past Performance Assessment Task. SUBMIT your completed performance assessment task to your instructor for feedback and a grade.
- _____5. REVIEW the key words of this lesson.
- _____6. REFLECT on what you have learned in this lesson and how you might use it in the future.



Self-Paced Learning and Assessment Activities:

Independently complete the activities outlined below:

1. **Inquire Phase:** Complete the Learning Activities 1 – 4 or as modified by your instructor.
2. **Gather Phase:** Complete the Learning Activities 1 – 3 or as modified by your instructor.
3. **Process Phase:** Complete the Learning Activities 1 – 3 or as modified by your instructor.



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U2C2L1

Steps From the Past

Key Words:

Discipline Drill

Maneuver

Precision

Unison

What You Will Learn to Do

Explain the importance of drill in military discipline

Linked Core Abilities

- Communicate using verbal, non-verbal, visual, and written techniques

Skills and Knowledge You Will Gain Along the Way

- Summarize the origin of drill dating back to the Continental Army of the United States
- Identify five purposes of drill in times of war and peace
- Compare the qualities of discipline instilled in the Continental Army to what military drill develops today

Introduction

This lesson introduces you to the importance of **drill** and ceremonies, their history and purpose. Drill involves specific movements that move a military unit from one place to another, or from one formation to another. Drill has been used all over the world to help prepare military units for crisis situations. Each person involved in a military drill is expected to learn and execute these movements precisely, and simultaneously, they are expected to understand how to change or adapt their movements to the movements of the group.

The **precision** and timing of drill promotes skill, teamwork and **discipline**. In later lessons, you will see how you can polish your image and personal appearance with the right look, prepare yourself for inspections, understand the roles of leaders and followers in drill, and practice individual drill movements.

The History of Drills

In 1775, when this country was striving for independence and existence, the nation's leaders were confronted with the problem of not only establishing a government, but also organizing an army that was already engaged in war. From the "shot heard around the world" on April 19, 1775, until Valley Forge in 1778, U.S. revolutionary forces were little more than a group of untrained civilians fighting against well-trained, highly disciplined British forces.

For three years, General Washington's U.S. troops endured many hardships, including a lack of funds, food rations, clothing and equipment. Additionally, they suffered loss after loss to the superior British troops. These hardships and losses mostly stemmed from a lack of military atmosphere and discipline in this country.



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Recognizing the crisis, General Washington (through Benjamin Franklin, the American Ambassador to France) enlisted the aid of a Prussian officer, Baron Friedrich von Steuben. Upon his arrival at Valley Forge on February 23, 1778, von Steuben, a former staff officer with Frederick the Great, met a U.S. Army of several thousand half-starved, wretched men in rags. "No European army could be kept together in such a state," he declared. He immediately began writing drill movements and regulations during the night, and teaching a model company of 120 men during the day.

Discipline became a part of military life for the 120 individuals as they learned and perfected von Steuben's military drills. They learned to respond to commands without hesitation. This new discipline instilled a



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sense of alertness, urgency, and attention to detail in the men. Confidence in themselves, and in their weapons, grew as each man perfected the drill movements. As they mastered the art of drill, they began to work as a team – developing a sense of pride in their unit.

Observers were amazed to see how quickly and orderly von Steuben could form and **maneuver** the troops into different battle formations – a direct result of the drills they had learned under his supervision. Officers observed that organization, chain of command, and control improved as each man had a specific place and task within the formation.

Later, General Washington dispersed the members of the model company, who were well versed in drill, throughout the U.S. Army to teach the discipline. From this drill instruction, they improved the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Army.

To ensure that the uniformity and overall effectiveness of drill continued, von Steuben wrote the first field manual for the U.S. Army in 1779: *The Regulations for the Order and*



Discipline of the Troops of the United States (commonly referred to as the Blue Book). The Army did not change the drill procedures initiated at Valley Forge for 85 years, until the American Civil War. In fact, many of those original drill terms and procedures still remain in effect today.

Purpose and Objectives of Drill

Throughout history, armies have practiced drill. In times of war, leaders used drill to move troops and equipment quickly from one location to another in an orderly manner. Drills also show how many individuals can move as one unit in a flawlessly timed effort. These **unison** movements are still important on the battlefield, where mistakes can cost lives. In peacetime, drill provides a means of enhancing morale, developing a spirit of cohesion and presenting traditional and well-executed ceremonies.

When individuals react to commands rather than thought, the result is more than just a good-looking ceremony or parade — it is discipline! Drill is, and will continue to be, the backbone of military discipline. In addition to discipline, military drill teaches and develops:

- Self-confidence
- Personal pride
- Esprit de corps
- Teamwork
- Attention to detail
- Unit pride



Conclusion

Through hard work and discipline, you can learn and develop the leadership skills and abilities necessary to become an effective leader in drill, and in many other situations. Drill teaches more than just discipline, it improves team unity, attention to detail and self-confidence! An individual with pride and discipline will respond on command to produce the finest drill maneuvers in all of JROTC.



Lesson Check-up

Why is drill important during times of war? Peace?
How can your participation in JROTC drill impact you?

Performance Assessment Task

Unit 2: Leadership Theory and Application

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This performance assessment task gives you an opportunity to document your achievement of the lesson's competency:

Explain the importance of drill in military discipline



Directions

For this performance assessment task you will create an engaging and fun skit, rap, song, or poem about the origins of drill in the military, and its purpose in the military and daily life. For this assessment you will:

1. Think about the origins and purpose of drill that you studied in this lesson.
2. Create your skit, rap, poem, or song about the origins of drill in the military, Baron Friedrich von Steuben's role in establishing drill in the Continental Army, and its purpose in the military and in daily life.
3. Use the attached scoring guide criteria for what you need to do to complete this task.
4. Submit your completed performance assessment task and scoring guide to your instructor for evaluation and a grade.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that you add this performance assessment task to your Cadet Portfolio.

Steps from the Past Performance Assessment Task Scoring Guide

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Ratings</i>	
1. Your product describes the condition of the Continental Army prior to the establishment of drill	met	not met
2. Your product explains who Baron Friedrich von Steuben was and what he did to establish drill in the Continental Army	met	not met
3. Your product explains five purposes of drill in wartime and peacetime	met	not met
4. Your product describes two examples of the role of drill in your daily life	met	not met
5. Your skit, rap, poem, or song engaged your audience	met	not met
6. You communicate accurately and clearly	met	not met

Comments:

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____