

STANDARDIZED TRAINING SESSION

JROTC TRAILS WEST BRIGADE: Truman, Van Horn, William Chrisman High Schools

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Student Learning Plan

Unit 2: Leadership Theory and Application Company Formations and Movement [U2C5L3]



What you will accomplish in this lesson:

Execute company drills



Why this lesson is important:

Leading others is an important part of being a JROTC Cadet. Some of your JROTC experience includes participation in drill and ceremony. In this lesson, you will learn how to execute company drills. Activities will introduce you to the various company drill formations and associated movements. The JROTC Leadership Lab experience will provide you opportunity to practice drill and assess your skills and abilities in this area.



What you will learn in this lesson:

- Describe the correct responses to commands when forming and marching the company
- Identify the different types of company formations and related specific drill commands
- Identify the locations of the key platoon and company personnel in company formations
- Define key words: arc, base, double time, guide, mark time, mass formation, post



You will have successfully met this lesson's purpose:

- by executing company drills in Leadership Lab
- by developing a diagram showing one type of company formation
- by creating a Flow Map or written summary to support the commands and movements of the company drill
- when your diagram shows the details and positions of the company formation selected
- when your Flow Map or summary describes the procedures for forming, opening and closing ranks, and dismissing the company
- when your Flow Map or summary describes the procedures for changing the direction of movement of the company formation
- when you lead company drills using correct formation and movement



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 company drill. 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 met this lesson's purpose.*
 2. VIEW a video clip about company drill and OBSERVE the formations, commands, and responses of the Cadets. PARTICIPATE in a class discussion about the similarities and differences between platoon and company drill.
 3. REFLECT on what is required to master the concept of company drill. ANSWER the reflection questions presented by your instructor.

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



- _____1. RESEARCH an assigned company drill topic by reading about it in your student text.
- _____2. PREPARE to share what you learned with others. DEVELOP a diagram to show your assigned company formation, explaining how it is assembled. CREATE a Flow Map to show the commands and responses for the drill movements within the formation.
- _____3. REFLECT on why company formations are necessary in drill. ANSWER the reflection questions presented by your instructor.

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



- _____1. PRESENT your team diagram and Flow Map to others in the class. REMEMBER, you are the 'teacher'. LEARN from your classmates about the other assigned company formations and drill movements.
- _____2. PRACTICE the leader tasks in company formations.
- _____3. REFLECT on how you will become proficient in executing company drill. ANSWER the reflection questions presented by your instructor.



Assessment Activities:

APPLY PHASE: What else can you do with what you've learned today?



- _____1. COMPLETE the Company Formations and Movement Performance Assessment Task. SUBMIT your completed performance assessment task to your instructor for feedback and a grade.
- _____2. REVIEW the key words of this lesson.
- _____3. 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 – 3 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.
4. **Apply Phase:** Complete the Learning Activities 1 – 3 or as modified by your instructor.



Courtesy of Army JROTC

U2C5L3

Company Formations and Movement

Key Words:

Arc

Base

Double Time

Guide

Mark Time

Mass Formation

Post

What You Will Learn to Do

Execute company drills

Linked Core Abilities

- Communicate using verbal, nonverbal, visual and written techniques
- Take responsibility for your actions and choices

Skills and Knowledge You Will Gain Along the Way

- Describe the correct responses to commands when forming and marching the company
- Identify the different types of company formations and related specific drill commands
- Identify the locations of the key platoon and company personnel in company formations

Introduction

This lesson covers company drill formations and movements “without arms.” Your knowledge and recall of squad and platoon drill from previous lessons will be vitally important in understanding this information. Pay special attention to the differences between platoon and company drill and to the roles of key personnel in company drill.

Company Drill

Company drill provides the procedures for executing platoon drill in conjunction with other platoons in the same formation. For drill purposes, a company consists of a company headquarters and two or more platoons.

Drill Tips

- The company has four prescribed formations: company in line with platoons in line, company in column with platoons in column, company in column with platoons in line (used primarily for ceremonies), and a company mass formation. However, the company may form into a column of twos in the same manner as the platoon.
- The company normally forms in a line formation; however, it may re-form in column when all personnel can identify their exact position in the formation.
- The company forms basically the same as the platoon. On the command “fall-in,” platoons form in line, centered on, and facing the person forming the unit, with five-step intervals between platoons.
- When in a line or a **mass formation**, the right platoon serves as the **base**; when in a column formation, the lead platoon serves as the base.
- The first sergeant assumes the position of the company commander if there are no officers present.
- Members of a company break ranks in the same manner as in platoon drill except that the individuals called from the formation form on the company commander rather than on the platoon leader.
- The company marches, rests, and executes eyes right in the same manner as the platoon.

Forming the Company

The company has four prescribed formations:


- Company in line with platoons in line
- Company in column with platoons in column
- Company in column with platoons in line (used primarily for ceremonies)
- Company mass formation

The company may be formed into a column of twos in the same manner as the platoon.

The company normally forms in a line formation; however, it may re-form in column when each man can identify his exact position (equipment grounded) in the formation.

The company forms basically the same as the platoon. On the command “fall in; (at close interval), fall in,” the platoons form in line, centered on and facing the person forming the unit, with five-step intervals between platoons.

The company may be formed by the first sergeant and platoon sergeants or by the company commander and platoon leaders. When possible, the platoons assemble near the formation site before the arrival of the first sergeant or company commander. If



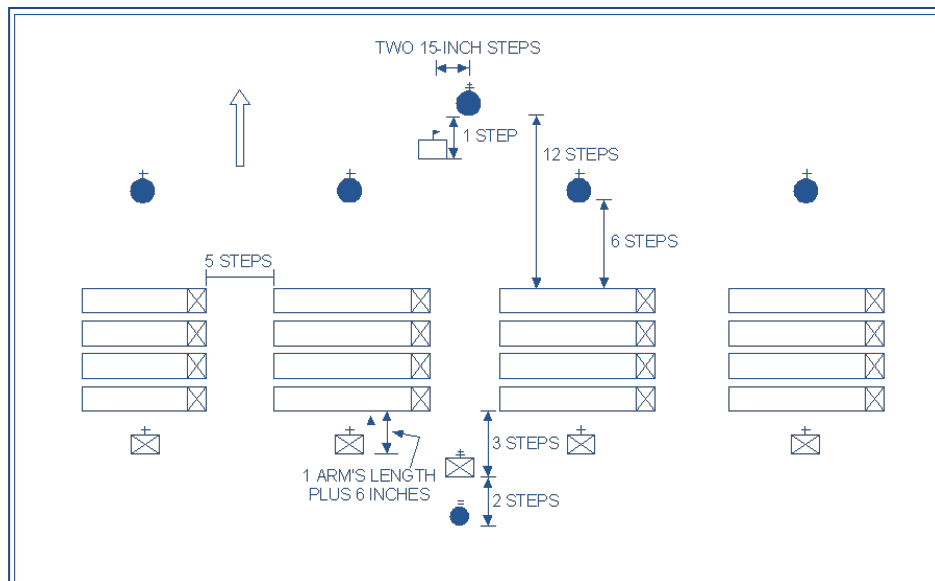
NOTE: To have the company assemble in a company mass formation, the command is “mass formation, fall in.” Before giving the commands, the person forming the unit announces the interval and the number of personnel in the front, and designates the base man. In this situation, the first sergeant and platoon sergeants travel around the right flank of the formation when moving from post to post. The commander and platoon leaders travel around the left flank of the formation when moving from post to post.

the company is formed by the noncommissioned officers, the platoon leaders normally observe the procedures from a position to the rear of their platoons.

When the company is formed by the noncommissioned officers, the following procedures apply.

- The first sergeant **posts** himself nine steps in front of (center) and facing the line where the front rank of each platoon is to form. He then commands “fall in; (at close interval), fall in.”

- On the command of execution, the platoons form in the same manner prescribed in platoon drill. Each platoon sergeant faces his platoon while the platoons are forming, and directs his platoon to adjust (if necessary) and align on the platoon to its right, at the correct interval. Once the platoon is formed, the platoon sergeants face about.
- When all of the platoon sergeants are facing to the front, the first sergeant commands (if appropriate) “inspection, arms; ready, port, arms; order (sling), arms.” He then directs (if appropriate) “receive the report.” The platoon sergeants face about and command “report.” Having received the report, the platoon sergeants face about. When all platoon sergeants are facing to the front, the first sergeant commands “report.” The platoon sergeants turn their head and eyes toward the first sergeant. The first sergeant turns his head and eyes toward the reporting platoon sergeant and returns each salute individually. Having received the report from the platoon sergeants, the first sergeant faces about and awaits the arrival of the company commander, if the commander is scheduled to receive the company.
- When the company commander has halted at his post, the first sergeant salutes and reports, “Sir, all present,” or “Sir, all accounted for,” or “Sir, (so many) men absent.” The company commander returns the Salute and commands “post.” The first sergeant faces about and marches to his post three steps to the rear and at the center of the company, halts, and faces about. The guidon bearer steps forward three steps. The platoon sergeants face to the right in marching and assume their posts to the rear of their platoons (if the platoon leader is not present, they step forward three steps). The platoon leaders march around the left flank of their platoons and assume their posts by inclining facing to the front. The company executive officer assumes his post two steps to the rear of the first sergeant.



Company in line formation with platoons in line. Courtesy of the Army JROTC.

When the company is formed by the company commander, the procedures are the same as forming with the noncommissioned officers except that the platoon leaders form their platoons and the first sergeant, platoon sergeants, and guidon bearer fall in at their posts. The command “post” is not necessary. If a platoon sergeant is to fill the post of platoon leader, he takes a position six steps in front of and centered on the platoon.

Changing Interval

The company changes interval in the same manner as prescribed for the platoon. When the company commander wants the company to obtain close interval in a line formation while maintaining a five-step interval, the company commander directs “close on the base platoon at close interval.” The platoon leaders face about and command “count, off.” After the platoons have counted off, the platoon leaders command “close interval, march.” The second, third, and fourth platoon leaders command “right, face” and in succession, command “half step, march.” They halt at the five-step interval and face the platoon to the left.

If the company commander gives “close on the third platoon at close interval,” the platoon leaders on the right of the designated platoon have their platoons obtain close interval, face their platoons to the left, march (at the half step) forward until they obtain the five-step interval, halt, and face their platoons to the right.

When the company commander wants the company to obtain normal interval from close interval in a line formation while maintaining a five-step interval, the company commander directs “extend on the base platoon at normal interval.” The platoon leaders face about and march (at the half step) their platoons to a position that ensures the five-step interval between platoons after they have obtained normal interval.

After halting and facing the platoons to the left, the platoon leaders command “count, off.” The platoon leaders then command “normal interval, march.” If necessary, the platoon leader verifies the interval as described in Opening and Closing Ranks.

Aligning the Company

To align the company in a line formation, the company commander directs “have your platoons dress right.” On the directive, all platoon leaders face about. The right flank platoon leader commands “dress right, dress” and aligns the platoon as described in platoon drill.

After the right flank platoon leader has verified the alignment of the first rank, the platoon leader to the left commands “dress right, dress.” That left platoon leader then faces to the half right in marching, moves to a position on line with and one step to the left of the left flank Cadet of the first rank, and faces left down the line. After aligning the first rank, that platoon leader centers himself or herself on the first rank, faces to the right in marching, takes two short steps, halts, executes left face, and aligns the second rank.

The platoon leader aligns the last two ranks in the same manner as the second. After aligning the last rank, the platoon leader faces to the left in marching, returns to a

position at the center of the platoon, halts perpendicular to the formation, faces to the right, commands “ready, front,” and faces about. All platoon leaders to the left of the second platoon take the same actions as the second platoon leader.

To align the company in column, the company commander directs “have your platoons cover.” On this directive, the first platoon leader faces about and commands “cover.” The other platoon leaders command “stand fast.” The first platoon covers as in platoon drill. The other platoons then execute the movement in succession as soon as the platoon to their front has completed the movement.

Opening and Closing Ranks

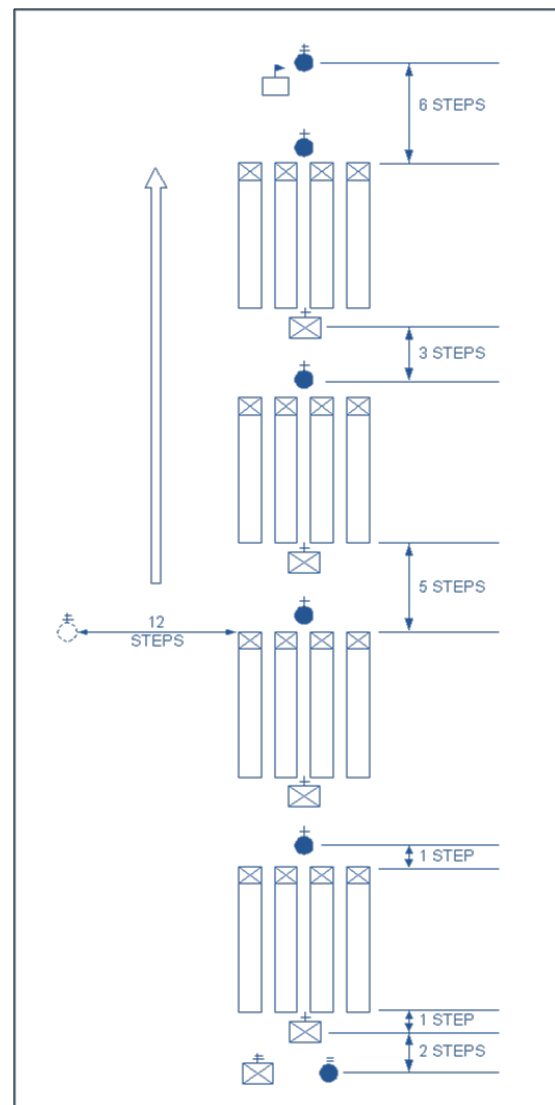
To open ranks, the company commander directs “have your platoons open ranks and dress right.” On the directive, all platoon leaders face about. The right flank platoon leader commands “open ranks, march.” When the platoon has completed the movement, the right flank platoon leader then commands “dress right, dress” and aligns the platoon the same as in platoon drill. After the right flank platoon leader aligns the first rank, the platoon leader to the left commands “open ranks, march” and “dress right, dress.” All platoon leaders to the left of the second platoon take the same actions as the second platoon leader.

To close ranks, the commander directs “have your platoons close ranks.” On the directive, all platoon leaders face about and in sequence from right to left command “close ranks, march.” The platoons execute the movement the same as in platoon drill. After the platoons have completed the movement, the platoon leaders face about.

Changing the Direction of March of a Column

The company changes the direction of march basically the same as the squad and platoon. The commands are “column right (left), march” or “column half right (half left), march.” The base element during a column movement is the lead platoon and the squad on the flank, in the direction of the turn.

When at the halt, the lead platoon leader repeats the company commander’s preparatory command. Succeeding platoon leaders give the



Company in column with platoons in column.
Courtesy of the Army JRTOC.

supplementary command “forward.” On the command of execution “march,” the lead platoon executes the movement as described in platoon drill; succeeding platoons execute the movement on their platoon leader’s command at approximately the same location.

While marching, units execute the movement as described from the halt except that the succeeding platoon leaders give the supplementary command “continue to march” rather than “forward.”

The company executes rear march and inclines in the same manner as the platoon.

When executing counter column march from the halt, the lead platoon leader repeats the preparatory command. Succeeding platoon leaders give the supplementary command “forward.” On the command of execution “march,” the lead platoon executes the movement as described in platoon drill, and marches through the other platoons. Succeeding platoons execute the movement on the platoon leader’s command at approximately the same location.

When units execute the movement while marching, the leader gives the command of execution as the left foot strikes the marching surface. Platoons execute the movement basically the same as from the halt except that the succeeding platoon leaders give the supplementary command “continue to march” rather than “forward.” The guidon bearer faces to the left in marching from the halt or executes a column left in marching, marches by the most direct route outside of the formation, and moves to a position in front of the lead platoon as it clears the rear of the company.

Correcting the Distance Between Platoons

To obtain correct distance when the company is marching in column or is in a column at the halt, the company commander directs “close on leading platoon.”

When at the halt and on the directive “close on leading platoon,” the platoon leader of the lead platoon commands (over the right shoulder) “stand fast.” The succeeding platoon leaders command (over the right shoulder) “forward, march,” “**mark time**, march,” and “platoon, halt” when they obtain correct distance.

While marching, and on the directive “close on leading platoon,” the platoon leader of the lead platoon commands (over the right shoulder) “half step, march.” The succeeding platoon leaders command (over the right shoulder) “continue to march” and “half step, march” as soon as they obtain the correct distance. The company commander commands “forward, march (halt)” as soon as all platoons have obtained the correct distance and are marching at the half step.

Forming a Column of Twos and Re-forming

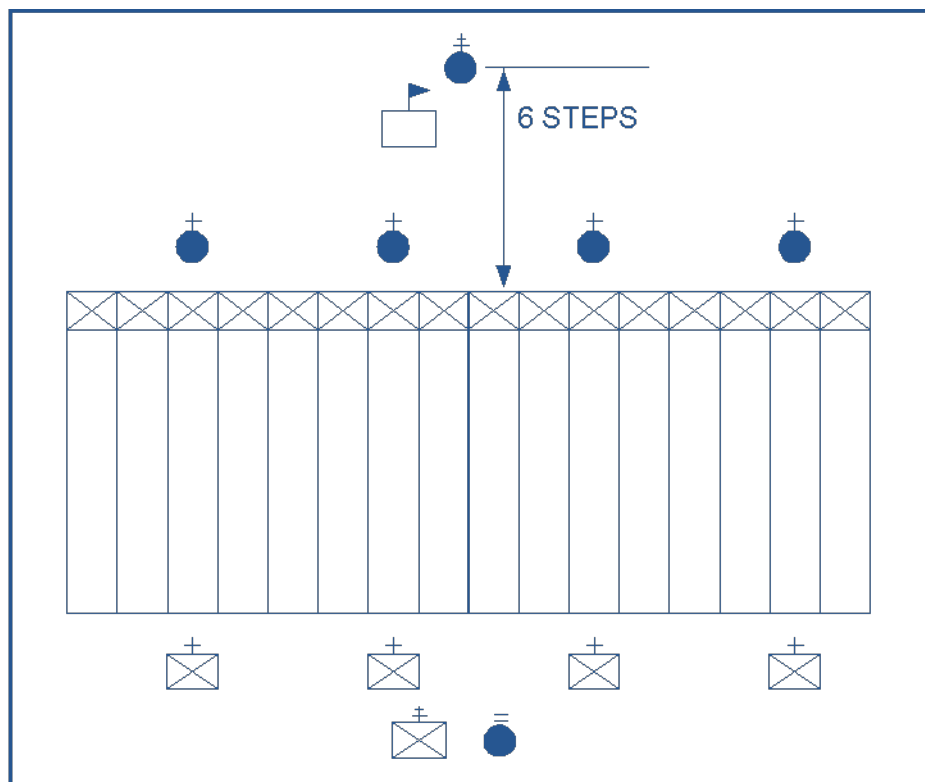
The company forms a column of twos basically the same as the platoon. The company commander must allow sufficient time for the platoon leaders and the squad leaders of the lead platoon to give supplementary commands before giving the command of execution.

The command for this movement is “column of twos from the right (left), march.” The lead platoon leader repeats the preparatory command. Other platoon leaders give the supplementary command “stand fast.” On the company commander’s command of execution “march,” the lead platoon executes the movement as in platoon drill. Other platoons execute the movement on their leader’s command. Succeeding platoon leaders give their commands in order to follow with the prescribed five-step distance between platoons.

Re-forming into a column of fours is executed only at the halt. The command for this movement is “column of fours to the left (right), march.” On the company commander’s command of execution, all platoons execute the movement simultaneously as described in platoon drill. As soon as the platoons are re-formed, the platoon leaders march the platoons forward and obtain the five-step distance between platoons.

Forming a Company Mass

The company may form in mass from a company in column (platoons in column) when halted or while marching. The company must be at close interval (“close interval, march”) before the commander can give “company mass left, march.”



Company in a mass formation. Courtesy of the Army JROTC.

On the preparatory command “company mass left,” given at the halt, the lead platoon leader commands “stand fast.” The platoon leaders of the succeeding platoons command “column half left.” On the command of execution “march,” the lead platoon

stands fast. The other platoons execute the column half left and then execute a column half right on the command of the platoon leaders to a point (line) that ensures the platoons will be at close interval alongside the platoon to their right when halted.

As the platoons come abreast of the base platoon, the platoon leaders command “mark time, march.” While the platoon marks time, the members adjust their positions to ensure alignment on the Cadet to their right. The platoon leaders allow their platoons to mark time for about eight counts and then command “platoon, halt.” On the command of execution “march,” the company commander and guidon bearer face to the right (left) in marching and reposition themselves centered on the company.

Aligning a Company Mass

As soon as the company commander forms the company in mass, he or she gives the command “at close interval, dress right, dress.”

On the command of execution “dress:” (1) the platoon leader of the right platoon marches by the most direct route to the right flank and verifies the alignment of as many ranks as necessary to ensure proper alignment, in the same manner as aligning the platoon; when finished, the right platoon leader returns to a position one step in front of, and centered on, the third squad, halts and faces to the right; and (2) the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants position themselves in line with the third squad of their platoon by executing one 15-inch step to the right.

When the right platoon leader has returned to that position, the company commander commands “ready, front.”

Changing the Direction of March of a Mass Formation

The company changes the direction of march in mass basically the same as a platoon column movement. When executed from the halt, the commander faces in the desired direction of march, looks toward the formation, and commands “right (left) turn, march.”

On the command of execution “march,” the platoon leaders face to the half right (left) in marching and continue to march in an **arc** until parallel to the new direction of march. Then they begin marching with the half step, dressing on the right (left) flank platoon leader until the leader commands “forward, march.” The right (left) **guide** (the base squad leader in the direction of turn) faces to the right (left) in marching and immediately takes up the half step.

All other squad leaders (front rank) face to the half right (left) in marching and continue to march in an arc until they come on line with the guide. At this time, they begin marching with the half step and dress (glancing out of the corner of the eye) in the direction of the turn until the leader commands “forward, march.” On that command, the dress is automatically to the right. All other members march forward and execute the movement in the same manner as their squad leaders.

When executed while marching, the movement is in the same manner as from the halt except that the company commander faces about (marching backward) to give the

command “right (left) turn, march.” The commander then faces about and completes the turning movement. After the company has completed the turn, the company commander faces about, commands “forward, march,” and again faces about.

Forming a Column From a Company Mass

To form a company in column from a company mass at the halt, the command is “column of platoons, right platoon, column right (column half right), march.” The right platoon leader gives the supplementary command of “forward (column right or column half right),” and the other platoon leaders command “stand fast.” On the command of execution “march,” the right platoon marches in the direction indicated. All other platoons follow (in sequence) in column, executing column half right and column half left on the commands of the platoon leaders.

To execute the movement when marching, the company commander commands “column of platoons, right platoon, **double time**, march.” On the preparatory command, the right platoon leader gives the supplementary command “double time,” and the other platoon leaders give the supplementary command “continue to march.” On the command of execution “march,” the right platoon marches in double time. Other platoon leaders (in sequence) command “column half right, double time, march” and “column half left, march” to bring the succeeding platoons in columns with the lead platoon.

The platoon leader and the platoon sergeant reposition themselves after the supplementary command, but before the command of execution.

Forming a Company in a Column with Platoons in a Line and Re-Forming

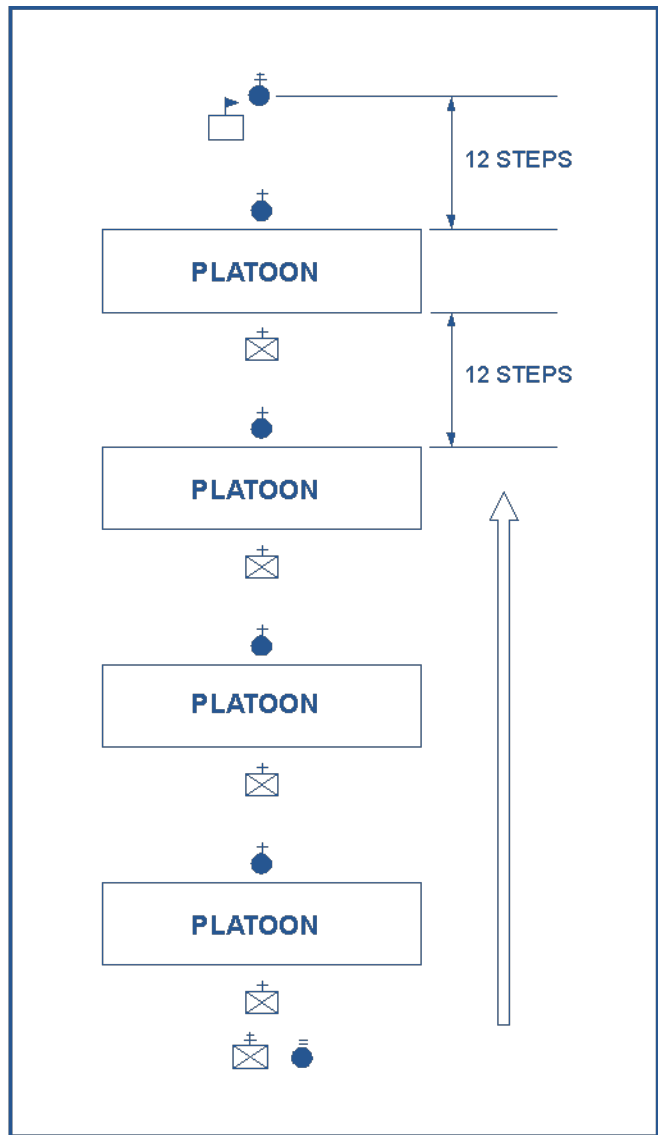
To form a company in column with platoons in line from a column formation at the halt, the command is “column of platoons in line, march.” The platoon leader of the lead platoon commands “column right.” All other platoon leaders command “forward.” On the command of execution “march,” the lead platoon stands fast, and the second platoon executes a column right, marches 12 steps past the right file of the first platoon, and executes a column left. As they come in line with the base platoon, the platoon leader commands “mark time, march.” After the platoon has marched in place for eight counts, the platoon leader commands “platoon, halt.”

The succeeding platoons execute a column right at approximately the same location as the platoon to their front, execute a column left and then half in the same manner as the second platoon. When the platoons have halted in position, the company commander commands “left, face.” On that command, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants face in marching and assume their posts.

When executed while marching, the movements are basically the same as from the halt except that the commander gives the command of execution as the right foot strikes the marching surface. The lead platoon leader commands “mark time.” On the preparatory command, the second platoon leader commands “column right,” and the succeeding platoon leaders command “continue to march.”

On the command of execution “march,” the lead platoon executes mark time and marches in place (approximately eight counts) until the platoon leader commands “platoon, halt.” The other platoons execute the movement in the same manner as from the halt.

To re-form in column with platoons in column, the company commander commands “right, face; column of platoons, left platoon, march.” On the command “right, face,” the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants face in marching and resume their posts in column. On the preparatory command “column of platoons, left platoon,” the left platoon leader commands “forward, (column left [half left]).” All other platoon leaders command “column half left.”



*Company in column with platoons in line.
Courtesy of the Army JROTC.*

On the command of execution “march,” the left platoon executes the movement. The other platoon leaders give the appropriate commands for following the lead platoon at the correct distance. If necessary, the platoons following the second platoon automatically adjust the length of their step to ensure correct distance from the platoon to their front.

Dismissing the Company

Dismiss the company only at attention. Either the first sergeant or the company commander may dismiss the company.

When the first sergeant dismisses the company, the company commander commands “first sergeant.” The first sergeant marches by the most direct route to a position three

steps from, and directly in front of, the company commander. After the first sergeant halts, the company commander commands “take charge of the company” and they exchange salutes.

Upon termination of the salutes, the platoon leaders and executive officer leave the formation. The platoon sergeants face to the right in marching and take their posts (platoon leader’s position) six steps in front of, and centered on, the platoon by marching around the right flank of the platoon, inclining, and halting already facing to the front. The first sergeant steps forward three steps and faces about.

When all platoon sergeants are at their posts, the first sergeant commands “take charge of your platoons.” The platoon sergeants salute. The first sergeant returns all salutes with one salute. After they exchange salutes, the first sergeant and guidon bearer leave the formation. The platoon sergeants then dismiss their platoons as in platoon drill.

When the company commander dismisses the company, he or she commands “take charge of your platoons.” The platoon leaders salute. The company commander returns all salutes with one salute. After they exchange salutes, the company commander, guidon bearer, first sergeant, and executive officer leave the formation. Each platoon leader faces about and commands “platoon sergeant.”

The platoon sergeants face to the right in marching, incline around the squad leader(s), halt three steps in front of, and centered on, the platoon leader, and face to the right. Each platoon leader then directs “take charge of the platoon.” They exchange salutes and the platoon leaders leave the formation. The platoon sergeants step forward three steps, face about, and dismiss the platoons as in platoon drill.

“The fundamentals of drill are established daily ... If these maneuvers are all accurately observed and practiced every day, the army will remain virtually undefeatable and always awe inspiring...”

Frederick the Great, 1789

Conclusion

Company drill is yet another link in the chain of drill movements of Leadership Lab. A weak link can break a chain, so make certain that you have reviewed this information well. It is important that you are familiar with all of the positions and formations of company drill before you can move on to leadership responsibilities at the company and battalion levels, as well as battalion drill level.



Lesson Check-up

1. Describe the four types of company formation.
2. Distinguish between forming a column of twos and forming a mass company mass.
3. What is the standard formation when commanded to “fall in?”

Performance Assessment Task

Unit 2: Leadership Theory and Application Company Formations and Movement [U2C5L3]

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

Execute company drills



Directions

For this performance assessment task, you will work with a peer Cadet to create a diagram of a company formation and Flow Map or written summary describing the commands and responses for the company drill. You will not work on the same formation that you were assigned in the lesson. For this assessment you will:

1. Think about the company formations and drill movements that you learned and practiced in this lesson.
2. Draw a diagram of an assigned company formation.
3. Create a Flow Map or write a summary describing the commands and responses of an assigned company drill movement.
4. Use the attached scoring guide criteria for what you need to do to complete this task.
5. 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.

Company Formations and Movement Performance Assessment Task Scoring Guide

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Ratings</i>
1. You develop a diagram that shows the details and positions of one type of company formation	met not met
2. You develop a Flow Map or written summary	met not met
3. Your Flow Map or written summary describes the procedures for changing the direction of movement of the company formation	met not met
4. Your Flow Map or written summary describes the procedures for forming, opening and closing ranks, and dismissing the company	met not met
5. You lead company drills using correct formation and movement	met not met

Comments:

Name: _____ ***Date:*** _____

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