



VIRGINIA DEFENSE FORCE

Drill & Ceremony



VDF 105 Purpose

Action: To develop an understanding commands and movements of individual and platoon drill, inspection, and ceremony

Conditions: Interactive classroom

Standard: To correctly give commands, and properly perform individual and platoon drill and ceremony

- ***SILENCE CELLPHONES**
- ***50/10 TIMEKEEPER**
- ***SIGN IN FOR CREDIT**
- ***TESTABLE**
- ***SAFETY BRIEF**





Course Objectives

At the completion of this period of instruction, you should be familiar with the following:

- **Describe and perform seminal marching and formation movements**
- **Understand the role of D&C in the historical and contemporary military context**



Background

- **Drill and Ceremony (D&C) dates back at least to the combat formation tactics developed for the Greek Phalanx and Roman Centurions.**
- **United States military drill originated in 1778, as part of a Baron Friedrich von Steuben's "Blue Book" training program to improve Continental Army discipline and organization.**
- **"The purpose of drill is to enable a commander or non-commissioned officer to move his unit from one place to another in an orderly manner; to aid in disciplinary training by instilling habits of precision and response to the leader's orders; and to provide for the development of all soldiers in the practice of commanding troops." FM 3-21.5, Drill and Ceremonies**



D&C Terminology



- **Element**– This is an individual, squad, section, platoon, company, or larger unit formed as part of the next higher unit.
- **Formation**– This is an arrangement of the unit's elements in a prescribed manner such as a line formation, in which the elements are side-by-side, and column formation, in which the elements are one behind the other. In a platoon column, the members of each squad are one behind the other with the squads abreast.
- **Front**– This is a space from one side to the other side of a formation and includes the right and left elements.
- **Depth**– This is a space from the front to the rear of a formation, including the front and rear elements.
- **Distance**– This is the space between elements that are one behind the other. The distance between individuals is an arm's length plus 6 inches, or approximately 36 inches, measured from the chest of one soldier to the back of the soldier immediately to his front.
- **Interval**– This is the space between side-by-side elements.
- **Rank**– This is a line that is only one element in depth.



D&C Terminology



- **File**– This is a column that has a front of one element.
- **Guide**– This is the person responsible for maintaining the prescribed direction and rate of march.
- **Post**– This is the correct place for an officer or noncommissioned officer to stand in a prescribed formation.
- **Head**– This is a column's leading element.
- **Base**– This is the element around which a movement is planned or regulated.
- **Cadence**– This is a uniform rhythm or number of steps or counts per minute.
- **Quick Time**– This is a cadence of 120 counts (steps per minute).
- **Double Time**– This is a cadence of 180 counts (steps per minute).



Voice and Presence



Commands

- * A drill command is a leader's oral order.**
- * The precision with which a movement is executed is affected by the manner that the command is given.**
- * Know what you want to do and communicate using your diaphragm!**
- * ALL DRILL COMMANDS ARE GIVEN WHEN MARCHING OR AT POSITION OF ATTENTION**



Voice Control



FORCE

The most important muscle used in breathing is the diaphragm—the large muscle that separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity. With some concentration, you can speak from your diaphragm. Most people unknowingly do it when using their “announcer's voice” or their “loud/deep voice.” The throat, mouth, and nose act as amplifiers.

YOU MUST EXHIBIT CONFIDENCE (“COMMAND PRESENCE”).



Voice Control



DISTINCTIVENESS

- **You must be understood. Use of the mouth to form the separate sounds of a word and group the sounds into syllables. Distinct ENUNCIATED commands are effective; indistinct commands cause confusion.**
- **To develop the ability to give clear, distinct commands, practice giving commands slowly and carefully, prolonging the syllables. Use your own style, showboat a little, but be clear and forceful, and in control.**



Inflection



- **Inflection is the rise and fall in pitch and the tone changes of the voice.**
- **The *preparatory command* is the “stand by” command for the movement. Pronounce each preparatory command with a rising inflection. The most desirable pitch, when beginning a preparatory command, is near the level of the natural speaking voice, because the execution command is always on the next level of pitch.**
- **[Preparatory: normal voice but using diaphragm] “Column left”**



Inflection



- **The *command of execution* is the command that indicates when a movement is to be executed. Give it in a sharper, snappier, tone and in a slightly higher pitch than the last syllable of the preparatory command.**
- **[Execution: slightly raised pitch] “March!”**
- **In combined commands, such as STAND BY, FALL IN and FALL OUT, the preparatory command and command of execution are combined. Give these commands with uniform inflection, high pitch and loudness.**



Forming the Unit



Falling In



- **On the command “FALL IN” form to left of squad leaders in line at arms-length intervals.**
- **Assume the position of *attention* or the command “*Squad (Platoon), ATTENTION (Aten-hut is fine)*”**



Stationary Movements



Attention



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



Attention



- * **Body erect, chest lifted, shoulders square.**
- * **Head erect, face front with chin drawn in**
 - * **Let the arms hang straight without stiffness.**
 - * **Curl fingers, tips of the thumbs are alongside and touching the first joint of the forefingers.**
- * **Thumbs straight along the seams of the trouser**
 - * **Remain silent and do not move unless directed.**
- * **Heels together, form a 45-degree angle.**
 - * **Keep the legs straight without locking knees.**



Left/Right Face



- **Facing to the flank is a two-count movement for turning to one side or the other. The command is “Left, face” or “Right, face.” The Figure below illustrates “left face.” On the command of execution, “Face,” slightly raise yourself 90 degrees to the left on your left heel. A slight pressure on the ball of your right foot will help you do this correctly. Keep your right leg straight, but not stiff.**
- **On the second count, place your right foot beside your left foot, and resume the position of attention. Hold your arms as you would while at attention as you execute this movement. Right face will be executed in the very same way as left face, simply substituting right for left and left for right.**



Left/Right Face





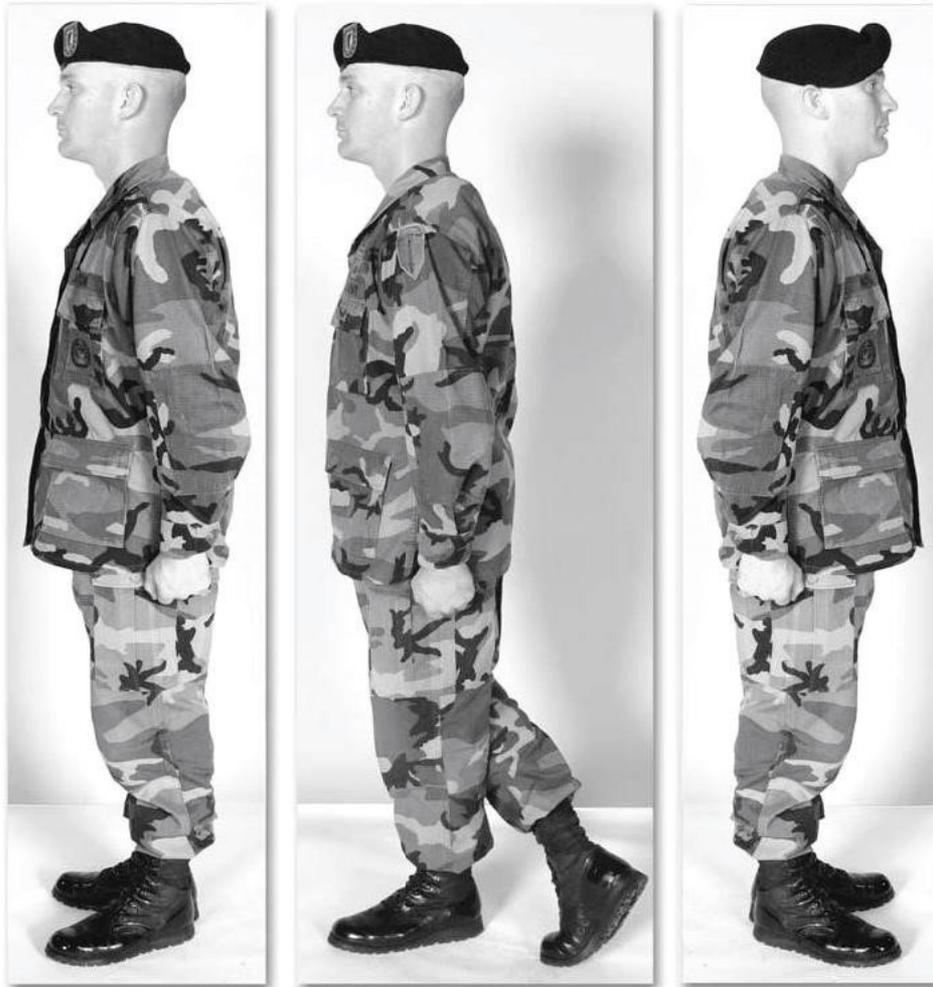
About Face



- **Facing to the rear is also a two-count movement and is illustrated in the figure below. The command is “About, face.” On the command of execution, “Face,” touch the toe of your right foot to the ground about half the length of your foot to the rear and slightly left of the left heel. Rest your weight on the heel of your left foot and allow your right knee to bend naturally.**
- **On the second count, turn 180 degrees to the right on the left heel and on the ball of the right foot, resuming the position of attention. Hold your arms at attention when executing this movement.**



About Face





Dress Right Dress



- **All personnel except the right marker bring up their left arms parallel to the ground.**
- **At the same time, all members of the formation snap their heads, so they are facing right.**
- **After this, they pause, and then shuffle back to a new position, where their hand is extremely close to the soldier's shoulder on their right, unless otherwise specified**





Close Interval Dress Right Dress



- **The movement is executed in the same manner prescribed for alignment at Normal Interval except that the squad members obtain Close Interval**





Rest Positions



There are four rest positions from the halt position:

- *Parade Rest**
- *Stand At Ease**
- *At Ease**
- *Rest**



Rest Positions

- **STEP I**
- **Rest positions while at the halt are used to rest an element for short periods, while at the halt, or other occasions, such as the leader giving a talk.**
- **The commands for these positions are * in order* "Parade, Rest; Stand AT, EASE; AT EASE, and REST."**
- **Parade, Rest and Stand AT, EASE are two-part commands, with Parade and Stand AT being the preparatory commands and Rest and EASE are the commands of execution. AT EASE and Rest are combined commands.**



Rest Positions

- **NOTE: Any of the rest positions may be commanded and executed from the position of attention.**
- **Parade rest is commanded only from the position of attention.**
- **On the command of execution REST of Parade, REST, move the left foot about 10 inches to the left of the right foot. Keep the legs straight without locking the knees, resting the weight of the body equally on the heels and balls of the feet.**
- **Simultaneously, place the hands at the small of the back and centered on the belt. Keep the fingers of both hands extended and joined, interlocking the thumbs so that the palm of the right hand is outward.**
- **Keep the head and eyes as in the position of attention. Remain silent and do not move unless otherwise directed. Stand At Ease, At Ease, and Rest may be executed from this position.**
- **On the command of execution EASE of Stand At, EASE, execute parade rest, and turn the head and eyes directly toward the person in charge of the formation. At Ease or Rest may be executed from this position.**
- **On the command AT EASE, the soldier may move, however, he must remain standing and silent with the right foot in place. Rest may be executed from this position.**



Rest Positions

- **On the command REST, the soldier may move, talk, smoke, or drink unless otherwise directed. He must remain standing with his right foot in place. At Ease may be executed from this position.**
- **NOTE: On the preparatory command for attention, immediately assume parade rest when at the position of stand at ease, at ease, or rest.**



Parade Rest



- * Move left foot about 10 inches to the left.
- * Place the hands at the small of the back and centered on the belt.
- * Keep legs straight without locking knees
- * Fingers extended, interlock thumbs, right palm outward



- * Keep the head and eyes straight ahead
 - * Remain silent and do not move.



Marching



Marching



- **All marching movements executed from Halt initiate from position of Attention**
- **Except for Route Step March and At Ease March, all marching movements are executed while marching at Attention**
- **When executed from the Halt, all steps except Right Step begin with the left foot**



Forward March



- **On the command, "Forward, march," the soldier-**
- **Steps off with the left foot, taking a 30-inch step, and continues to march.**
- **Swings the left arm naturally, without bending the elbow, about 9 inches to the front and 6 inches to the rear, keeping the fingers curled.**
- **Hold head and eyes to the front.**



Half Step



- **On the command, "Half step, march," the soldier-**
- **Takes one more 30-inch step, then begins marching with 15-inch steps.**
- **Swings the left arm naturally, without bending the elbow, about 9 inches forward and 6 inches to the rear, keeping the fingers curled.**
- **Holds head and eyes to the front.**



Mark Time, March



On the command, "Mark time, march," the soldier-

- * Takes one more step.**
- * Brings the trailing foot alongside the leading foot and marches in place at normal cadence.**
- * Raises each foot about 2 inches off the ground while marching in place.**
- * Allows the left arm to swing naturally.**
- * Marches at the position of attention.**



Column Left (or Right)



- **Lead faces to the right (left) by pivoting to the right (left) on the ball of the right foot and steps off in the indicated direction by 90 degrees**
- **Each continue with 30-degree steps and pivots in the same place until the entire squad has executed the column movement**



Left (or Right) Flank



- **Command is given as the foot in the desired direction strikes the surface**
- **MARCH is given the next time the foot in the desired direction strikes the surface**
- **Take one more step, pivot 90 degrees in that direction on the ball of lead foot, and step off in the new direction with the trailing foot**
- **Glance out of the corner of the right eye and dress to the right**



Halt



On the command, "Group, halt," the soldier:

- * Takes one more step.**
- * Brings the trailing foot alongside the leading foot and halts.**
- * Maintains position of attention**



Hand Salute



Hand Salute



1

2

3



Hand Salute

- **The origin of the hand salute is uncertain. Some historians believe it began in late Roman times when assassinations were common. A citizen who wanted to see a public official had to approach with his right hand raised to show that he did not hold a weapon. Knights in armor raised visors with the right hand when meeting a comrade. This practice gradually became a way of showing respect and, in early American history, sometimes involved removing the hat. By 1820, the motion was modified to touching the hat, and since then it has become the hand salute used today.**



Hand Salute

- **Army personnel in uniform are required to *salute* when they meet and recognize persons entitled (by grade) to a *salute* except when it is inappropriate or impractical (in public conveyances such as planes and buses, in public places such as inside theaters, or when driving a vehicle). A *salute* is also rendered:**
 - (1) When the United States National Anthem, “To the Color,” “Hail to the Chief,” or foreign national anthems are played.**
 - (2) To uncased National Color outdoors.**
 - (3) On ceremonial occasions as prescribed in Chapter 9.**
 - (4) At reveille and retreat ceremonies, during the raising or**
 - (5) During the sounding of honors.**
 - (6) When pledging allegiance to the US flag outdoors.**
 - (7) When turning over control of formations.**
 - (8) When rendering reports.**



Hand Salute



- **b. Salutes are not required when:**
- **(1) Indoors, except when reporting to an officer or when on duty as a guard.**
- **(2) Saluting is obviously inappropriate. (Example: A person carrying articles with both hands, or being otherwise so occupied as to make saluting impracticable, is not required to salute a senior person or return the salute to a subordinate.) In any case not covered by specific instructions, the salute is rendered.**
- **(3) Either the senior or the subordinate is wearing civilian clothes.**



Hand Salute



Reporting Indoors

- **When reporting to an officer in his office, the soldier removes his headgear, knocks, and enters when told to do so. He approaches within two steps of the officer's desk, halts, salutes, and reports, "Sir (Ma'am), Private Jones reports." The salute is held until the report is completed and the salute has been returned by the officer. When the business is completed, the soldier salutes, holds the salute until it has been returned, executes the appropriate facing movement, and departs. When reporting indoors under arms, the procedure is the same except that the headgear is not removed and the soldier renders the salute prescribed for the weapon with which he is armed.**
- **NOTE: The expression under arms means carrying a weapon in your hands, by a sling or holster.**



Hand Salute

- *The Hand salute may be executed while *marching (leader of a marching formation only)*. When *double timing*, a soldier must come to *quick time* before *saluting*.**
- *The command is *Present ARMS*.**



Hand Salute



- *When reporting or rendering courtesy to an individual, turn the head and eyes toward the person addressed and simultaneously *salute*.**
- *The *salute* is initiated by the subordinate at the appropriate time and terminated upon acknowledgment.**



Hand Salute

***The Hand Salute is a one-count movement. The command is Present, ARMS.**

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



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Formation



Platoon Formation



- **IN-RANKS INSPECTION**
- **To conduct in-ranks inspections, use the following procedures:**
 - **a. With the platoon in line formation, the platoon sergeant commands Count, OFF. On the command of execution OFF, all personnel with the exception of the right flank personnel turn their head and eyes to the right and the right flank personnel count off with "ONE." After the right flank soldiers have counted their number, the soldiers to their left count off with the next higher number and simultaneously turn their head and eyes to the front. All other members of the formation count off in the same manner until the entire formation has counted off.**



Platoon Formation

- **b. After the platoon has counted off, the platoon sergeant commands Open Ranks, MARCH. On the command of execution MARCH, the front rank takes two steps forward, the second rank takes one step forward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes two steps backward. If additional ranks are present, the fifth rank takes four steps backward, and the sixth rank takes six steps backward.**
- **NOTE: After taking the prescribed number of steps, the men do not raise their arms. If the platoon leader wants exact interval or alignment, he commands At Close Interval (At Double Interval), Dress Right, DRESS. (See paragraph 7-6 for more information on aligning the platoon.)**
- **c. At this point, the platoon is ready to be inspected. Typically, the squads are inspected by the squad leaders; however they may be inspected by the platoon sergeant or platoon leader. (See paragraphs 7-17 and 7-18 FM 3-21.5 .)**



Leaders' Inspection

- a. As soon as the leader and inspector have halted in front of the first two men, the leader commands *Second, Third, and Fourth Squads, AT EASE*. When moving from man to man during the inspection, the executive officer and first sergeant (if the commander is inspecting) simultaneously face to the right in marching, take two short steps (one step if the company is at close interval), halt, and face to the left. After the inspector has inspected the last man in the front rank, the leader hesitates momentarily and allows the inspector to precede him as he inspects the front rank from the rear. As the inspector begins to inspect the rear of each rank, the leader commands the next squad to *Attention*. As they begin to inspect the next rank, the leader commands the last rank inspected to stand *At Ease*.
- b. The inspector marches forward and to the left, inclines as necessary until he is at a point 15 inches in front of and centered on the first man.



Leaders' Inspection



- **c. The inspector remains at a modified Position of Attention moving his head and eyes only. After inspecting at the center position, he takes a short step forward and to the left and inspects, returns to the center and steps forward and to the right and inspects, and returns to the center position.**
- **d. Having inspected the first man, the inspector faces to the right as in marching and takes one (two if at normal interval) step, halts, and faces the next man at the appropriate distance. The inspector conducts the inspection for the rest of the soldiers in the squad.**
- **e. After inspecting the last soldier in the squad, the inspector faces to the right as in marching and marches around behind the squad, inclining as necessary. While the leader marches back to his post, he inspects the squad from the rear.**



Leaders' Inspection



- **f. After resuming his post, the leader turns his head and eyes over his left shoulder and commands his squad to assume At Ease.**
- **g. After the last squad has been inspected and is at At Ease, the leader commands the platoon to Attention.**
- **h. After commanding the platoon to Attention, the leader commands Close Ranks, MARCH. On the command of execution MARCH, the first rank takes four steps backward, the second rank takes two steps backward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes one step forward. On the command of execution MARCH, the platoon leader and platoon sergeant take the appropriate number of steps to maintain their posts.**
- **i. If the platoon is being inspected as part of a larger formation and control of the platoon has not been turned over to the platoon sergeant, he faces about, executes At Ease, and awaits further instructions from the senior sergeant.**



Review



- **A review is a military ceremony used to—**
 - * **Honor a visiting, high-ranking commander, official, or dignitary, and or permit them to observe the state of training of a command.**
 - * **Present decorations and awards.**
 - * **Honor or recognize unit or individual achievements.**
 - * **Commemorate events.**

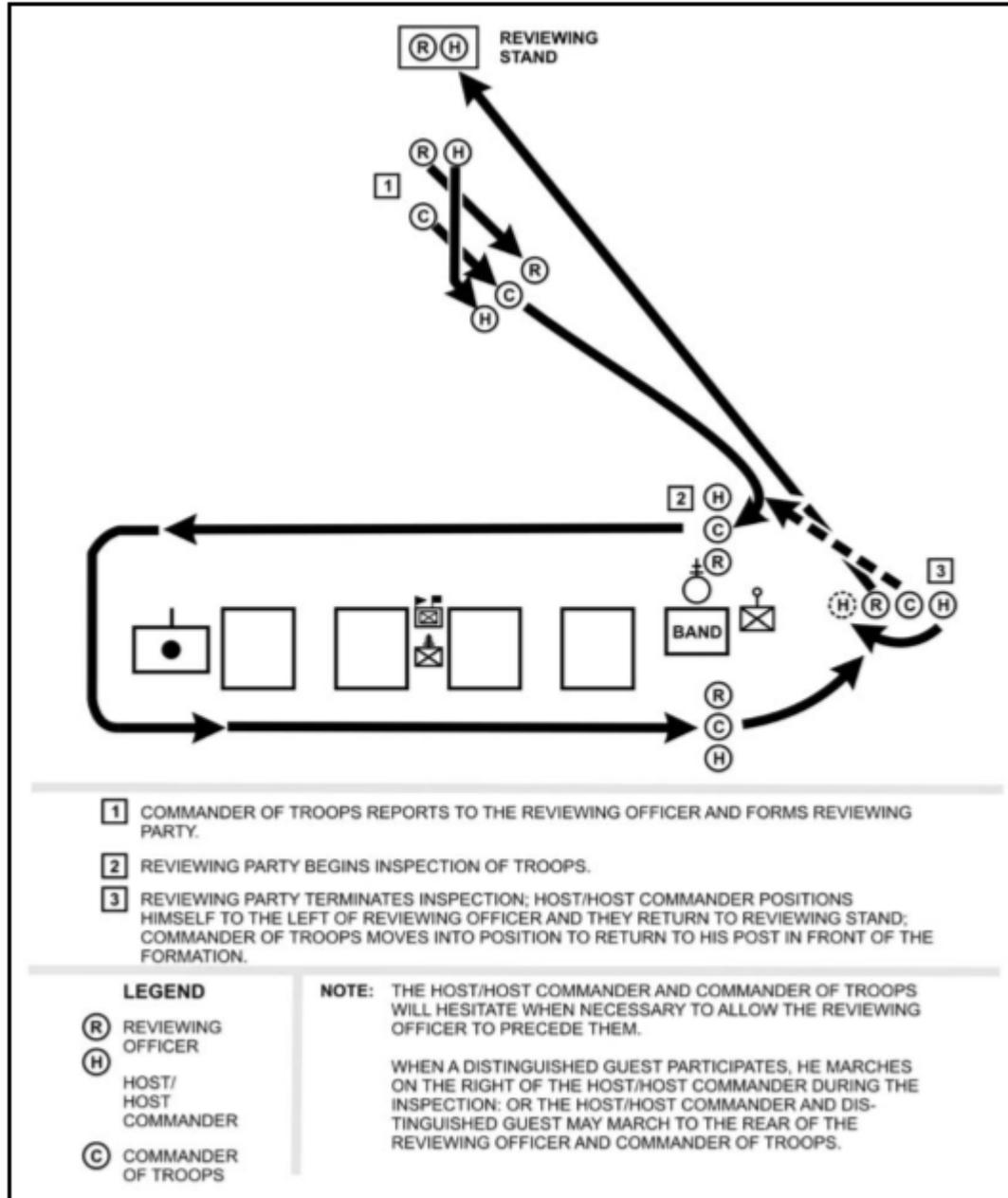




Review



- **A review consists of the following steps in sequence:**
 - * **Formation of troops.**
 - * **Presentation of command and honors (although primarily a characteristic of a parade, “sound off” may be included here to enhance the ceremony).**
 - * **Inspection. (The inspection stage may be omitted for decorations, awards, or individual recognition ceremonies.)**
 - * **Honors to the nation.**
 - * **Remarks.**
 - * **March in review.**
 - * **Conclusion.**





Dismissal



- *The squad is dismissed while at Attention**
- *The command is DISMISSED**
- *Soldiers take one step back and perform About Face**
- *Unless otherwise directed, the command DISMISSED terminates only the formation, not the duty day.**



Practice



NCO Academy Drill and Ceremony



Questions?

Testing

The test is online. Use the below link to take the test:

[Drill and Ceremony Test](#)

You are required to get a score of 100% and can take the test as many times as you need to

Go / No-GO

The test is online. Use the below link to take the Go / No-Go test:

[Drill and Ceremony Go / No-Go](#)

You are required to get a score of 100% and can take the Go / No-Go test as many times as you need to. You must enter in the name, rank, email and phone of the reviewer.