

Platoon Drill

General

1. Once cadets have learned individual and squad drill they can function effectively as part of a formed unit on parade.
2. The procedures described in this document are taken from CFP 201 THE CANADIAN FORCES MANUAL OF DRILL AND CEREMONIAL, Chapter 7. It should be noted that some modification has been made do to the fact that there are no Cadet officers in the cadet rank structure. Keep in mind that the job being done is the guiding factor not the rank.
 - a. In the Canadian Forces a platoon commander is usually a lieutenant and the platoon 2IC is usually a WO.
 - b. In cadets the platoon commander is usually a WO and the platoon 2IC is usually a sergeant. Sometimes though the corps officers will go on parade as Platoon Commanders.
3. The drill detailed in this chapter allows units to manoeuvre as one in order to carry out any routine or ceremonial task. It is derived from the marching and battle drills formerly used in combat.
 - a. Historically, units maximized their frontage and brought all weapons to bear by being formed up in line. Now days they use line to show themselves to best advantage to reviewing officers and spectators. It is the most difficult formation to control on the march and units demonstrate their high standards of drill and training by manoeuvring and marching past in line.
 - b. Troops in column reduced their frontage for ease of control or to pass through narrow openings and along roads.
 - c. Manoeuvres such as changing direction by form and forming platoons allowed units and sub-units to change their formation in order to present their maximum frontage toward the designated directions.
 - d. The use of advance and retire in line and the positions maintained by officers and non-commissioned officers relative to the ranks ensured that all were aware of the important direction being faced by the unit.
4. As in the past, platoon commanders still order the movements their unit is to perform, and the 2IC assists in control. Thus the platoon commander takes post in front of their cadets, and the 2IC stays in the rear. During dressing, the 2IC controls the exactness of the drill.

PLATOON DRILL

5. The aim of platoon drill is to enable the platoon to carry out any sequence of drill movements.

CORPS DRILL

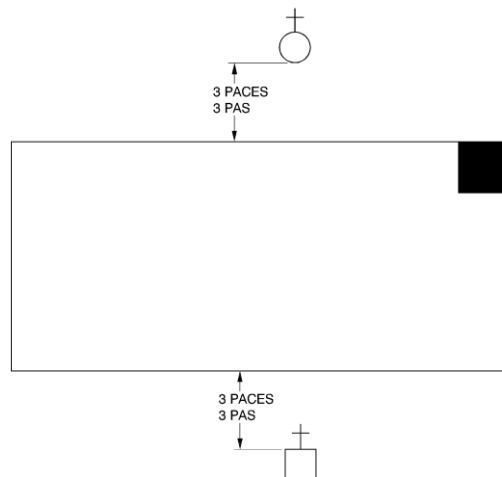
6. The aim of corps drill is to manoeuvre all the platoons and the flag party together as one. The CSM and the RSM give the commands.

PLATOON DRILL INTRODUCTION

7. Although the words of commands and detail in this section specifically refer to movements executed in quick time, platoon drill may also be executed in slow and double time.
8. Movements will be executed using either flank as the directing flank except during a wheel when dressing is taken from the inner flank.

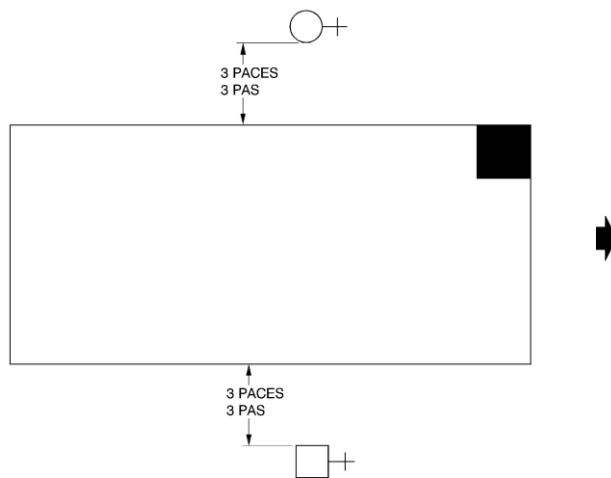
PLATOON IN LINE

9. Regardless of its frontage, when a platoon is formed up in line, the platoon commander shall position himself three paces in front and centre of the platoon and the platoon 2IC three paces in rear and centre of the platoon



PLATOON IN COLUMN OF THREES

10. A platoon in column of threes is in the same formation as when in line, but facing a flank. Column of threes is the formation used by a platoon 2IC to move platoons on the march.



PLATOON IN COLUMN OF ROUTE

11. Column of route is similar to column of threes, except that the platoon commander is two paces in front of the centre file of the platoon and the platoon 2IC is two paces in rear of the centre file of the platoon. Column of route is the formation most commonly used by platoon commanders to move platoons on the march.



DRESSING A PLATOON

12. When the platoon commander wishes to dress the platoon at the halt, he shall face the platoon and order **PLATOON RIGHT– DRESS**. Shoulder or elbow dressing is also possible if a smaller platoon is desirable. Left dressing may also be used on occasion.
- a. The platoon then acts as ordered.
 - b. The 2IC

- i. steps off, wheels to the right and marches six paces to the right of the right flank, wheels to the left and halts, facing the advanced position and in line with the front rank;
 - ii. turns left and dresses the front rank. When the front rank is dressed, he orders FRONT RANK – STEADY;
 - iii. turns left, and, keeping his arms at the side, paces off the interval, halts, turns right, and dresses the centre rank. He then orders CENTRE RANK– STEADY;
 - iv. turns left, keeping his arms at the side, again paces off the interval, halts, turns right, and dresses the rear rank. He then orders REAR RANK – STEADY.
- c. The platoon commander then orders EYES – FRONT. The platoon will act as ordered and the 2IC will step off and, by a series of wheels, returns to his original position in the rear of the platoon.

13. When the 2IC is in command of the platoon and orders the right dress, the procedure above is followed. The command EYES – FRONT is ordered by the 2IC after he returns to his position in front of the platoon.

ORDERING A PLATOON ON PARADE

14. A platoon is ordered on parade in a similar manner to falling in a squad.

15. The 2IC may then call the roll, size the platoon, etc.

16. The platoon shall be handed over to the platoon commander as follows:

- a. The 2IC calls the platoon to attention as the platoon commander approaches.
- b. The platoon commander halts two paces in front of the 2IC.
- c. The 2IC reports the strength, condition, etc., of the platoon.
- d. Upon being ordered to fall in, the 2IC turns right and proceeds by a series of wheels around the right flank to take up his position in rear of the platoon.
- e. The platoon commander marches forward two paces.

PLATOON IN LINE ADVANCING AND RETIRING

17. In line, the platoon is advancing when the original front rank is leading, and retiring when the original rear rank is leading.

18. On the command PLATOON WILL RETIRE, ABOUT – TURN, the platoon turns about. The platoon commander and 2IC maintain their position after turning.

PLATOON MOVING TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT IN THREES

19. On the command PLATOON WILL MOVE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT) IN THREES, RIGHT (LEFT) – TURN, the platoon acts as ordered. The platoon commander and 2IC turn in the appropriate direction and maintain their positions.

PLATOON MOVING TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT IN COLUMN OF ROUTE

20. On the command PLATOON WILL MOVE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT) IN COLUMN OF ROUTE, RIGHT (LEFT) – TURN:
 - a. the platoon will act as ordered; and
 - b. the platoon commander and 2IC will turn in the appropriate direction, observe the standard pause and move to their positions in front and rear of the platoon.

PLATOON MOVING TO A FLANK, REQUIRED TO TURN ABOUT

21. On the command PLATOON MOVE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT) IN THREES (COLUMN OF ROUTE), ABOUT – TURN:
 - a. The platoon will act as ordered.
 - b. If in column of threes, the platoon commander and 2IC shall turn about and maintain their relative positions.
 - c. If column of route is ordered, the platoon commander and 2IC shall turn about, change into double time, and double to their new positions two paces in front and rear of the centre file.