

Performance Objective 1: Close Order Drill

The complete drill manual with color guard and guidon drill is located in the Training Officers Manual (TOM) and can be found by visiting www.youngmarines.com. Select Adult Leaders, Training and Education, and then scroll down to the TOM.

Enabling Objectives:

1. Receive reports during a battalion formation
 2. Successfully pass information to subordinate leaders in battalion formation
 3. Successfully command the drill movements of a battalion
 4. Perform a “troop” of the ranks of a battalion formation
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Introduction. Close order drill on a battalion level is performed using many repeated commands called “commands to subordinate leaders”. It also uses “supplementary commands” when an element of a larger unit is acting or about to act separately. Drill as we know it is used to instill discipline through precision and automatic response to orders. It also increases a leader’s confidence through the exercise of command by the giving of proper commands and control of drilling troops.

1. Words of Command.

Commands to subordinate leaders take two forms in a battalion formation.

- a. When issuing a command to the entire battalion, such as “attention”, your preparatory command will be “battalion”. The platoon sergeants will respond with “company”. You would then continue with your command of execution, “attention”. Remember to pause after your preparatory command to allow the platoon sergeants to give their appropriate command to their units.
- b. When you are in battalion formation and you want to pass information to just the platoon sergeants for example, the command would be “platoon sergeants, center... march”. (See E.O. 2, Successfully pass information to subordinate leaders in a battalion formation).

Supplementary commands are initiated by the individual unit while in battalion formation.

- a. While marching in battalion formation, the command “column left” is given. The first platoon performs the move on the command of execution “march”. The platoon sergeant of the second platoon, upon hearing the preparatory command, sounds off with “continue to march”. This tells his/her element not to execute the column left but to continue to march forward until he/she gives the command to execute the column left.
- b. The platoon sergeant will give the appropriate preparatory command and the command of execution so as to have the platoon execute the movement at approximately the same location as the element before it.

E.O. 1 Receive reports during a battalion formation

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. The battalion is formed, at attention, and you are in position (a point in front of and centered on the battalion formation).

- a. Sound off with the command "Report".
- b. You will receive the reports from each platoon sergeant. An example of a report from a platoon sergeant would be "Alpha platoon, all present and or accounted for".
- c. Always receive reports from platoons starting from your left.
- d. Remember to receive reports from the position of attention. Do not look at the platoon sergeant as they give their report.

E.O. 2 Successfully pass information to subordinate leaders in a battalion formation

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. The battalion is formed, and at attention. You want to pass on some information or orders only to your platoon sergeants.

- a. The command would be "platoon sergeants, center... march". The preparatory command is "platoon sergeants, center" allow the platoon sergeants to face inboard before giving the command of execution, "march". The platoon sergeants will march toward the center of the formation halting at a point that will allow them to maintain their interval.
- b. Once they have halted, the Young Marine nearest the center and on the right of the formation as it faces the front will give the command "Ready.....Face". Upon the command of execution "face", the platoon sergeants will face to the front. The same platoon sergeant will give the command "forward, march", halting the squad approximately three paces from and centered on you.
- c. After you have given your info to the platoon sergeants, you will give the command "post". Platoon sergeants execute an "about face". The same platoon sergeant will give the command "forward, march" and halt the platoon sergeants at approximately the same location in front of the formation. He will then give the command "ready, face". The platoon sergeants will face in the direction of their platoons. He will then give the command, "post".
- d. Platoon sergeants will march to a point in front of and centered on their respective platoon, halt, then execute the appropriate facing movement so that they are facing to the front. They will then assume the appropriate position that the rest of the formation is in.

E.O. 3 Successfully command the drill movements of a battalion

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. You are to assemble the battalion.

Take your place where you will be centered on the battalion when the units fall-in.

On your command “Battalion... Fall-in”, the battalion will fall-in on you as if they were a platoon and you were their platoon sergeant.

The battalion is formed and at attention. You wish to perform dress right, dress. You give the preparatory command “dress right”, then the command of execution “dress”. Upon your command of execution “dress”, the entire battalion will perform the maneuver.

The battalion is formed at the position of parade rest. You wish to bring them to attention. You give the preparatory command “battalion”, then the command of execution “attention”. Upon your command of execution “attention”, the entire battalion will perform the maneuver.

The battalion is formed and at attention. You wish to face them to the left. You give the preparatory command “left”, followed by the command of execution “face”. Upon your command of execution “face”, the entire battalion will perform the maneuver.

E.O. 4 Perform a “Troop” of the ranks of a Battalion formation.

(Also called “Troop the Line”)

You are the Young Marine Battalion Sergeant Major. You wish to perform a troop of the ranks. A troop of the ranks is an overall observation of the battalion performed as you slowly walk from one platoon to the next (from left to right) in front of each platoon.

- a. You have already formed the battalion, performed dress right, dress, and had the platoon sergeants report.
- b. From your position, you execute a “half-left” and march to the first platoon guide, ensuring that you remain no closer to the platoon than the platoon sergeant.
- c. Upon reaching this point, you would execute a “right Face” and begin to slowly march along in front of each platoon and their respective platoon sergeants. You should look at the platoon as you march along. Your objective is to observe the battalion in formation.
- d. Do not stop to make any corrections or ask any questions. Make mental notes of anything that stands out, such as haircuts, unserviceable uniforms, etc. Save these comments for the platoon sergeants following formation. You can also relay your observations using the technique in E.O. 2.

Upon completion of your “troop”, smartly return to your position in front of the battalion and carry-on with the plan of the day.

PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION REVIEW
Performance Objective 1: Close Order Drill

E.O. No.	Enabling Objective Description and Performance Requirement	Authorized Evaluators Signature
1	Receive reports during a battalion formation	
a.	When preparing to receive reports, did the Young Marine give the preparatory command and the command of execution properly?	
b.	When receiving reports, did the Young Marine begin with the furthest most left platoon?	
c.	When receiving reports, did the Young Marine remain at attention and not look at the platoon sergeants giving the report?	
2	Successfully pass information to subordinate leaders in a battalion formation	
a.	Did the Young Marine give the proper preparatory command and the command of execution pausing where needed to allow the platoon sergeants to face appropriately?	
b.	Did the Young Marine properly dismiss the platoon sergeants after passing the information on?	
3	Successfully command the drill movements of a battalion	
a.	Did the Young Marine give the proper preparatory command and command of execution for Attention ?	
b.	Did the Young Marine give the proper preparatory command and command of execution for Dress Right, Dress ?	
c.	Did the Young Marine give the proper preparatory command and command of execution for Left Face ?	
d.	Did the Young Marine give the proper preparatory command and command of execution for Forward, March ?	
e.	Did the Young Marine give the proper preparatory command and command of execution for Fall out ?	
4	Perform a “Troop” of the ranks of a Battalion formation	
a.	Did the Young Marine have the battalion at the position of attention while “trooping” the ranks?	
b.	Did the Young Marine position him/herself at the proper location at the first platoon guide ensuring that he/she is no closer to the platoon than the platoon sergeant?	
c.	Did the Young Marine perform the “troop” while observing each platoon by looking in the direction of each platoon?	
d.	Did the Young Marine upon completion of the “troop” return smartly to their position in front of the battalion?	