

Part Two:
YM LCpl Requirements

Chapter 10 – Close Order Drill

PO.1 – Close Order Drill

- EO.1 – Complete Corrective Movements
- EO.2 – Form a Column from a Line
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As a Young Marine PFC, you learned to march to different cadences. In this chapter, you will learn to march in different formations. It will cover how to form a line and column and how to execute column movements as a squad and a platoon.

EO.1 – Complete Corrective Movements

Change Step

The purpose of this movement is to change the cadence count without changing the rhythm of the cadence.

The command is “change step, MARCH.” It may be given while marching at Quick or Double Time, Marking Time, or Double Timing in place. The command of execution is given as the right foot strikes the deck.

While Marching at Quick Time or Double Time:

- On “MARCH,” take one more step, 30 or 36 inches, as appropriate.
- As your right foot comes forward to the next step, place the toe near the left heel and step out again with the left foot. This changes the cadence count, but not the rhythm.

While Marking Time:

- On “MARCH,” lift and lower the left foot twice in succession.
- The second time it touches the deck, raise the right foot and continue marking time.

While Double Timing in Place:

- On “MARCH,” hop twice on the left foot.
- Continue double timing in place.

Side Step

The purpose of Side Step is to move the unit a short distance to the right or left. There are no counts, however there is a cadence of “1-2.”

The command “right (left) step, MARCH” is given only when you are at a halt. At the command “MARCH,” move your right foot 12 inches to the right, then place your left foot smartly beside your right as to reassume the position of Attention. Repeat this movement at a quick time cadence. Keep your legs straight, but not stiff. Hold your arms at your sides as in the position of Attention.

During the movement, the formation must continue to cover.

Back Step

The purpose of Back Step is to march the unit backwards for a short distance.

The command “backward, MARCH” is given only when you are at a halt. Please note that the command is “backward, MARCH” and not “backstep, MARCH.”

At the command “MARCH,” step off to the rear with your left foot and take 15-inch steps at a Quick Time cadence. At the same time swing your arms 6 inches to the front and 3 inches to the rear. This is the equivalent of marching in Half Step backwards. When your foot comes down, the foot must strike with the ball of the foot first. Be sure to bring your feet “boot-top high” and maintain proper alignment.

EO.2 – Form a Column from a Line

When you fall into formation, you are in a line - the long-line facing forward. Forming a column is basically executing a right or left face as if you are preparing to march forward. The command will usually be given from the position of Attention in a formation in line. The command will be given with the following phrase:

“right, FACE” with the preparatory command being “right,” and the command of execution as “FACE.”

Upon hearing the command, follow the steps below:

- At “FACE,” face to the right to form the column.
- Remain in this position until given another command.

You can also form a line from a column. Assuming you are at attention in formation in a column you will receive the command:

“left, FACE” with the preparatory command being “left,” and the command of execution as “FACE.”

You will return to your line by following these steps:

- At “FACE,” face to the left to reform your lines.
- Remain in this position until given another command.

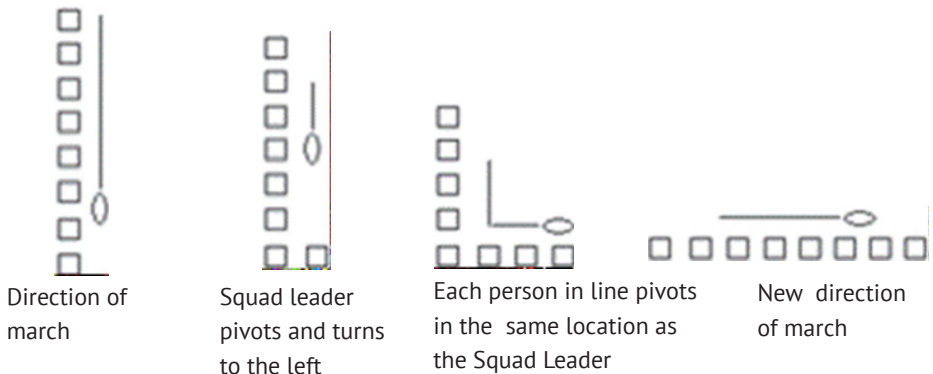
EO.3 – Execute Column Movements

Column movements are used when marching in column formation to change direction of the squad, platoon, or company. It is essentially executing a right or left face except you are doing so while marching instead of while standing still. While marching, the command of execution, “MARCH,” will always be given as the left foot strikes the deck. Column movement commands are:

- “column right, MARCH” – On “MARCH” the column turns ninety degrees to the right.
- “column left, MARCH” – On “MARCH” the column turns ninety degrees to the left.
- “column half-right, MARCH” – On “MARCH” the column turns forty-five degrees to the right.
- “column half-left, MARCH” – On “MARCH” the column turns forty-five degrees to the left.

When moving as a platoon or larger group, all squads follow the base element. The base element is the squad that is closest to the turn. If you are turning to the left, the first squad would be the base element. The pivot Young Marine for the movement is the first Young Marine in the base squad, excluding the platoon commander or the guide. Each person that follows the pivot Young Marine will pivot or execute their turn in the same spot as the pivot Young Marine.

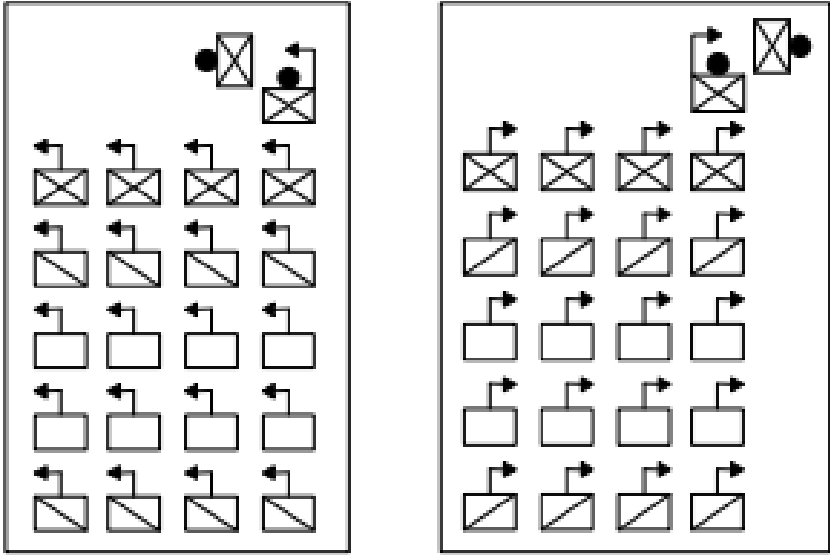
In this example, the squad will perform a “Column Left.”



To perform a column movement while marching, follow the steps below after receiving one of the above commands:

- On the command “column left, MARCH,” the first squad is the base element. On the next step after “MARCH,” the First Squad Leader pivots 90 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot. Following the pivot, the First Squad Leader steps off in a 30-inch step. Beginning with the second step after the pivot, the First Squad Leader takes up the Half Step. Each succeeding member of the first squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader (lead person). (For “Column Right,” third squad is the base element and the pivots occur on the opposite foot noted for “Column Left.”)
- The Second Squad leader takes one 30-inch step, pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot, takes two 30-inch steps prior, and again pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot. Following this pivot, the Second Squad Leader steps off in a 30-inch step. Each succeeding member of the second squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader (lead person). The Second Squad Leader continues marching in 30-inch steps until aligned with the First Squad Leader, then picks up the Half Step. Each succeeding member of the second squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader. (For “Column Right,” the pivots occur on the opposite foot noted for “Column Left.” The Second Squad Leader will pick up the Half Step once he or she aligns with the First Squad Leader.)
- The Third Squad leader takes one 30-inch step, pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot, takes four 30-inch steps prior, and again pivots 45 degrees to the left on the ball of the right foot. Following this pivot, the Third Squad Leader steps off in a 30-inch step. Each succeeding member of the third squad marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of them and performs the same procedures as the squad leader (lead person). The Third Squad Leader continues marching in 30-inch steps, without picking up the Half Step at any point. Once the Third Squad Leader is aligned with the First and Second Squad Leader, the First and Second Squad Leaders will automatically resume full 30-inch steps. This procedure is followed by all succeeding members of the respective squads. (For “Column Right,” the first squad performs the outermost pivots. The pivots occur on the opposite foot noted for “Column Left.” The First Squad Leader will continue marching at a full 30-inch step after the second pivot without picking up the Half Step. Once he or she aligns to the Second and Third Squad Leaders, those squad leaders will resume the full 30-inch step.)

marching the command of execution is given as the foot in the direction of the movement strikes the deck.



While at Quick Time:

- On “MARCH,” take one more step.
- Turn to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot. At the same time, step off 30 inches in the new direction with the right (left) foot.

From a Halt:

- For right Flank, turn 90 degrees to the right by pivoting on the ball of the right foot and (using a cross overstep) stepping off with the left foot 30 inches in the new direction of march.
- For left Flank, turn 90 degrees to the left by pivoting on the ball of the right foot and stepping off 30 inches with the left foot in the new direction of march.

Please note that at the execution of the Flank, alignment changes. Instead of aligning to the right, the formation aligns to the center. This is because the furthest left point of the formation will find it challenging to align properly to the right.

March to the Oblique

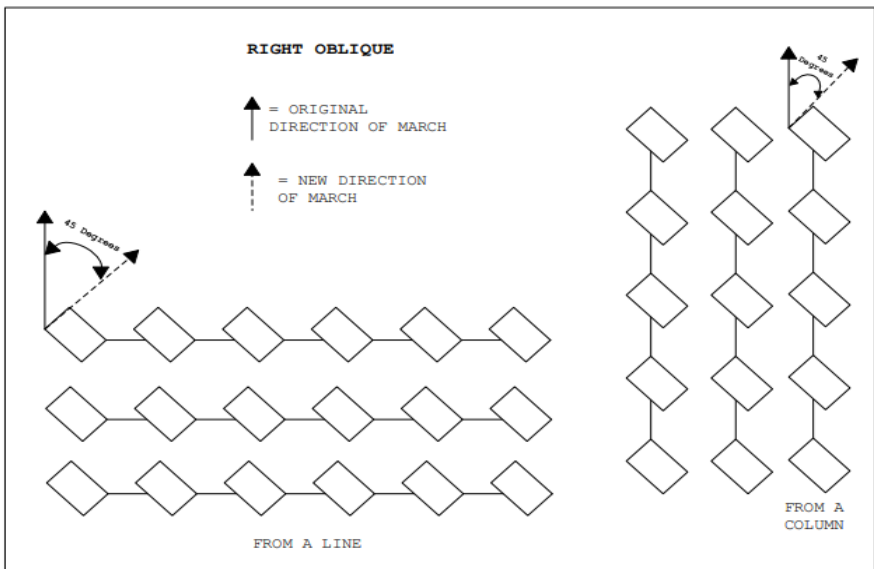
The purpose of this movement is to shift the line of march to the right or left for a short distance and then resume marching in the original direction. It may be executed from any formation that is marching at quick time cadence. The command is “right (left) oblique,

MARCH." The word oblique is pronounced to rhyme with 'Mike'. The command of execution is given as the foot in the direction of the turn strikes the deck. The command to resume the original direction of march is "forward, MARCH." The command of execution is given as the foot toward the original front strikes the deck.

To march the platoon in the right oblique, the command is "right oblique, MARCH." On the command "MARCH," everyone then takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the left foot and pivots 45 degrees to the right on the ball of the left foot. Stepping out of the pivot with a 30-inch step, the entire platoon marches to the right oblique until given another command. For the platoon to resume marching in the original direction, the command is "forward, MARCH,." In this case the command of execution will be given as the left foot strikes the deck. Everyone then takes one more step in the Oblique direction with the right foot; and pivots back to the original front and continues to march. To march to the left Oblique, substitute left for right and right for left in the above sequence.

Performing an Oblique is the almost the same as performing a Flank. Instead of pivoting the full 90 degrees simultaneously as in a Flank, the formation will pivot 45 degrees simultaneously. Once the pivot is executed, the members of the formation will cover behind the new member in front of them. Please note that at the execution of an Oblique, alignment changes. Instead of aligning to the right, the members of the formation will align their lead shoulder to the rear shoulder of the member before them in their squad. In a Right Oblique, if you were able to have an imaginary line pass through the right shoulder (rear shoulder) of a Young Marine, it would then hit the left shoulder (lead shoulder) of the Young Marines directly behind them.

Once the command "forward, MARCH" is called, the formation will simultaneously pivot back to the original line of march and resume normal cover and alignment.



Halting While in the Oblique

The purpose of these commands is to halt the formation while marching in an Oblique.

There are two different Halt commands that can be given during an Oblique. If “HALT” is given, the formation will halt facing the original line of march. In a Right Oblique, if “HALT” is given, the command will be given on the left foot, and the formation will take one more 30-inch step in the oblique with the right foot, plant the foot facing the original line of march, then bring the left foot together as to assume the Position of Attention.

If the command “in place, HALT” is given, the formation will halt normally in the Oblique. To resume marching, the command given is “resume, MARCH”. Upon “resume, MARCH” the formation will begin marching forward in the Oblique.

When given Half Step or Mark Time while marching in the oblique, the only commands that may be given are “resume, MARCH” to continue marching with a 30- inch step in the oblique, or “in place, HALT.” to halt in the oblique in order to correct errors.

The following objectives are in addition to the requirements to obtain the rank of Young Marine Lance Corporal. They should be introduced upon the completion of the required Enabling Objectives but will not be required as a sign-off until Young Marines pursue the rank of Young Marine Sergeant when the Young Marines will be required to both perform and call the commands for the movements. To help with this process, Young Marines should begin learning the movements as a Young Marine Private First Class seeking the rank of a Young Marine Lance Corporal.

To Obtain Close Interval in Column (Close)

The purpose of this movement is to close the interval between files in a column to 4 inches. The command is “close, MARCH” and is executed when halted or while marching at normal interval in a column.

While at the Halt –

- On the command “MARCH,” members of the base (right) squad will stand fast.
- Members of the squad next to the base will execute two side steps to the right.
- The next squad to the left will execute four side steps to the right.
- If there is a fourth squad, the left most squad will execute six side steps to the right.
- While side stepping, cover and alignment will be maintained. After the designated number of steps, members of the squad will halt and resume the position of Attention.

While marching, the command of execution “MARCH” is given as the right foot strikes the deck. At this command:

- The base (right) squad take one more 30-inch step with the left foot and then begins to half step.
- The squad to the left of the base squad takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the left foot, executes right Oblique toward the base squad for one step, and then steps 30 inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- The next squad to the left takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the left foot, executes right Oblique toward the base squad for three steps, and then steps 30 inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- If there is a fourth squad, the left most squad will execute the same movements as above except the members will take five steps in the oblique.
- At the command “forward, MARCH,” all squads resume taking 30-inch steps.

To Extend to Normal Interval in Column (Extend)

The purpose of this movement is to extend the interval between files in a column from close to normal interval. The command is “extend, MARCH” and is executed when halted or marching in column at close interval.

While at the Halt –

- On the command of execution “MARCH,” members of the base (right) squad stand fast.
- Members of the squad next to the base will execute two side steps to the left.
- The next squad to the left will execute four side steps to the left.
- If there is a fourth squad, the left most squad will execute six side steps to the left.
- While side stepping, cover and alignment will be maintained. After the designated number of steps, members of the squad will halt and resume the position of Attention.

While marching, the command of execution “MARCH” is given as the left foot strikes the deck. At this command:

- The base (right) squad take one more 30-inch step with the right foot and then begins to half step.
- The squad to the left of the base squad takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the right foot, executes left Oblique toward the base squad for one step, and then steps 30 inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- The next squad to the left takes one more 30-inch step to the front with the right foot, executes left Oblique toward the base squad for three steps, and then steps 30 inches back to the original front. The squad then begins to half step.
- If there is a fourth squad, the left most squad will execute the same movements as above except the members will take five steps in the oblique.
- At the command “forward, MARCH,” all squads resume taking 30-inch steps.

Column of Files from the Right (Left) and Reform

The purpose of this movement is to diminish the platoon of either two, three, or four squads into one column. The command is “column of files from the right (left), MARCH” and may be executed when the platoon is halted at Attention and at normal or close interval. To reform the platoon, the command is “column of twos (threes or fours) to the right (left), MARCH.” To avoid inverting the platoon, if the column of files were taken from the right, the column of twos (threes or fours) must be taken to the left and then vice versa.

When forming a column of files –

- The Platoon Sergeant gives the command “right, FACE” to form the platoon into columns. Once the Guide has taken their position, the Platoon Sergeant then gives the command.
- On the preparatory command “column of files to the right,” the base (right) Squad Leader gives the command “FORWARD.” The rest of the Squad Leaders simultaneously turn their head and eyes to the right and give the command “STAND FAST.”
- On the command of execution “MARCH,” the base (right) squad, led by the Guide, marches forward. On the command of its Squad Leader, the next squad executes a column half right and a column half left to follow the base squad. If there are three or more squads, the remaining squads execute the same movements of the command of their Squad Leader.
- The commands and directions are the opposite when performing a Column of Files from the Left. The Guide will always position themselves in front of the base element.

To Reform –

- The platoon begins in the single column as formed from the movements described above. The command is “column of twos (threes or fours) to the left, MARCH.”
- On the preparatory command, Squad Leaders, in sequence, give the following supplementary commands: the third Squad Leader turns their head and eyes to the left and commands “STAND FAST;” the second and first Squad Leaders simultaneously give the commands “column half left, column half right.”
- On the command of execution “MARCH,” the squads will execute the commands simultaneously. Once the Squad Leaders have aligned to the base squad, they give the command “squad, HALT.”

Column of Twos from the Right (Left) and Reform

The purpose of this movement is to diminish a platoon of either three or four squads into two columns. The command is “column of twos from the right (left), MARCH” and may

be executed when the platoon is halted at Attention and at normal or close interval. To reform the platoon, the command is “column of threes (or fours) to the right (left), MARCH.” To avoid inverting the platoon, if the column of twos were taken from the right, the column of threes (or fours) must be taken to the left and then vice versa.

When in a column of threes, to form a column of twos –

- The Platoon Sergeant gives the command “right, FACE” to form the platoon into columns. Once the Guide has taken their position, the Platoon Sergeant will then give the command.
- On the preparatory command “column of twos from the right,” the right two Squad Leaders turn their head and eyes to the right and give the command “FORWARD.” The left Squad Leader turns their head and eyes to the left and gives the command “column of twos to the left.”
- On the command of execution “MARCH,” the two right squads march forward. On the command of its Squad Leader, the left squad forms a column of twos to the left. Then the squad executes a column half right and a column half left to follow the two leading squads at normal distance in column.
 - o Squad members must know if they are even or odd numbers for this movement. On the command of execution “MARCH,” the Squad Leader stands fast. Even-numbered members face half left in marching, take two steps, face half right in marching, and march forward to halt beside and at normal interval from the odd-numbered squad member who was originally in front of them.
 - o Odd-numbered members, except the Squad Leader, march forward and halt as they attain the normal interval from the odd-numbered squad member in front of them.
 - o All these movements occur simultaneously.
 - o The commands and directions are the opposite when performing a column of twos from the left. The Guide will always position themselves in front of the base element.

To Reform –

- The platoon begins in the two columns as formed from the movements described above. The command is “column of threes to the left, MARCH.”
- On the preparatory command, the two lead Squad Leaders turn their head and eyes to the right and give the supplementary command “STAND FAST.” The remaining Squad Leader then turns their head and eyes to the left and commands “column files from the right” and “column half left.”
 - o The squad members step off by twos (two and three; four and five; six and seven; etc.) in the left oblique.
 - o The even-numbered members of the squad take one step in the left oblique and pivot back to the original direction of march, following the Squad Leader.

- o The odd-numbered members of the squad take three steps in the left oblique and pivot back to the original direction of march, following the Squad Leader.
- On the command of execution "MARCH," the squads will execute the commands simultaneously. Once the Squad Leader has aligned to the squads, they will give the command "squad, HALT."