

**INFORMATION**

The next movements, which I will name, explain, have demonstrated, and which you will conduct practical work on, are opening ranks and closing ranks. Opening ranks is used to prepare your platoon for inspection or for grounding equipment. Closing ranks is used to return the formation to its original configuration. The commands for these movements are, Open Ranks, MARCH, and Close Ranks, MARCH.

Open Ranks, MARCH, and Close Ranks, MARCH are two-part commands. Open Ranks and Close Ranks are the preparatory commands. MARCH is the command of execution.

When given, these commands are as follows: **Open Ranks, MARCH. Close Ranks, MARCH.**

**Demonstrators, POST.** I will use the TALK-THROUGH method of instruction.

Open Ranks, MARCH is executed from a line formation while at the halt. It may be executed while at any of the prescribed intervals.

On the command of execution MARCH of Open Ranks, MARCH, the platoon leader and platoon sergeant take the appropriate number of steps to maintain their posts. The first rank takes two 30 inch steps forward, the second rank takes one 30 inch step forward, the third rank stands fast, and the fourth rank takes two 15 inch steps backward. If additional ranks are present, the fifth rank will take 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 sergeant wants exact interval or alignment, he commands At Close Interval or At Double Interval, Dress Right, DRESS. If the platoon is to align on an element to the right, the squad leaders turn their head and eyes to the right and align themselves with that element.

To return the platoon to its original configuration, the command is Close Ranks, MARCH. On the command of execution MARCH of Close Ranks, MARCH, the fourth rank takes one step 30 inch step forward, the third rank stands fast, the second rank takes two steps 15 inch steps backward, and the first rank takes four 15 inch steps backward.

At normal cadence, these movements would look as follows: **Open Ranks, MARCH. Close Ranks, MARCH. AT EASE.**

What are your questions pertaining to these movements when executed at normal cadence or using the TALK-THROUGH method of instruction?

**Demonstrators, ATTENTION.** You will now become my assistant instructors. **FALL OUT.**