

INFORMATION

The next movements which I will name, explain, and have demonstrated and which you will conduct practical work on is Counter column. This movement is used when space is limited and the platoon sergeant wants to march the unit in the opposite or reverse direction, with the squad leaders at the head of their squads. The command for this movement is Counter column, March and HALT.

Counter column, March is a two part command. Counter column is the preparatory command. March is the command of execution. HALT is also a two part command when preceded by a preparatory command, such as Platoon, Company, or Demonstrators. I will use Demonstrators as the preparatory command, and HALT as the command of execution.

When given these commands are as follows: **Counter Column, MARCH. Demonstrators, HALT.**

Demonstrators, POST. I will use the STEP-BY-STEP method of instruction.

On the command of execution MARCH of Counter Column, MARCH, the first squad marches forward three steps, executes a column right, marches across the front of the platoon, and executes another column right just beyond the fourth squad. The second squad steps forward one step, executes a column right, marches forward, and executes another column right between the third and fourth squads. The third squad executes two short column lefts from the halt and marches between the remainder of the third squad and the second squad. The fourth squad marches forward two steps, executes a column left, marches across the front of the platoon, and executes another column left between the first and second squads.

As the third squad leader marches past the last man in the third squad, he and his squad begin to march at a half step. After marching past the last man in each file, all other squads incline to the right or left as necessary, obtain normal interval on the third squad, and begin to march at a half step. When all squads are abreast of each other, they begin marching with a 30 inch step without command. **Counter Column, MARCH.**

Note: During the movement, without the platoon leader present the platoon sergeant marches alongside the first squad. With the platoon leader present, the platoon sergeant marches one step to the rear and centered between second and third squads and the platoon leader marches alongside the first squad.

To further illustrate the movement I will give a series of steps. **Ready, STEP. Ready, STEP....**(continue until the entire platoon has executed the movement).

To terminate the movement, the command is HALT. The halt is executed in two counts, the same as the halt from the 30 inch step. For instructional purposes only, on the command of execution STEP of Ready, STEP, bring the trail foot alongside the lead foot and assume the position of attention. **Ready, STEP. RE-FORM.**

When marching, the preparatory command Counter Column is given as the left foot strikes the marching surface and the command of execution MARCH is given the next time the left foot strikes the marching surface.

On the command of execution MARCH of Counter Column, MARCH, the platoon executes the movement basically the same as from the halt, except that the squad takes one additional step to ensure that the pivot foot is in the correct position to execute the movement.

NOTE: When there are only three squads in the column, the first squad takes two steps before executing.

NOTE: When the platoon leader and platoon sergeant are marching at their posts as a part of a larger formation, the platoon leader takes three steps forward and executes a column right, marches across the front of the platoon, executes another column right just beyond fourth squad, marches to his post in the most direct manner, takes up a half step, and then steps off with a 30 inch step when the squad leaders come on line. The platoon sergeant inclines to the right, follows the third squad until the movement is completed, and then resumes his post.

At normal cadence these movements will look as follows: **FALL IN. Right, FACE. COVER. RECOVER. Counter Column, MARCH. Counter Column, MARCH. Demonstrators, HALT.**

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

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