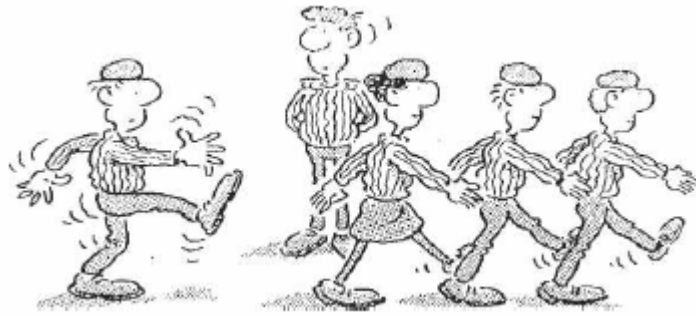


DRILL



INTRODUCTION

1. Most Cadets know drill as a way of getting cadets from one place to another or as a form of ceremonial for Annual Inspections. Unfortunately some cadets also know it as a punishment or a stopgap, if nothing else can be found to keep them occupied, (but more about that later). The Air Cadet Manual of Drill and Ceremonial (ACP19) has the following to say about drill.

"Drill is a powerful aid to discipline It develops a sense of corporate pride, alertness, precision and readiness to obey orders instantly. Good drill in aircraft is directly fostered (encouraged) by the habit of drilling smartly on parade. Officers and men are better prepared for combat and any work they have to do, on the ground or in the air, if fit and mentally alert. Thus smartness on parade is not only a sign of good discipline, but a basic factor in raising the standard of performance of all Service duties. The immediate reaction to orders shown by highly disciplined men derives directly from the performance of carefully conceived close-order exercises. It is this property that will enable a unit to keep cohesion (united) and efficiency under a strain that would normally break it, thus enhancing the fighting spirit."

THE PURPOSE OF DRILL

2. As you can see from the quotation from ACP19, drill is not only used for ceremonial purposes and the practical and efficient movement of cadets from one place to another. Drill can be used to form a group of cadets into a team and teach them to work together and accept a common level of standards, not only in performing drill but in the turnout of the uniforms.

FOR THIS REASON DRILL MUST NEVER BE GIVEN AS A PUNISHMENT
BUT ALWAYS AS A MEANS TO RAISE STANDARDS WITHIN A BODY OF CADETS.

Similarly drill should not be used as a "fill in" subject in the training programme but only as part of a planned training session.

3. As a JNCO you are not expected to teach drill to Second Class cadets and probationers but you must be able to give drill to a squad of cadets and to be confident in the use of the commands to maneuver a squad.

GIVING DRILL COMMANDS

4. All words of command must be clear and powerful since the way in which they are given will affect the way in which the squad will react. A sharp and crisp order will result in a sharp and crisp drill movement. The word of command is divided into three parts.

- **Introductory** This tells the squad what movement they are about to carry out. (e.g. "Move to the right")
- **Cautionary** This is the drawn out and loud reminder to the squad. (e.g. "Right".)
- **Executive** This is the high pitched, sharp command. (e.g. "TURN".)

5. Sometimes there is no need for an introductory word of command, as in "Present Arms", and occasionally there is no cautionary word as in "Halt".

6. The cautionary word of command must be drawn out over a period of time equivalent to four paces in quick time (two seconds), there must be a pause between it and the executive word of command.

DRILL MOVEMENTS AND COMMANDS

7. It is not the purpose of this document to replace ACP19 as the source of all knowledge of drill and ceremonial. JNCOs are recommended to review the contents of ACP19 together with their Squadron Warrant Officer to ensure that drill commands and sequences, such as formation of a squad, are being performed correctly.

8. To help you learn the commands quicker, get together with the rest of your Squadron NCOs and generate a Table from ACP19 which summarises the following information for static and marching drill,

- The Introductory, Cautionary and Executive Words of command for each movement.
- The timing for each movement.
- The foot on which each marching drill movement is given.
- The series of commands for forming, inspecting and dismissing a Squad.

SUMMARY

9. Drill is intended for the practical purposes of moving a body of cadets efficiently, for ceremonial purposes and for the development of self discipline. Drill should never be used as a punishment but as a way to improve standards within a body of cadets. The confidence and crispness with which you give drill commands will be reflected in the way the drill squad reacts to them. ACP19 is the source of all knowledge on drill movements and every Squadron should have a copy, it is there to be used. Make sure that your drill commands are correct by reading it.