

RIFLE DRILL

1. **General.** Before commencing instruction in rifle drill, it is important that the cadets receive instruction in the parts of the rifle.
2. **Rifle Movements.** Unless stated otherwise, cadets carrying out rifle exercises are to have impressed on them the following important points:
 - a. the body and head are to be kept perfectly still while the rifle is moving;
 - b. the eyes are not to follow the movement of the rifle. They are to be kept looking to their front at their own level;
 - c. the rifle, during its movements, is to be kept as close to the body as possible;
 - d. the rifle is always to be moved as quickly as possible and the standard pause between all rifle and foot drill movements is observed;
 - e. the fingers are kept close together; and
 - f. the disengaged hand is brought to the rifle by the shortest route and as quickly as possible; and the same principle applies when returning the disengaged hand to the position of attention.
3. **Rest Periods.** In the early stages of recruit training, short rest periods shall be given during drill instruction by standing the squad easy. During these rest periods, the squad may be questioned on subjects previously taught. The squad shall not be kept in any one position long enough to produce strain and fatigue. Periods of drill at the halt shall be interspersed with movements on the march, with or without arms, at appropriate intervals to keep the squad alert, exercise the muscles, and, as a result, produce a high standard of drill.
4. There are two methods of grasping the rifle for the movements outlined in this chapter.
 - a. **Full Round Grasp.** The specified part of the rifle is held with a tight grip, thumb on one side, fingers together and grasping as much of the rifle as possible around the opposite side.
 - b. **Y-Grip.** The specified part is held with the thumb on one side, fingers together and straight on the opposite side. If fingers are to be pointed in a certain direction, it shall be stated in the movement.

ATTENTION

5. To assume the position of attention (order arms), squad members shall:
 - a. grasp the rifle with the right hand in the Y-grip, just below the lower band, fingers extended straight down the right side of the rifle with the thumb on the left side touching the seam of the trousers. The position of the right hand will not vary with the height of the individual, but the position of the right elbow will be either bent or straight. If the elbow is bent it will be held close to the body and to the rear;
 - b. place the butt flat on the ground with the rifle touching the boot, toe of the butt in line with the small toe of the right foot; and
 - c. keep the magazine to the front.

STAND AT EASE FROM ATTENTION

6. On the command, STAND AT—EASE, squad members shall:
 - a. force the rifle directly to the front and to the full extent of the right arm, grasping the rifle with a Y-Grip, keeping the toe of the butt in contact with the ground and in line with the small toe of the right foot;
 - b. simultaneously, bend the left knee and place the left foot smartly on the ground 25 cm (approximately 10 in.) to the left; and
 - c. keep the left arm straight at the side.

STAND EASY FROM STAND AT EASE

7. On the command, STAND—EASY, squad members shall:
 - a. with a quick movement of the right arm, bring the muzzle of the rifle to the centre of the body by pivoting the rifle on the toe of the butt so the base of the magazine is pointing to the left;
 - b. simultaneously, strike and grasp the rifle with the palm of the left hand, hand on top of the nosecap, thumb in rear and fingers in front of the rifle, fingers together pointing down and to the right in a straight line from the elbow; and
 - c. after observing a standard pause, relax the body.

STAND AT EASE FROM STAND EASY

8. On the command, SQUAD, the squad shall assume the position of stand at ease.

ATTENTION FROM STAND AT EASE

9. On the command, ATTEN—TION, squad members shall:
 - a. bend the left knee and bring the left foot to the position of attention, keeping the left arm at the side; and
 - b. with a swift motion, simultaneously force the rifle to the right side, keeping the butt in contact with the ground and the foot, and assume the position of attention.

SHORT TRAIL FROM THE ORDER

10. The short trail is used when marching the squad short distances or during dressing when squad members are required to move.
11. On the command, SHORT TRAIL—ARMS, given only when the squad is in the position of attention, squad members shall:
 - a. bend the right arm and raise the butt of the rifle 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the ground; and
 - b. bend the right arm and raise the butt of the rifle 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the ground; and

12. On the command, AT THE SHORT TRAIL, QUICK—MARCH, simultaneously with the detail in paragraph 2 above, step off with the left foot.
13. On the command, SQUAD—HALT, the squad shall halt as ordered and, as the right knee is straightened, lower the rifle to the attention position.
14. When a squad is at the order arms position and the command, QUICK—MARCH, is given, the squad shall automatically adopt the short trail position as they step off with the left foot.

GROUND ARMS

15. The ground arms command is used when it is necessary to move the squad without arms. Ground arms is only ordered when a squad is at the open order. Care must be taken not to kick or step on arms when they are grounded.
16. On **the** command, GROUND ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:
 - a. take a half pace forward with the left foot and by bending the knees, adopt a squatting position with the weight of the body on the right foot;
 - b. keeping the right arm straight, with the right hand in line with the right knee, simultaneously rotate the rifle to the right, lay it on the ground with the magazine to the right and the muzzle pointing straight to the front;
 - c. ensure that the rear sight is in line with the small toe on the right foot;
 - d. keep the shoulders square to the front and look down at the rifle; and
 - e. keep the left arm straight against the body and hip.
17. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:
 - a. release the rifle; and
 - b. assume the position of attention by standing erect, bending the left knee and bringing the left foot smartly back to the right foot.
18. On the command, GROUND—ARMS, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

TAKE UP ARMS

19. On **the** command, TAKE UP ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:
 - a. take a half pace forward with the left foot and squat with the weight of the body on the right foot;
 - b. look down and grasp the rifle at the lower band with the right hand; and
 - c. keep the left arm straight against the body and hip.
20. On the **command** SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall assume the position of attention by:

- a. standing erect, bending the left knee and bringing the left foot smartly back to the right; and
- b. simultaneously, rotating the rifle to the left, bringing the magazine to the front and placing the butt of the rifle flat on the ground.

21. On the command TAKE UP—ARMS, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

SLOPE ARMS FROM THE ORDER

22. The slope arms is the position primarily used when marching with the rifle. Care is to be given to ensure that all members keep the left forearm parallel to the ground and that the rifle is kept as still as possible while marching.

23. On the command SLOPE ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:

- a. throw the rifle upwards with the right hand, catching it with both hands at the same time, the left hand with a full round grasp around the forestock and the right hand with a Ygrip around the small of the butt;
- b. ensure that the left forearm is parallel to the ground, close to the body;
- c. keep the right arm slightly bent, elbow to the rear and close to the body; and
- d. keep the rifle close to the body.

24. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:

- a. carry the rifle across and close to the body, placing it flat on the left shoulder, the underside out and away from the body;
- b. change the grip of the right hand to a full round grasp at the small of the butt, keeping the right forearm parallel to the ground;
- c. seize the butt of the rifle with the left hand, the thumb 2,5 cm (1 in) above the toe of the butt, and the fingers together and wrapped around the butt plate; and
- d. keep the left elbow close to the body, forearm parallel to the ground pointing straight.

25. On the command SQUAD—THREE, squad members shall cut the right arm to the side as in the position of attention.

26. On the command SLOPE—ARMS, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

ORDER ARMS FROM THE SLOPE

27. On the command ORDER ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:

- a. bring the right arm across and close to the body and grab the rifle at the forestock with a full round grasp, and keeping the right forearm parallel to the ground; and

- b. simultaneously, bring the rifle down to a vertical position and to the full extent of the left arm, keeping the rifle close to the left side of the body.
28. On the command SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:
- a. use the right arm to force the rifle down and to the right side of the body as in the position of the order, rotating the rifle so that the underside faces to the front;
 - b. simultaneously, change the position of the left hand so that it cuts across the body and holds the rifle below the nose cap with a full round grasp, back of the hand facing to the front; and
 - c. Change the position of the rifle hand to a y- Grip and allow the right hand to slide upwards on the forestock.
29. On the command SQUAD—THREE, squad members shall cut the left hand to the side as in the position of the order.
30. On the command ORDER—ARMS, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

DRESSING A SQUAD

31. When dressing a squad on parade with rifles, the squad may be at the order or slope position.
32. On the command RIGHT (LEFT)—DRESS, the movement is executed in the same fashion as without arms except that the left arm is raised at the order position as the head is turned in the required direction. This requires the right marker to raise their left arm, and the left marker to keep the left arm to the side.
33. Dressing a squad while at the slope position is carried out as for the right dress without arms. The right arm shall be raised for a left dress under this condition.
34. Arms are not required to be raised by welltrained cadets.

ORDERING A SQUAD WITH RIFLES ON PARADE

35. On the command, MARKER, the marker shall:
- a. come to attention and observe the standard pause;
 - b. slope arms and observe the standard pause;
 - c. march to a position three paces in front of and facing the instructor and halt; and
 - d. remain at the slope.
36. After the marker has halted, the instructor shall turn right and move to a position three paces front and centre of where the squad will be fallen in.
37. On the command, FALL—IN, the squad shall:

- a. come to attention and observe the standard pause;
 - b. slope arms and observe the standard pause;
 - c. march onto the parade ground and halt on the left of and covering off the marker;
and
 - d. remain at the slope.
38. The instructor shall then proceed as required i.e. Right Dress, Eyes Front, Order Arms, Stand at Ease.
39. This movement may be executed with the rifles held at the short trail position if the instructor so orders.

PRESENT ARMS FROM THE SLOPE

40. On the command, PRESENT ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall cut the right hand across the body and seize the rifle at the small of the butt with a full round grasp, back of the hand facing the front.
41. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:
- a. raise the rifle with the right hand perpendicular in front of the centre of the body, sling to the left;
 - b. simultaneously, place the left hand smartly on the sling, wrist on the magazine, fingers together and pointing upwards, thumb against the forefinger, with the point of the thumb in line with the mouth;
 - c. ensure that the left elbow is close to the butt, the right elbow and butt close to the body; and
 - d. left hand in front of the mouth.
42. On the command, SQUAD—THREE, squad members shall:
- a. raise the right foot 15 cm (6 inches) and place it behind the left so that the instep of the right foot is against the heel of the left, feet at an angle of 30 degrees, both legs straight;
 - b. as the right foot is placed on the ground, bring the rifle down perpendicularly close in front of the centre of the body, sling to the front, holding it at the full extent of the right arm, fingers extended and slanting 45 degrees downward in a Y-grip;
 - c. as the right foot is placed on the ground, grasp the forestock with the left hand in a full round grasp, thumb along the left side of the rifle pointing towards the muzzle, left forearm parallel to the ground and close to the body; and
 - d. support the weight of the rifle with the left hand.
43. On the command, PRESENT—ARMS, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

SLOPE ARMS FROM THE PRESENT

44. On the command, SLOPE ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:

- a. transfer the grip of the right hand so that it holds the small of the butt with a full round grasp;
- b. transfer the left hand and seize the butt of the rifle, the thumb 2,5 cm (1 in) above the toe of the butt, and the fingers together and wrapped around the butt plate; and
- c. simultaneously, place the rifle flat on the left shoulder, the underside out and away from the body.

45. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:

- a. bend the right knee and bring the right foot to the position of attention; and
- b. as the right foot is placed on the ground, cut the right arm to the right side of the body.

46. On the command, SLOPE—ARMS, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

FIXING BAYONETS

47. The squad shall be at the open order when fixing and unfixing bayonets. On the command, SQUAD WILL FIX BAYONETS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:

- a. force the rifle out to the full extent of the right arm as for the position of stand at ease; and
- b. grasp the handle of the bayonet with the left hand in a Y-grip, back of the hand to the body, fingers straight and together pointing directly down, bayonet handle in the palm of the hand.

48. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:

- a. rotate the bayonet anti-clockwise; and
- b. withdraw the bayonet from the scabbard by straightening the left arm, the bayonet being held along the left buttock, not visible from the front, and the fingers extended down the side of the bayonet handle.

49. On the command, SQUAD WILL FIX BAYONETS—FIX, the two movements are combined.

50. On the command, BAYONET—SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:

- a. lower the head to look directly at the muzzle of the rifle; and
- b. simultaneously, bring the bayonet across the front of the body with the left hand and align the bayonet with the bayonet studs.

51. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall push the bayonet down until the catch engages, fingers kept round the bayonet handle and the thumb over the handle, head lowered and body erect.

52. On the command, SQUAD—BAYONETS, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

53. On the command, SQUAD, squad members shall open the palm of the left hand and strike the handle of the bayonet, fingers and thumb together and extended in continuation of the line of the arm, thumb below the cross piece (guard) of the bayonet.

54. On the command, SQUAD ATTEN—TION, squad members shall:

- a. pull the rifle to the right side: and

- b. cut the left arm to the left side and raise the head to assume the position of attention.

UNFIX BAYONETS

55. On the command, SQUAD WILL UNFIX BAYONETS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:
 - a. bend the knees slightly;
 - b. change the grip on the rifle to a full round grip with the right hand;
 - c. simultaneously, place the butt of the rifle between the feet and grip the rifle between the knees, heels together, upper body kept upright; and
 - d. bring the left hand across the body and place it above the right in a full round grasp on the forestock.
56. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:
 - a. shift the right hand to a full round grasp on the bayonet handle, back of the hand to the right;
 - b. simultaneously, press up on the bayonet bolt spring with the right index finger;
 - c. at the same time, press down on the bayonet handle with the ball of the right thumb, turn the bayonet sharply to the left and raise 2.5 cm (1 inch) clear of the rifle, blade pointing vertically up; and
 - d. keep both elbows to the sides of the body.
57. On the command, SQUAD WILL UNFIX BAYONETS—UNFIX, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.
58. On the command, BAYONETS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:
 - a. drop the point of the bayonet to the left side with the right hand in a full round grasp;
 - b. at the same time, place the left hand on the scabbard, fingers underneath and straight together in a Y-grip;
 - c. tilt the scabbard to the rear and guide the bayonet tip into the mouth, keeping the scabbard horizontal to the ground; and
 - d. move the head to follow the movement of the bayonet.
59. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall push the entire bayonet blade into the scabbard with the right hand as the left hand holds the scabbard for support.
60. On the command, SQUAD—BAYONETS, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.
61. On the command, ATTENTION BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:
 - a. grasp the rifle with the right hand as for the position of Attention;
 - b. simultaneously, release the scabbard with the left hand and strike and grasp the rifle below the noscap with a full round grasp; and
 - c. turn the head and eyes to the front.
62. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:
 - a. lift the rifle over the right instep;
 - b. straighten up; and

- c. simultaneously, with the left hand guide the rifle to the position of attention, steadying the rifle in the vertical position with the left hand, fingers extended and thumb behind the muzzle.
63. On the command, SQUAD—THREE, squad members shall cut the left hand and arm to the side assuming the position of Attention.
64. On the command, SQUAD ATTEN—TION, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

INSPECTION OF ARMS FROM THE ORDER

65. The primary purpose of port arms is to inspect the rifle for cleanliness, however, it is also the desired position when doubling with a rifle (see paragraph 9).
66. On the command, FOR INSPECTION, PORT ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall:
- a. throw the rifle across the body with the muzzle leading, the magazine pointing down and the barrel to the left;
 - b. simultaneously, grab the rifle with the left hand in a full round grasp at a point just below the front sling swivel, back of the hand facing the ground;
 - c. at the time the left hand meets the rifle, the right hand shall grab the rifle at the small of the butt with a full round grasp, back of the hand facing up, and the thumb in line with belt buckle; and
 - d. ensure that the rifle is on a 45 degree angle pointing up and to the left, right and left elbows to the sides of the body in and arms held still in a natural position.
67. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall bring the right hand to the safety catch and turn it forward with the thumb so that the catch points to the left.
68. On the command, SQUAD—THREE, squad members shall grasp the bolt handle with the thumb and index finger of the right hand, turn it sharply upwards, and draw back the bolt to its full extent.
69. On the command, SQUAD—FOUR, squad members shall raise the back sight with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand.
70. On the command, SQUAD—FIVE, squad members shall grasp the small of the butt with the right hand in a full round grasp, thumb towards the body and pointing towards the muzzle on the left side of the rifle.
71. On the command, FOR INSPECTION, PORT—ARMS, the five movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.
72. On the command, EASE—SPRINGS, squad members shall work the bolt rapidly backwards and forwards until all cartridges are removed from the magazine and chamber. On their own time and once all cartridges are released from the rifle, squad members shall close the bolt, press the trigger, turn the safety catch to the rear, lower the back sight, and return the right hand to the small in a full round grasp, thumb towards the body.
73. If ordered to port arms for the purpose of doubling, the command is given as PORT—ARMS, and only paragraph 2 is executed.

ORDER ARMS FROM THE INSPECTION

74. On the command, ORDER ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall remove the right hand from the small of the butt to strike and grasp the rifle at the lower band, ensuring that the angle of the rifle does not change.
75. On the command, SQUAD—TWO, squad members shall:
 - a. force the rifle down the right side of the body as for the position of the order, keeping the fingers of the right hand straight;
 - b. simultaneously, strike and grasp the rifle directly beneath the upper band using a full round grasp with the left hand, guiding the rifle down to the right side of the body; and
 - c. as the rifle moves down, change the position of the right hand so that the fingers and thumb point down the rifle.
76. On the command, SQUAD—THREE, squad members shall cut the left arm to the left side of the body as in the position of the order.
77. On the command, ORDER—ARMS, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.
78. If the butt plate is not in contact with the ground at the completion of the movement, squad members shall observe a standard pause before slowly lowering the rifle until it is in place beside the right foot.

CHANGE ARMS AT THE SLOPE

79. The change arms movement is to be used when members under arms are carrying the rifle for long periods of time.
80. On the command, CHANGE ARMS BY NUMBERS, SQUAD—ONE, squad members shall cut the right arm across the front of the body and seize the rifle at the butt with the right hand, fingers together and wrapped around the butt plate, thumb around the underside of the butt and one inch above the toe of the butt, back of the hand facing forward.
81. On the command, SQUAD TWO, change the position of the left hand so that it grabs the small of the butt with a full round grasp, back of the hand facing left.
82. On the command, SQUAD—THREE, squad members shall:
 - a. transfer the rifle across the front of the body to the right shoulder by letting it rotate clockwise with the right hand until the magazine is facing to the right, maintaining the grip on the butt plate, and the back of the right hand facing down;
 - b. loosening the grip on the small of the butt with the left hand, allowing the rifle to rotate, while maintaining the full round grasp, back of the left hand facing to the front, left elbow in front of and close to the body; and
 - c. ensure that the right arm is parallel to the ground, elbow close to the body, and the forearm pointing straight.
83. On the command, SQUAD—FOUR, squad members shall cut the left arm to the left side of the body as if assuming the position of attention.
84. On the command, CHANGE—ARMS, the four movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

85. When the order is given and the right hand is carrying the rifle, follow the above movements using the opposite directions for left and right, and rotate the rifle counter clockwise.

SHORT SLING ARMS

86. On the command, SHORT SLING–ARMS, given from the Order, squad members shall loosen the sling and sling the rifle on the right shoulder with the sling in front and rifle in the rear. The right hand grasps the sling with the thumb underneath and level with the top of the breast pocket.
87. When the rifle is slung, only the head and eyes shall be turned when saluting on the march. At the halt the position of attention is maintained. No hand salute is given.

