

DRILL INSTRUCTION CARDS PACKAGE

Instructions For Inspection Procedures

CARDS IP-1 THRU IP-4

Adapted from the Marine Corps Drill and Ceremony Manual
(MCO) P5060.20

GENERAL

The company is the basic unit for inspection. Battalion, regimental, and higher commanders or inspection officers inspect each company in its own area, or have it march to a specified place at a designated time for inspection. Under special conditions, an entire battalion or regiment may be inspected in one large formation

COMPANY FORMATIONS

General. The company forms in line or in a column of platoons in line. If transportation is included, it forms 12 paces in rear of the troops. Drivers remain in their vehicles.

Procedure.

1. When ready to inspect the company commander commands: **“PREPARE FOR INSPECTION”**

- Platoon commanders open ranks by platoons beginning with the right platoon.
- The second platoon will open ranks when the first rank of the first platoon has been aligned.
- The third and subsequent platoons do not begin to open ranks until the front squad of the platoon to its right has been aligned.
- All platoon commanders align their squads on the corresponding squad of the platoon to their right.
- When the formation is a column of platoons in line:
 - Platoon commanders open ranks successively from front to rear without waiting the alignment of the platoon to their front.
 - Platoon commanders cause their units to cover the corresponding files to their front.

IP-2

COMPANY FORMATIONS Con't.)

- Platoon commanders will comply with the procedures prescribed for platoon drill in opening ranks and aligning their platoons.
 - After verifying the alignment of the last rank, each platoon commander faces to the right in marching, moves 3 paces beyond the front rank, faces left, and commands **“Ready, FRONT”** and **“COVER.”**
 - After giving the command **“COVER,”** each platoon commander takes one step forward and faces to the front, thereby being in a position 3 paces in front of the right file of the front rank of their respective platoon. It is at this position that the platoon commander receives the inspecting officer.
2. When all ranks have been opened, the company commander commands **“AT EASE.”** He/she then inspects the company. During the inspection, officers, staff and guidon bearers not in ranks come to attention as the company commander approaches. After being inspected, they resume at ease. The company commander may direct the Command Master Chief to accompany him/her for the purpose of taking notes.
- The inspection begins at the head of the column or at the right of the line.
 - The company commander inspects the arms, equipment dress, and appearance of the personnel.
 - As the inspecting officer approaches each platoon, the platoon commander brings his/her unit to attention, salutes and reports the platoon prepared for inspection. After being personally inspected, the platoon commander returns sword (if so armed) and places him/herself on the right of the company commander.

IP-3

COMPANY FORMATIONS Con't.)

- The platoon commander accompanies the company commander during the entire inspection, down the front and rear of each squad.
 - The company commander may direct that squads having been, or not yet inspected be put at ease while he/she inspects the others. In this case, the platoon commander complies and brings them to attention for inspection at the proper time.
3. The inspection is made from right to left in the front, and from left to right in the rear of each rank.
- After inspecting the platoon commander, the company commander moves around the platoon commander's left to a position in front of the right flank cadet in the first rank.
 - He/she moves from cadet to cadet by stepping off to the right in marching, taking one and one half steps, halting, and executing a left face.
 - The platoon commander must move in the same manner so as not to be in the company commander's way.
4. Each cadet executes movements to inspection arms for his/her weapon immediately after the company commander has completed the left face movement and is facing him/her.
5. The company commander takes all individual weapons from the individual being inspected.
- He/she takes the rifle by grasping the handguard with his/her right hand.
 - The cadet whose rifle is being inspected immediately drops his/her hands to the sides.

COMPANY FORMATIONS Con't.)

- After inspecting the weapon, the company commander hands it back with his/her right hand in the same position.
 - The cadet smartly takes the weapon back by grasping the center of the handguard just forward of the balance point with his/her left hand, and returns weapon to order arms as soon as he/she receives it.
6. Upon completion of the inspection of his/her platoon, the platoon commander, having lead the company commander down the rear of the last squad, executes a column left and halts when 3 paces beyond the right flank member of the first rank.
- He/she faces left, calls the entire platoon to attention, and then resumes his/her post.
 - The company commander passes to the right of the platoon commander, faces left in marching, halts, and executes a left face.
 - The company commander then gives the platoon commander any instructions necessary.
 - The platoon and company commanders exchange salutes, and the latter proceeds to the next platoon.
7. Upon completion of the inspection of each platoon, its commander faces left and orders “**Close Ranks, MARCH.**”
- At the command “**MARCH,**” the platoon commander moves by the most direct route and takes his/her post 6 paces in front of and centered on his/her platoon.