

CHAPTER 6

Marching

Flight Formation While Marching

The normal formation for marching is a column of at least two, but not more than four, elements abreast. The element leaders march at the head of their elements.

The flight marches in line only for minor changes of position. Whenever commands are given involving movements in which all elements in the flight do not execute the same movement simultaneously, the element leaders give supplementary commands for the movement of their elements.

Close or Extend March. To obtain close interval between files when in column at normal interval at a halt or while marching at quick time, the command is **Close, MARCH**. To obtain normal interval from close interval, the command is **Extend, MARCH**.

Close March (Halted). On the command **MARCH**, the fourth element stands fast. The remaining elements take the required number of right steps, all at the same time, and halt together. The third element takes two steps, the second element takes four steps, and the first element takes six steps.

Close March (Marching). Upon receiving the command **MARCH**, which is given on the right foot, everyone in the fourth element takes up the half step (beginning with the left foot) following the command of execution. The third element obtains close interval by pivoting 45 degrees to the right on the ball of the left foot, taking one 24-inch step (with coordinated armswing) toward the fourth element, and

then pivoting 45 degrees back to the left on the ball of the right foot. The second element takes three steps between pivots, and the first element takes five steps between pivots. The original direction of march is resumed; the half step is taken up once close interval is obtained; and dress, cover, interval, and distance are reestablished. Upon receiving the command **Forward, MARCH**, all elements resume a 24-inch step.

Extend March (Halted). Reverse the procedures used to obtain close interval to obtain normal interval.

Extend March (Marching). The same procedures and steps used to obtain close interval are used except the command is given on the left foot and the pivots are made on the right foot.

Column Movements

Column Right (Left) Normal Interval (Marching): The commands are **Column Right (Left), MARCH**, and **Forward, MARCH** (see figures 6-1 and 6-2). Upon receiving the command **Column Right (Left), MARCH**, the fourth (first) element leader takes one more 24-inch step, pivots 90 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot, and suspends armswing during the pivot. Following the pivot, step off in a 24-inch step and resume coordinated armswing. Beginning with the second step after the pivot, take up the half step. Each succeeding member of the fourth (first)

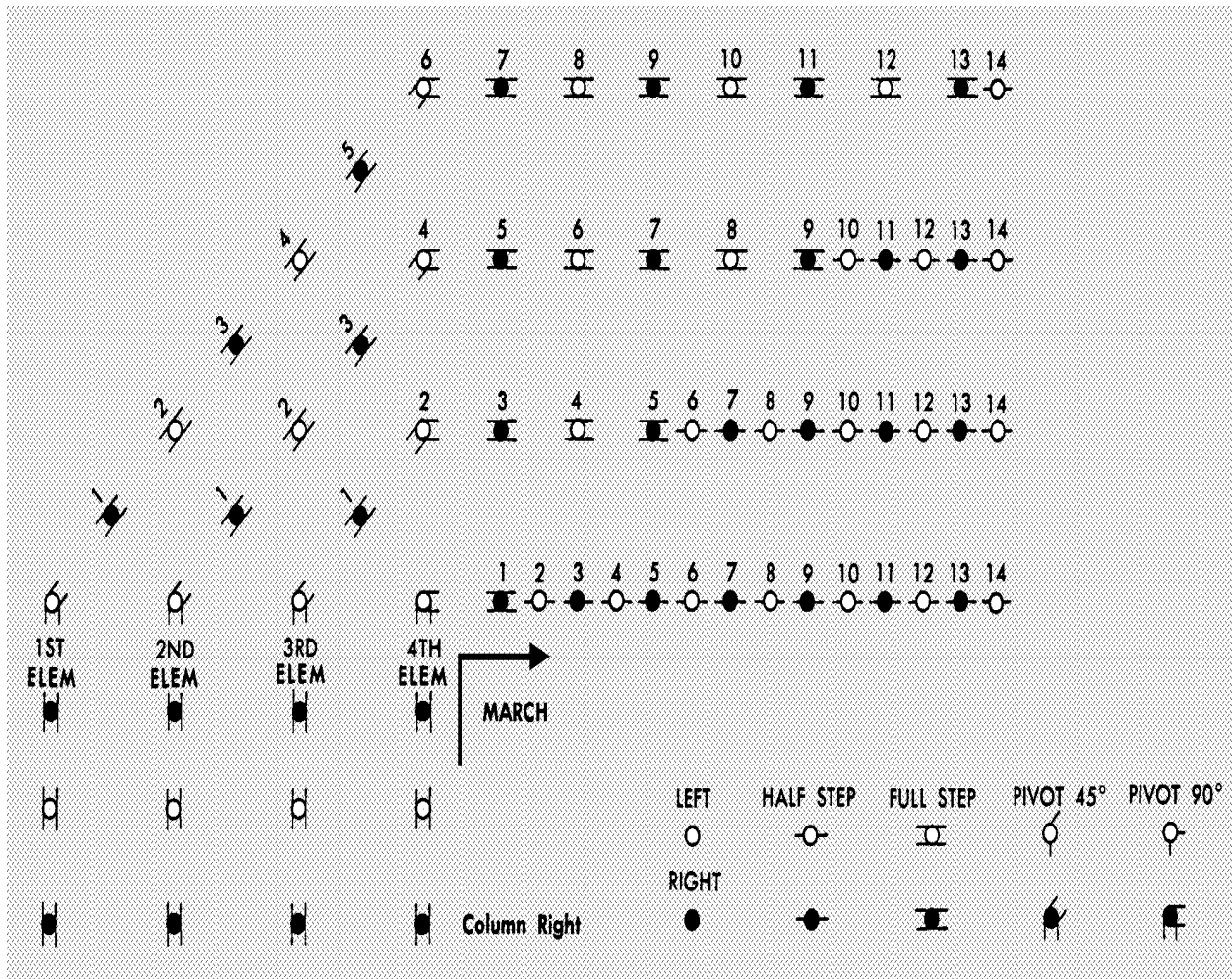


Figure 6-1. Column Right March at Normal Interval.

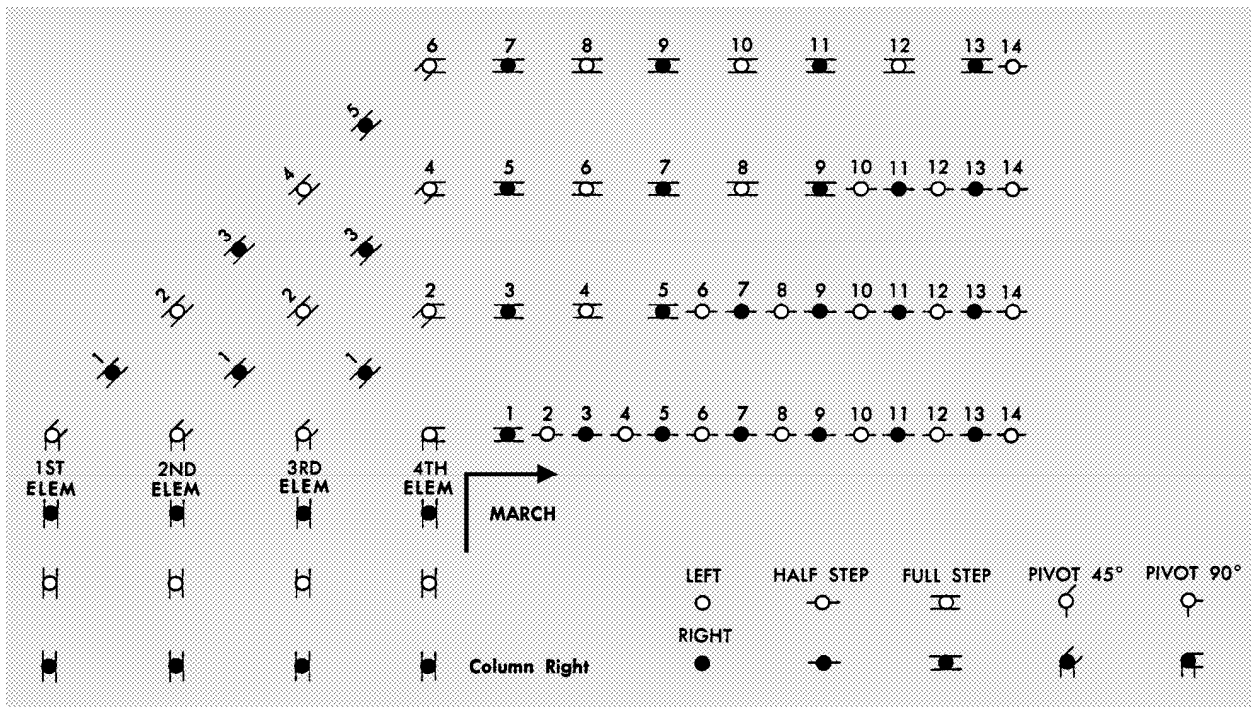


Figure 6-2. Column Right March at Close Interval.

element marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of him or her and performs the same procedures as the element leader.

The third (second) element leader takes one 24-inch step, (maintaining coordinated armswing throughout) pivots 45 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot, and takes two 24-inch steps prior to pivoting 45 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot. Continue marching in 24-inch steps until even with the person who marches on the right (left). Then begin half stepping and establish interval and dress. Each succeeding member of the third (second) element marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of him or her and performs the same procedures as the element leader.

The second (third) element leader takes one more 24-inch step, (maintaining coordinated armswing throughout) pivots 45 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot, and takes four 24-inch steps prior to pivoting 45 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot. Continue marching in 24-inch steps until even with the person who marches on the right (left). Then begin half stepping, and establish interval and dress. Each succeeding member of the second (third) element marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of him or her, and performs the same procedures as the element leader.

The first (fourth) element leader takes one more 24-inch step, (maintaining coordinated armswing throughout) pivots 45 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot, and takes six 24-inch steps prior to pivoting 45 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot. Continue marching in 24-inch steps until even with the person who marches on the right (left). Then begin half stepping, and

establish interval and dress. Each succeeding member of the first (fourth) element marches to the approximate pivot point established by the person in front of him or her and performs the same procedures as the element leader.

The guide performs the pivots and steps exactly as the fourth element leader. Following completion of the pivots, the guide continues in a 24-inch step until he or she is ahead of the fourth element leader. The guide pivots 45 degrees to a position in front of the fourth element leader; then he or she pivots 45 degrees again toward the front and begins half stepping.

Once the entire formation has changed direction and dress, cover, interval, and distance are reestablished, **Forward, MARCH**, will be given. Upon receiving the command **MARCH**, take one more 12-inch step with the right foot, then step off with a full 24-inch step with the left foot. When performing column left, the responsibility of dress reverts to the left flank upon receiving the preparatory command of **Column left**. The responsibility remains with the left flank until the command **MARCH** is given, at which point it reverts back to the right flank.

Column Right (Left) Close Interval. Perform these movements in the same manner as at normal interval with these exceptions. The element closest to the base file takes two 12-inch steps between pivots; the next element takes four 12-inch steps between pivots, and the last element takes six 12-inch steps between pivots.

Column Movements from a Halt (Normal or Close Interval). When column movements are executed from a halt, procedures are similar to those in the two previous paragraphs. On the command **MARCH**, element leaders begin the movement by executing a face in marching for a column left. For a column right,

element leaders take one 24-inch step forward, then execute the movement.

Column Half Right (Left)

To change the direction of a column by 45 degrees, the command is **Column Half Right (Left), MARCH**. Upon receiving the command **MARCH**, the leading cadet of the right (left) flank advances one full 24-inch step, pivots 45 degrees to the right (left) on the ball of the left (right) foot and, maintaining coordinated armswing, advances another full 24-inch step. The cadet then takes up the half step and continues in a half step until each member in his or her rank is abreast of each other. Then all members of that rank resume a full 24-inch step. In the meantime, the remaining individuals of the leading rank pivot 45 degrees to the right (left), with coordinated armswing and without changing the interval, and continue marching in full 24-inch steps until they are abreast of the base file. At this point, they conform to the step of the individual in the right (left) flank and establish the proper interval. The remaining cadets in each file march to the approximate pivot point established by the element leader and perform the movement in the same manner. They then dress to their right and cover directly behind the person in front of them.

The flight commander and guide pivot 45 degrees in the direction of the movement. Then they pivot 45 degrees back to their original positions in front of the column.

When column half right (left) is executed from a halt, the procedures are the same as described in the two previous paragraphs except, on the command of execution, the element leaders begin the movement by executing a face in marching to the indicated direction.

To execute a slight change of direction, the command **INCLINE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT)** is given. The guide or guiding

element moves in the indicated direction and the rest of the element follows. There is no pivot in this movement.

Forming a Single File or Multiple Files

These are not precise movements but they are practiced in drill so, when necessary, the movements can be executed smoothly and without delay. These movements are executed only from the halt.

Column of Files. To form a single file when in a column of two or more elements, the command is **Column of Files from the Right (Left), Forward MARCH**. On the preparatory command, the guide takes a position in front of the file that will move first. The element leader of the right (left) element turns his or her head 45 degrees to the right (left) and commands **Forward**. At the same time the remaining element leaders turn their heads 45 degrees to the right (left) and command **STAND FAST**. Their heads are kept to the right (left) until they step off. On the command **MARCH**, the extreme right (left) element steps off. The element leader of each remaining element commands **Forward, MARCH** as the last cadet in each element passes, ensuring the leader's element is in step with the preceding element. All elements then incline to the right (left), following the leading elements in successive order (see figure 6-3).

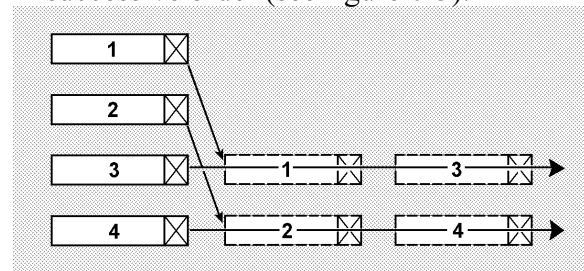


Figure 6-3. Forming a File From a Column of Twos.

Column of Files, Column Right (Left). In conjunction with forming single files, column movements may be executed at the same time. The command is **Column of Files From the Right (Left), Column Right (Left), MARCH.** On the preparatory command, the guide executing a face in marching takes a position in front of the file that will move first. The element leader of the right (left) element commands **Column Right (Left).** The remaining element leaders command **STAND FAST.** On the command **MARCH,** the element leader and guide execute a face in marching to the right (left), and the element leader continues marching in the new direction with 24-inch steps. The guide marches to a position ahead of the element leader, then pivots 45 degrees to a position 40 inches in front of the element leader. The remaining individuals in the base file march forward on the command of execution, pivot in approximately the same location as their element leader, and maintain a 40-inch distance. The element leaders of the remaining elements command **Column Right (Left), MARCH,** at which time all cadets perform the movement in the same manner as the base element. The element leaders follow the leading elements in successive order. The commands **Column of Files From the Left, Column Right, MARCH** and **Column of Files From the Right, Column Left, MARCH** are not given.

Columns of Twos (Fours) From a Single File (Multiple Elements). To form a column of two or more files when in a single file of more than one element, the command is **Column of Twos (Fours) to the Left (Right), MARCH.** On the preparatory command, the leading element leader turns his or her head 45 degrees to the right (left) and commands **STAND FAST.** At the same time, the remaining element leaders turn their heads 45 degrees to the

right (left) and command **Column Half Left (Right).** On the command **MARCH,** the leading element stands fast, and the element leader returns his or her head back to the front. The remaining element leaders turn their heads back to the front and step off, executing a column left (right) simultaneously, and incline and form to the left (right) of the leading element. The remaining members of each element march to the approximate pivot point established by the element leaders and perform the movement in the same manner as the element leaders. Each element is halted by its element leader turning his or her head 45 degrees to the left (right) and commanding the element to halt so his or her element is abreast of, and even with, the leading element (see figure 6-4).

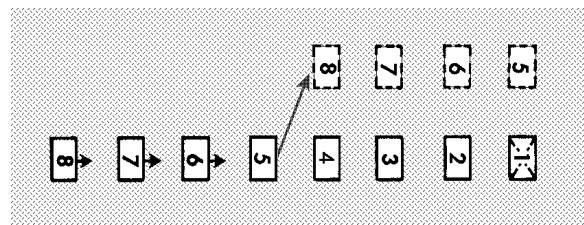


Figure 6-4. Forming a Column of Twos From a File

Forming a Column of Twos From a Single File. When at a halt and in column, the command is **Column of Twos From the Left (Right), MARCH.** On the command **MARCH,** the leader stands fast. The cadet who is the center of the element (when in line) performs a half left (right) in marching, takes one 24-inch step, performs a half right (left) in marching, and moves up until abreast of, and at normal interval from, the leading individual of the original element. To halt, the leading individual of the new element turns his or her head 45 degrees to the left (right) and commands the element to halt. All cadets execute the pivot in approximately the same location, and all

individuals who are required to move do so at the same time (see figure 6-4).

Forming a Column of Twos From a Column of Fours and Reforming

This is not a precise movement, but it is practiced in drill so, when necessary, the movement can be executed smoothly and without delay. These movements are executed only from a halt.

To form a column of twos when in a column of fours at a halt, the command is **Column of Twos From the Right (Left), Forward, MARCH**. On the preparatory command, the fourth (second) element leader turns his or her head 45 degrees to the right (left) and commands **Forward**; the second (fourth) element leader turns his or her head 45 degrees right (left) and commands **STAND FAST**. Each keeps his or her head to the right (left) until the element steps off. On the command **MARCH**, the designated elements step off immediately. As the last cadet in the designated lead elements pass and on the command **Forward, MARCH** (given by the second (fourth) element leader), the two remaining elements step off in step and incline in behind the two leading elements. The distance between elements is three paces (see figure 6-5). When performing this movement from the left, the guide will immediately post in front of the second element on the preparatory command.

Forming a Column of Fours to the Left (Right). When in a column of twos at a halt, to form a column of fours the command is **Column of Fours to the Left (Right), MARCH**. On the preparatory command, the fourth (second) element leader turns his or her head 45 degrees to the left (right) and commands **STAND FAST**; the second (fourth) element leader turns his

or her head 45 degrees to the left (right) and command **Column Half Left (Right)**. On the command **MARCH**, the element leaders return their heads to the front, the leading elements stand fast, and the remaining elements step off and execute a column half left (right) and incline to form to the left (right) of the leading elements (see figure 6-6). As the trailing elements approach the head of the leading elements, the second (fourth) element leader turns his or her head 45 degrees to the left (right) and commands **Elements, HALT** so that the leading individual of each element is approximately even with all others. The element leaders return their head to the front after the halt.

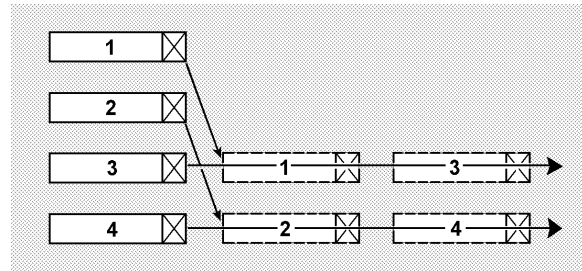


Figure 6-5. Column of Twos From a Column of Fours.

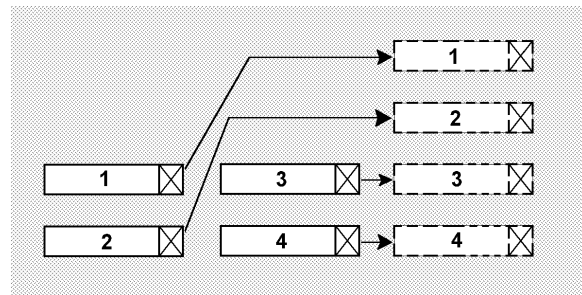


Figure 6-6. Column of Fours From a Column of Twos.

Counter March

This is not a precise movement, but it is used to permit flexibility in the movement of units where space is limited. The command is **Counter, MARCH**.

Marching. On the command **MARCH** (given on the left foot), execute the following:

(1) The first element leader takes four 24-inch steps forward and executes a 90-degree pivot to the right (suspending armswing during the pivot), marches across the front of the flight just beyond the fourth element, and executes another 90-degree pivot to the right (again suspending armswing). Each succeeding member marches to the approximate pivot points established by the person in front of him or her and performs the same procedures as the first element leader.

(2) The second element leader takes two 24-inch steps forward and executes a 90-degree pivot to the right with suspended armswing. He or she continues to march and executes another 90-degree pivot to the right (with suspended armswing) between the third and fourth elements. Each succeeding member marches to the pivot points established by the person in front of him or her and performs the same procedures as the second element leader.

(3) The third element leader takes one 24-inch step forward, executes two 90-degree pivots to the left (with suspended armswing during the pivots), and marches between the remainder of the third and second elements. Each succeeding member marches to the approximate pivot points established by the person in front of him or her and performs the same procedures as the third element leader.

(4) The fourth element leader takes three 24-inch steps forward and executes a 90-degree pivot to the left with suspended armswing. The element leader then marches across the front of the flight and executes another 90-degree pivot to the left between the first and second elements, suspending armswing during the pivot. Each succeeding member marches to the

approximate pivot points established by the person in front of him or her and performs the same procedures as the fourth element leader.

(5) The guide performs this movement in approximately the same manner as the fourth element leader, staying in front of the fourth element leader in the most practical manner.

(6) As the fourth element leader marches past the last cadet in the fourth element, he or she and the individuals of the file begin marching in a half step. The remaining element leaders begin the half step once they pass the last individual in each file. After the element leaders pass the last individual in each file, they incline, as necessary, to obtain close or normal interval; then they begin the half step. **Forward MARCH** will be given once all cadets have completed the movement and proper dress, cover, interval, and distance have been established.

Halted. This movement is performed in the same manner as if marching, but with the following exceptions: prior to executing the movement, the first element leader takes five paces forward, the third element leader takes three paces forward, the second element leader takes two paces forward, and the fourth element leader takes four paces forward.