COMMON TRAINING

PHASE THREE

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

SECTION 9

EO C309.04 – IDENTIFY FORMATIONS FOR DRILL INSTRUCTION

Total Time: 30 min

PREPARATION

PRE-LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

Resources needed for the delivery of this lesson are listed in the lesson specification located in A-CR-CCP-603/PG-001, Chapter 4. Specific uses for said resources are identified throughout the instructional guide within the TP for which they are required.

Review the lesson content and become familiar with the material prior to delivering the lesson.

PRE-LESSON ASSIGNMENT

N/A.

APPROACH

An interactive lecture was chosen for TP 1 to introduce the formations used for drill instruction.

A demonstration was chosen for TP 2 as it allows the instructor to demonstrate the procedures for forming a hollow square and reforming the squad.

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

N/A.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson the cadet shall have identified the formations for drill instruction.

IMPORTANCE

It is important for cadets to identify formations for drill instruction to be able to select the most effective formation for the lesson being taught. The choice of formation is important because it allows all of the cadets to see the instructor.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-603/PF-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.

Teaching point 1 **Describe the Formations for Drill Instruction**

Time: 5 min Method: Interactive Lecture

FORMATIONS FOR DRILL INSTRUCTION

The choice of formation is important because it allows all of the cadets to see the instructor. The three formations that are recommended are a single file, a semicircle and a hollow square.

Single File. Used for groups of five cadets or less which can form up into one rank.

Semicircle. Used for groups of six to nine cadets which can be formed up in two ranks. There is no formal drill command for forming a semicircle.

Hollow Square. Used for groups of 10 or more cadets which are formed up in three ranks.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 1

QUESTIONS

Q1. When is a single file formation used?

Q2. What formation should be used for a squad in two ranks?

Q3. How many ranks must the squad be in to form a hollow square?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS

A1. Groups of five cadets or less.

A2. Semicircle.

A3. Three ranks.

Teaching point 2 **Demonstrate the Procedure for Forming a Hollow Square and Reforming a Squad**

Time: 20 min Method: Demonstration



Proper drill movements shall be combined with a professional demeanour throughout the period of instruction.

Check for faults and correct them immediately when they occur.



Capitalization indicates the words of command for each movement.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-603/PF-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.

FORM HOLLOW SQUARE



The squad shall be in line in three ranks prior to forming the hollow square.

The following procedure is used to form a hollow square (as illustrated in Figure 1):

1. On the command FORM HOLLOW SQUARE, CENTRE RANK RIGHT, REAR RANK LEFT–TURN, the squad acts as ordered.

2. On the command CENTRE RANK LEFT WHEEL, REAR RANK RIGHT WHEEL, QUICK–MARCH, the squad acts as ordered.

3. The command MARK–TIME shall be given when the rear individuals of the centre and rear ranks are one pace in front of the front rank.

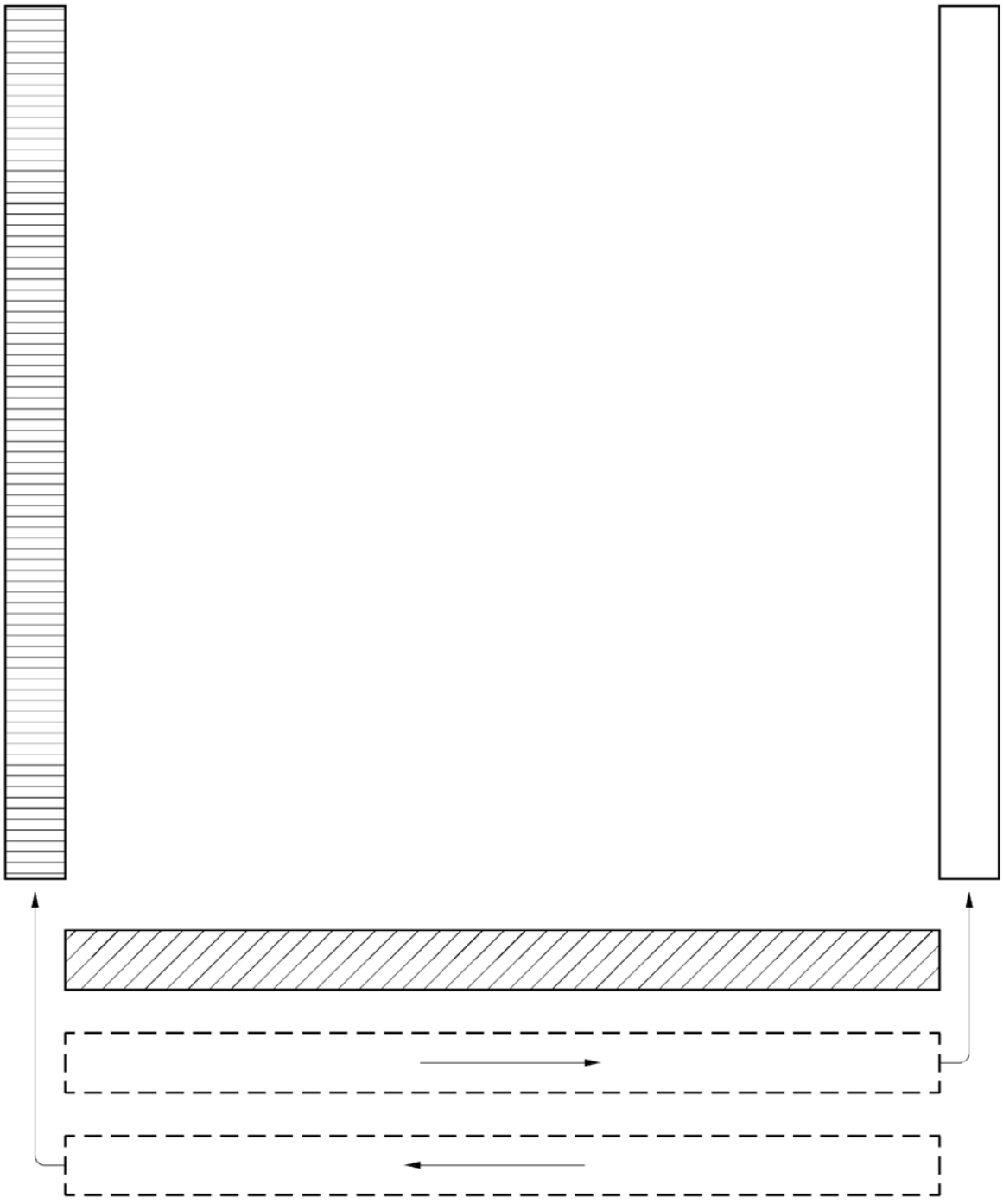
4. On the command SQUAD–HALT, the squad acts as ordered.

5. On the command CENTRE RANK LEFT, REAR RANK RIGHT–TURN, the squad acts as ordered.



Where new cadets may not yet know the movements listed for the forming of a hollow square, instructors should give instructions such as: "*Centre rank turn to your right, rear rank turn to your left*" and then guide the cadets into the correct formation. The use of drill commands where the cadets are unaware of the actions they should take will only serve to create a negative atmosphere for the class.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-603/PF-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.



A-PD-201-000/PT-000 (p. 3-23)

Figure 1 Forming a Hollow Square

REFORM THREE RANKS

The reverse procedure to forming a hollow square is used to reform a squad into three ranks.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-603/PF-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.

The following procedure is used to reform three ranks:

1. On the command REFORM THREE RANKS, CENTRE RANK LEFT, REAR RANK RIGHT–TURN, the squad acts as ordered.

2. On the command CENTRE RANK RIGHT WHEEL, REAR RANK LEFT WHEEL, QUICK–MARCH, the squad acts as ordered.

3. The command MARK–TIME shall be given when the squad has reformed three ranks.

4. On the command SQUAD–HALT, the squad acts as ordered.

5. On the command CENTRE RANK RIGHT, REAR RANK LEFT–TURN, the squad acts as ordered.



If time permits, have the cadets practice forming a hollow square with their peers. Simulate three ranks for groups less than 10 cadets.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 2

QUESTIONS

Q1. How must a squad be formed before forming a hollow square?

Q2. When should the instructor give the command to mark time when forming a hollow square?

Q3. What procedure is used to reform three ranks?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS

A1. In three ranks.

A2. The rear individuals of the centre and rear ranks are one pace in front of the front rank.

A3. The reverse procedure to forming a hollow square.

END OF LESSON CONFIRMATION

QUESTIONS

Q1. What three formations are used for drill instruction?

Q2. What formation should be used for a group of seven cadets?

Q3. How many cadets are needed to form a hollow square?

ANTICIPATED ANSWERS

A1. Single file, semicircle and hollow square.

A2. Semicircle.

A3. 10 or more.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-603/PF-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.

CONCLUSION

HOMEWORK/READING/PRACTICE

N/A.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

N/A.

CLOSING STATEMENT

Drill instruction requires the instructor to demonstrate each individual squad of a movement so the cadets can see what is expected. The choice of formation is important because it allows all of the cadets to see the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR NOTES/REMARKS

N/A.

REFERENCES

A0-002 A-PD-201-000/PT-000 Director History and Heritage 3-2. (2005). *The Canadian Forces Manual of Drill and Ceremonial*. Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Unofficial convenience copy of A-CR-CCP-603/PF-001, cached 2026-11-08 from https://app.cadets.gc.ca/cadet-publications/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001/A-CR-CCP-603-PF-001.pdf.
Verify against the official publication.