

## Marching Other Than at Attention

*By Lieutenant Colonel Buddy McCormick, former COWG Encampment Commander*

This document is one of several documents that discuss drill problems that need improvement at COWG Encampment. The official reference for all drill and ceremonies procedures is AFMAN 36-2203, also known as the D&C Manual. The new CAP Pamphlet 60-33, CAP Drill & Ceremonies is CAP's equivalent to the Air Force Manual.

**Read it, Teach it, Do it!** We face a major drill problem, throughout CAP. Many cadets, teaching drill, have not read the D&C Manual. A lack of understanding or lack of knowledge of correct procedures results in incorrect instruction. This leads to the perpetuation of drill mistakes.

We will not allow this to happen at COWG Encampment. The encampment flight staff must be, or become, experts. We will require that cadet line staff obtain and read the D&C Manual thoroughly, teach procedures as described in the manual using the six-step process, and execute the maneuvers correctly. This process must begin **before** encampment. We will **READ IT, TEACH IT, DO IT!**

The following information is from CAP Pamphlet 60-33, *CAP Drill and Ceremonies*, Chapter 3.

Marching Other than at Attention. **PURPOSE** - To allow less rigidity or more flexibility while marching. Route Step March and At Ease March may be given as the heel of **either** foot strikes the ground as long as both the preparatory command and command of execution are given on the same foot and only from quick time.

The **only commands that can be given** when marching at other than attention are **Attention** or **Incline to the Right (Left)**. Specific instructions may be given to maintain control of the flight.

**Examples** - **"Guide, incline 90 degrees to the Right"**; **"Guide and Elements Leaders, follow the curve of the road"**. Otherwise, the flight must be called to attention before other commands may be given. The latter is accomplished by giving the command **Flight, Attention** (while marching), then calling cadence until all cadets have changed to the appropriate step.

Route Step March – **PURPOSE** - **To march in a relaxed manner, often over rough or uneven ground.** The command is **Route Step, MARCH**. On the command **MARCH**, the cadet takes one more 24-inch step and assumes route step. Neither silence nor cadence is required, and movement is permitted as long as dress, cover, interval, and distance are maintained.

At Ease March – **PURPOSE** - **To march in a relaxed manner, often over rough or uneven ground, silently.** The command is **At Ease, MARCH**. On the command **MARCH**, the cadet takes one more 24-inch step and assumes at ease. Cadence is not given, and movement is permitted as long as silence, dress, cover, interval, and distance are maintained.

Why use **Route Step, MARCH** or **At Ease, MARCH**? They differ from marching at attention in that cadence is not required and that some movement is permitted. Movement such as turning your head and looking around are permitted. In the case of **Route Step, MARCH**, silence is not required. Silence **is required** for **At Ease, MARCH**.

If there is no requirement for cadence and some movement is available, these are ideally suited for marching over difficult terrain, up or down stairs, or for times that a unit must remain in formation without the need to march at attention. However, in each case, distance, interval, dress, and cover still must be maintained.

**Remember** – If you *do not* want your cadets to talk, use **At Ease, MARCH**. Otherwise, they can chatter away if in **Route Step, MARCH**. Other than the talking restriction of **At Ease, MARCH**, the two commands are functionally identical.