

# MANUAL OF ARMS FOR THE 1903 SPRINGFIELD RIFLE



# MANUAL OF ARMS

## 1903 SPRINGFIELD RIFLE

**NOTE** – This manual was written by the cadets of the Daniel Boone High School (Gray, Tennessee) Marine Corps JROTC in June, 2010. The 1903 Springfield manual of arms is taken from the Marine's Handbook, 1940 edition. That Handbook poses the manual of arms for the Springfield as a complex series of questions rather than the traditional drill manuals presently in use by the armed services. This manual is an accurate transcription of the last guidebook to fully cover the manual of arms for the Springfield rifle written in the style of today's manuals. The portions of the manual marked in red pertain specifically to the Springfield rifle and differ substantially from the manual for the M-1/M-14/M-16 frequently used by JROTC programs nationwide. As the Daisy Drill Rifle (DDR) is a replica of the 1903 Springfield rifle, the manual of arms as described below should be employed for all movements of the DDR.

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On the command **FALL IN**, troops armed with the M1903 rifle will come to the position of attention with the rifle at **ORDER, ARMS** (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – Order Arms

**ORDER, ARMS** is described as the butt of the rifle rests on the ground, toe of the butt on line with and touching the toe of the shoe. The direction of the barrel is to the rear of the rifle and parallel to the right leg of the Marine. The rifle will be grasped between the thumb and the fingers of the right hand. The left hand is carried the same as at attention without arms.

When executing facing movements, open and close ranks, side step, back step, and closing and extending on line under arms, rifles will be brought to the trail at the command of execution. Rifles will be returned to the order at the command **HALT** (Figures 2 – 6).

**TRAIL, ARMS** is a one-count movement done at the command of execution or when executing facing movements, open and close ranks, side step, back step, and closing and extending on line. On the command of execution, the Marine will raise the rifle and incline the muzzle forward so that the barrel makes an angle of about 15 degrees from the vertical. The right arms is extended and slightly bent.

**TRAIL, ARMS to ORDER, ARMS.** At the command **HALT** (open and close ranks, side step, back step, and closing and extending on line), or upon completion of facing movements the rifle is brought to the right side with the right hand and lowered to the deck to resume the position of **ORDER, ARMS**.

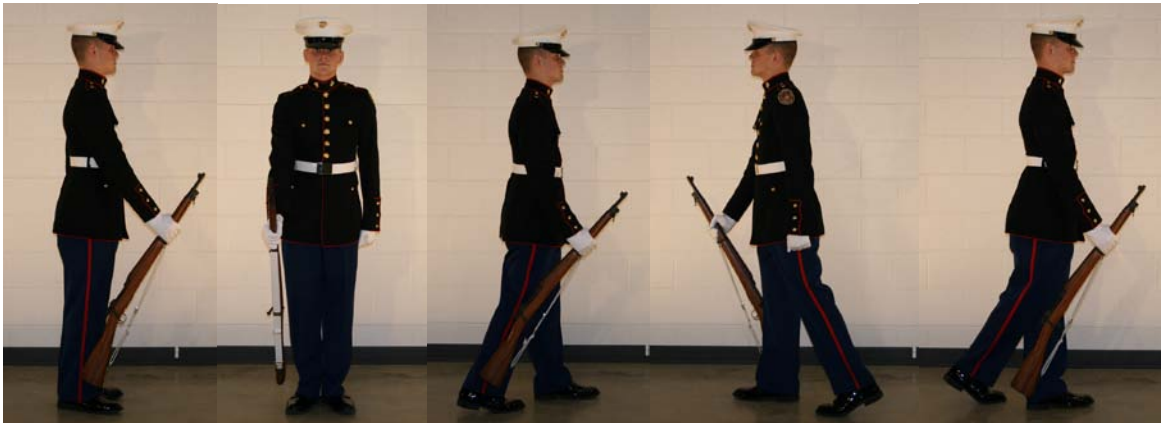


Figure 2  
Trail, Arms (Side)

Figure 3  
Trail Arms (Front)

Figure 4  
Count 1 of Left, Face

Figure 5  
Count 1 of Right, Face

Figure 6  
Count 1 of About, Face

**PARADE, REST** is a one-count movement executed from **ORDER, ARMS** (Figures 7 and 8). At the command of execution, **REST**, the Marine will move his left foot twelve inches to the left, equally distributing the weight of the body on both feet. **The muzzle of the rifle will be inclined forward about 15 degrees with the right arm extended**, grasping the rifle just above the upper band. The left hand will rest in the small of the back, palm to the rear. From **PARADE, REST** the only command that may be given is **ATTENTION**.

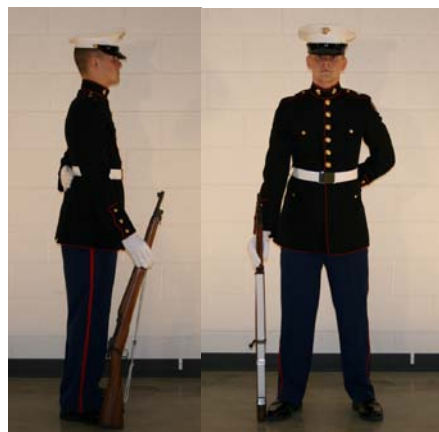


Figure 7  
Parade, Rest (Side)

Figure 8  
Parade, Rest (Front)

**PARADE, REST to ATTENTION** is a one-count movement. At the command of execution, **ATTENTION**, take the position of **ORDER ARMS**.

**INSPECTION, ARMS** is a four-count movement executed from the position of **ORDER, ARMS** (Figures 9 – 15). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, execute the first movement of **PORT, ARMS**, by raising the rifle diagonally across the body, right hand in front of and slightly left of the chin, left hand at the balance, barrel bisecting the angle between the neck and left shoulder, butt of the rifle in front of the right hip;

Count 2: Seize the bolt with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand;

Count 3: Turn the bolt handle, draw the bolt back, and lower the head and eyes sufficiently to glance into the magazine to ensure it is empty;

Count 4: Raise the head and eyes to the front, keeping the right hand on the bolt handle.



Figure 9  
Order, Arms

Figure 10  
Count 1

Figure 11  
Count 2

Figure 12  
Count 3

Figure 13  
Count 4



Figure 14  
Count 3 (Side)

Figure 15  
Count 4 (Side)

**INSPECTION, ARMS** to **PORT, ARMS** is a two-count movement (Figures 16 and 17).

At the preparatory command **PORT**, push the bolt forward, turn the handle down to lock the bolt, and pull the trigger;

At the command of execution **ARMS**, return the right hand to the small of the stock, right wrist straight, right forearm parallel to the deck, to complete the movement ordered. From **INSPECTION, ARMS**, the only command that may be given is **PORT, ARMS**



Figure 16  
Count 1

Figure 17  
Count 2

**ORDER, ARMS** to **PORT, ARMS** is a two-count movement (Figures 18 - 20). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, raise the rifle diagonally across the body, right hand in front of and slightly left of the chin, barrel up, butt of the rifle in front of the right hip, barrel bisecting the angle between the neck and left shoulder. The left hand grasps the rifle at the balance, palm toward the body, wrist straight, fingers joined, and elbow against the side;

Count 2: Carry the right hand to the small of the stock, palm down, elbow against the side, right forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal).

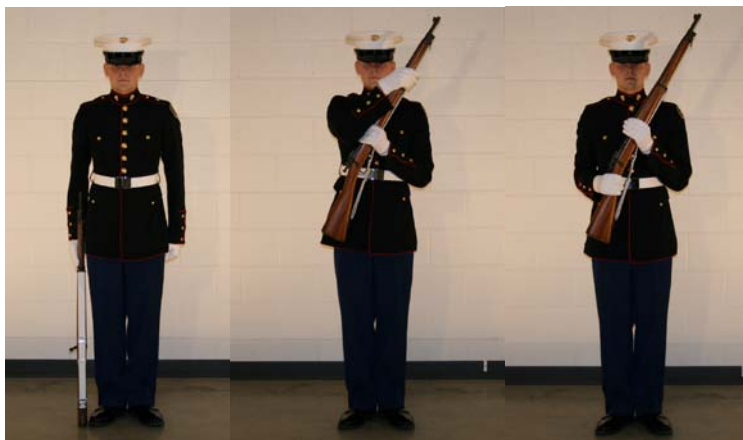


Figure 18  
Order, Arms

Figure 19  
Count 1

Figure 20  
Count 2

**ORDER, ARMS to RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS** is a four-count movement (Figures 21 – 25). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, raise the rifle and carry it diagonally across the body with the right hand; at the same time, grasp it at the balance with the left hand;

Count 2: Regrasp the rifle with the right hand on the butt, the heel between the first two fingers, the thumb and fingers closed on the stock;

Count 3: Without changing the grasp of the right hand, place the rifle on the right shoulder, barrel up and inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees from the horizontal, trigger guard in the hollow of the shoulder, right elbow against the side, forearm parallel with the deck (horizontal), rifle in the vertical plane perpendicular to the front. **Carry the left hand, thumb and fingers extended and joined to the small of the stock, first joint of the forefinger touching the cocking piece, wrist straight, and elbow down;**

Count 4: Cut away the left hand smartly to the side.



Figure 21  
Order, Arms

Figure 22  
Count 1

Figure 23  
Count 2

Figure 24  
Count 3

Figure 25  
Count 4

**ORDER, ARMS to PRESENT, ARMS** is a two-count movement (Figures 26 – 29). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, the rifle will be carried in front of the center of the body with the right hand, barrel of the rifle to the rear and vertical. The left hand will grasp the rifle at the balance. The left forearm will be parallel to the deck and resting against the body;

Count 2: The small of the stock will be grasped with the right hand, wrist straight.

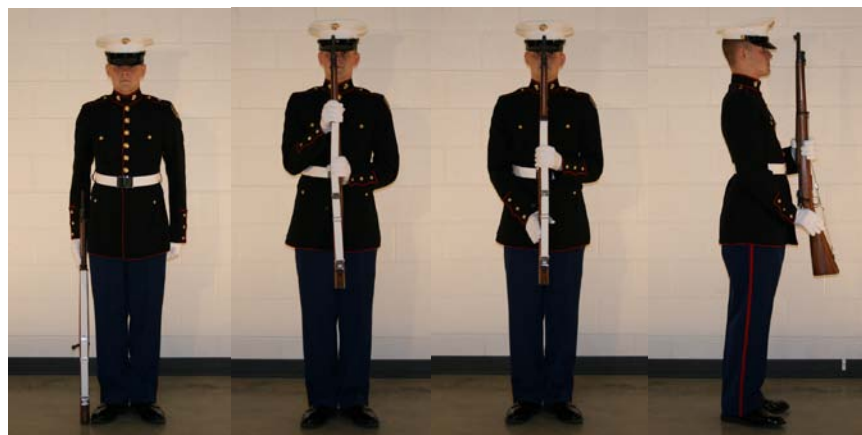


Figure 26  
Order, Arms

Figure 27  
Count 1

Figure 28  
Count 2

Figure 29  
Count 2 (Side)



**ORDER, ARMS to LEFT SHOULDER, ARMS** is a four-count movement (Figures 30 – 34). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, take the position of Port, Arms;

Count 3: Release the grip of the left hand on the rifle, and with the right hand still grasping the small of the stock, place it on the left shoulder, barrel up and inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees from the horizontal, rifle in the vertical plane perpendicular to the front, trigger guard in the hollow of the shoulder. At the same time grasp the butt with the left hand, heel of the butt between the first and second fingers, thumb and fingers closed on the stock, left forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal), elbow against the side;

Count 4: Drop the right hand smartly to the side.



Figure 30  
Order, Arms

Figure 31  
Count 1

Figure 32  
Count 2

Figure 33  
Count 3

Figure 34  
Count 4

**PORT, ARMS to RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS** is a three-count movement (Figures 35 – 38). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, regrasp the rifle with the right hand on the butt, the heel between the first two fingers, and the thumb and fingers closed on the stock;

Count 2: Without changing the grasp of the right hand, place the rifle on the right shoulder, barrel up and inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees from the horizontal, trigger guard in the hollow of the shoulder, right elbow against the side, forearm parallel with the deck (horizontal), rifle in the vertical plane perpendicular to the front. **Carry the left hand, thumb and fingers extended and joined to the small of the stock, first joint of the forefinger touching the cocking piece**, wrist straight, and elbow down;

Count 3: Cut away the left hand smartly to the side.



Figure 35  
Port, Arms

Figure 36  
Count 1

Figure 37  
Count 2

Figure 38  
Count 3

**PORT, ARMS to PRESENT, ARMS** is a one-count movement (Figures 39 and 40). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, carry the rifle to a vertical position in front of the center of the body, barrel of the rifle to the rear and vertical. The left hand is still at the balance, left forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal) and resting against the body, the small of the stock grasped with the right hand, wrist straight. *From PRESENT, ARMS, the only command that may be given is ORDER, ARMS.*



Figure 39  
Port, Arms

Figure 40  
Count 1



**PORT, ARMS to LEFT SHOULDER, ARMS** is a two-count movement (Figures 41 – 43). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, release the grip of the left hand on the rifle, and with the right hand still grasping the small of the stock, place it on the left shoulder, barrel up and inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees from the horizontal, rifle in the vertical plane perpendicular to the front, trigger guard in the hollow of the shoulder. At the same time grasp the butt with the left hand, heel of the butt between the first and second fingers, thumb and fingers closed on the stock, left forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal), elbow against the side;

Count 2: Drop the right hand smartly to the side.

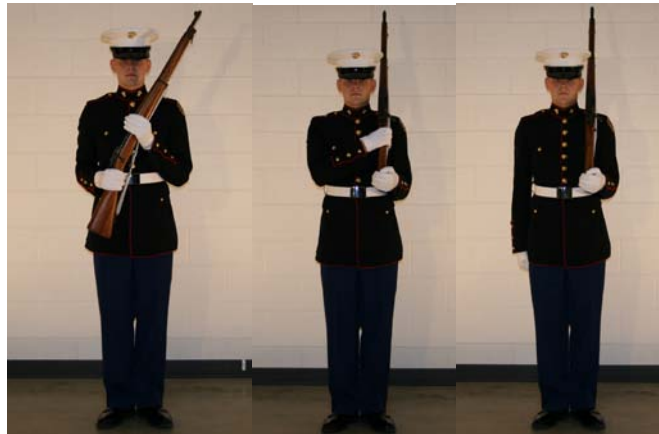


Figure 41  
Port, Arms

Figure 42  
Count 1

Figure 43  
Count 2

**RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS to PORT, ARMS** is a two-count movement (Figures 44 – 46). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, press the rifle butt down quickly and throw the rifle diagonally across the body; at the same time, turn the butt clockwise one-quarter turn so as to bring the barrel up, the right hand retaining its grasp on the butt, the left hand grasping the rifle at the balance.

Count 2: Move the right hand from the grasp of the butt and regrasp the piece at the small of the stock, palm down, holding the right forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal); left elbow resting against the body, the plane of the rifle parallel to and about four inches in front of the center of the body, barrel extending upward and to the left at an angle of about 45 degrees.



Figure 44  
Right Shoulder, Arms

Figure 45  
Count 1

Figure 46  
Count 2

**LEFT SHOULDER, ARMS to PORT, ARMS** is a two-count movement (Figures 47 – 49). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, grasp the rifle with the right hand at the small of the stock.

Count 2: Release the grasp of the rifle with the left hand and, at the same time, carry the piece with the right hand diagonally in front of the body, barrel up, butt in front of the right hip, the plane of the rifle parallel to and about four inches in front of the center of the body, barrel extending upward and to the left at an angle of about 45 degrees. The right forearm is parallel to the deck (horizontal) and resting against the body. Simultaneously, grasp the rifle at the balance with the left hand, palm toward the body, wrist straight.



Figure 47  
Left Shoulder, Arms

Figure 48  
Count 1

Figure 49  
Count 2

**RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS to ORDER, ARMS** is a four-count movement (Figures 50 – 54). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, press the rifle butt down quickly and throw the rifle diagonally across the body; at the same time, turn the butt clockwise one-quarter turn so as to bring the barrel up, the right hand retaining its grasp on the butt, the left hand grasping the rifle at the balance.

Count 2: Move the right hand from its grasp on the butt and regrasp the rifle between the upper sling swivel and the stacking swivel.

Count 3: Release the grasp of the left hand and lower the rifle to the right so that the butt is three inches from the deck, barrel to the rear, parallel to the right leg (vertical) left hand with thumb and fingers extended and joined steadying the rifle, forearm and wrist straight and inclining downward.

Count 4: Complete the order by lowering the rifle gently to the deck with the right hand. Cut away the left hand smartly to the side.

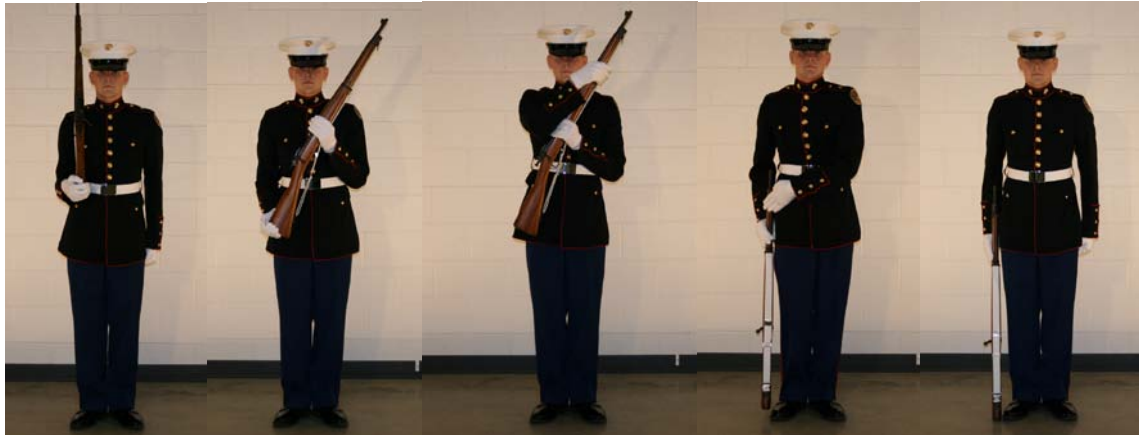


Figure 50  
Right Shoulder, Arms

Figure 51  
Count 1

Figure 52  
Count 2

Figure 53  
Count 3

Figure 54  
Count 4

**LEFT SHOULDER, ARMS to ORDER, ARMS** is a five-count movement (Figures 55 – 60). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, grasp the rifle with the right hand at the small of the stock.

Count 2: Release the grasp of the rifle with the left hand and, at the same time, carry the piece with the right hand diagonally in front of the body, barrel up, butt in front of the right hip, the plane of the rifle parallel to and about four inches in front of the center of the body, barrel extending upward and to the left at an angle of about 45 degrees. The right forearm is parallel to the deck (horizontal) and resting against the body. Simultaneously, grasp the rifle at the balance with the left hand, palm toward the body, wrist straight.

Count 3: Release the right hand and regrasp the rifle between the upper sling swivel and the stacking swivel;

Count 4: Release the rifle with the left hand, lower it to the right so that the butt is 3 inches from the deck, barrel to the rear, left hand with fingers extended and joined steadying the rifle, forearm and wrist straight and inclining downward;

Count 5: Complete the order by lowering the rifle gently to the deck with the right hand and cutting away the left hand smartly to the left side.



Figure 55  
Left Shoulder, Arms

Figure 56  
Count 1

Figure 57  
Count 2

Figure 58  
Count 3

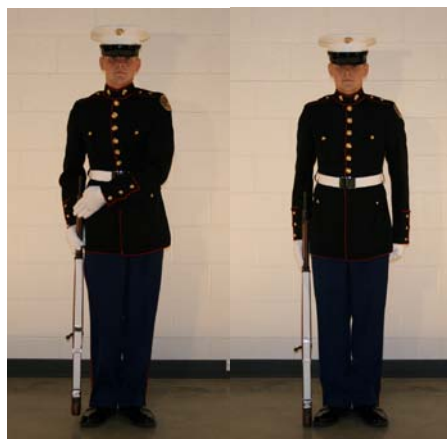


Figure 59  
Count 4

Figure 60  
Count 5

**PORT, ARMS to ORDER, ARMS** is a three-count movement (Figures 61 – 64). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, release the right hand and regrasp the rifle between the upper sling swivel and the stacking swivel;

Count 2: Release the rifle with the left hand, lower it to the right so that the butt is 3 inches from the deck, barrel to the rear, left hand with fingers extended and joined steadying the rifle, forearm and wrist straight and inclining downward;

Count 3: Complete the order by lowering the rifle gently to the deck with the right hand and cutting away the left hand smartly to the left side.

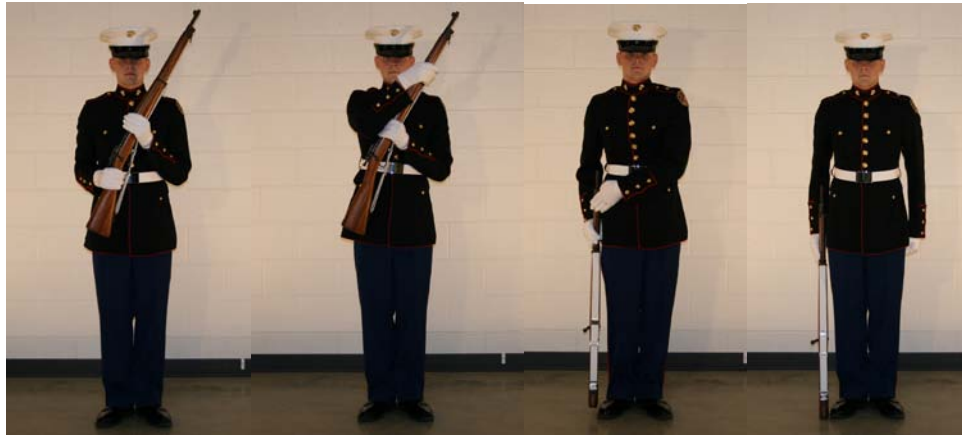


Figure 61  
Port, Arms

Figure 62  
Count 1

Figure 63  
Count 2

Figure 64  
Count 3

**PRESENT, ARMS to ORDER, ARMS** is a three-count movement (Figures 65 – 68). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, release the right hand and regrasp the rifle between the upper sling swivel and the stacking swivel;

Count 2: Release the rifle with the left hand, lower it to the right so that the butt is 3 inches from the deck, barrel to the rear, left hand with fingers extended and joined steadying the rifle, forearm and wrist straight and inclining downward;

Count 3: Complete the order by lowering the rifle gently to the deck with the right hand and cutting away the left hand smartly to the left side. From **PRESENT, ARMS**, the only command that may be given is **ORDER, ARMS**.



Figure 65  
Present, Arms

Figure 66  
Count 1

Figure 67  
Count 2

Figure 68  
Count 3

**RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS to PRESENT, ARMS** is a three-count movement (Figures 69 – 72). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, press the rifle butt down quickly and throw the rifle diagonally across the body; at the same time, turn the butt clockwise one-quarter turn so as to bring the barrel up, the right hand retaining its grasp on the butt, the left hand grasping the rifle at the balance.

Count 2: Move the right hand from the grasp of the butt and regrasp the piece at the small of the stock, palm down, holding the right forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal); left elbow resting against the body, the plane of the rifle parallel to and about four inches in front of the center of the body, barrel extending upward and to the left at an angle of about 45 degrees.

Count 3: Carry the rifle to a vertical position in front of the center of the body, barrel of the rifle to the rear and vertical. The left hand is still at the balance, left forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal) and resting against the body, the small of the stock grasped with the right hand, wrist straight. From **PRESENT, ARMS**, the only command that may be given is **ORDER, ARMS**.



Figure 69  
Right Shoulder, Arms

Figure 70  
Count 1

Figure 71  
Count 2

Figure 72  
Count 3



**LEFT SHOULDER, ARMS to PRESENT, ARMS** is a three-count movement (Figures 73 – 76). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, grasp the rifle with the right hand at the small of the stock.

Count 2: Release the grasp of the rifle with the left hand and, at the same time, carry the piece with the right hand diagonally in front of the body, barrel up, butt in front of the right hip, the plane of the rifle parallel to and about four inches in front of the center of the body, barrel extending upward and to the left at an angle of about 45 degrees. The right forearm is parallel to the deck (horizontal) and resting against the body. Simultaneously, grasp the rifle at the balance with the left hand, palm toward the body, wrist straight.

Count 3: Carry the rifle to a vertical position in front of the center of the body, barrel of the rifle to the rear and vertical. The left hand is still at the balance, left forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal) and resting against the body, the small of the stock grasped with the right hand, wrist straight. From **PRESENT, ARMS**, the only command that may be given is **ORDER, ARMS**.



Figure 73  
Left Shoulder, Arms

Figure 74  
Count 1

Figure 75  
Count 2

Figure 76  
Count 3

**RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS to LEFT SHOULDER, ARMS** is a four-count movement (Figures 77 – 81). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, press the rifle butt down quickly and throw the rifle diagonally across the body; at the same time, turn the butt clockwise one-quarter turn so as to bring the barrel up, the right hand retaining its grasp on the butt, the left hand grasping the rifle at the balance.

Count 2: Move the right hand from the grasp of the butt and regrasp the piece at the small of the stock, palm down, holding the right forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal); left elbow resting against the body, the plane of the rifle parallel to and about four inches in front of the center of the body, barrel extending upward and to the left at an angle of about 45 degrees.

Count 3: Release the grip of the left hand on the rifle, and with the right hand still grasping the small of the stock, place it on the left shoulder, barrel up and inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees from the horizontal, rifle in the vertical plane perpendicular to the front, trigger guard in the hollow of the shoulder. At the same time grasp the butt with the left hand, heel of the butt between the first and second fingers, thumb and fingers closed on the stock, left forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal), elbow against the side;

Count 4: Drop the right hand smartly to the side.

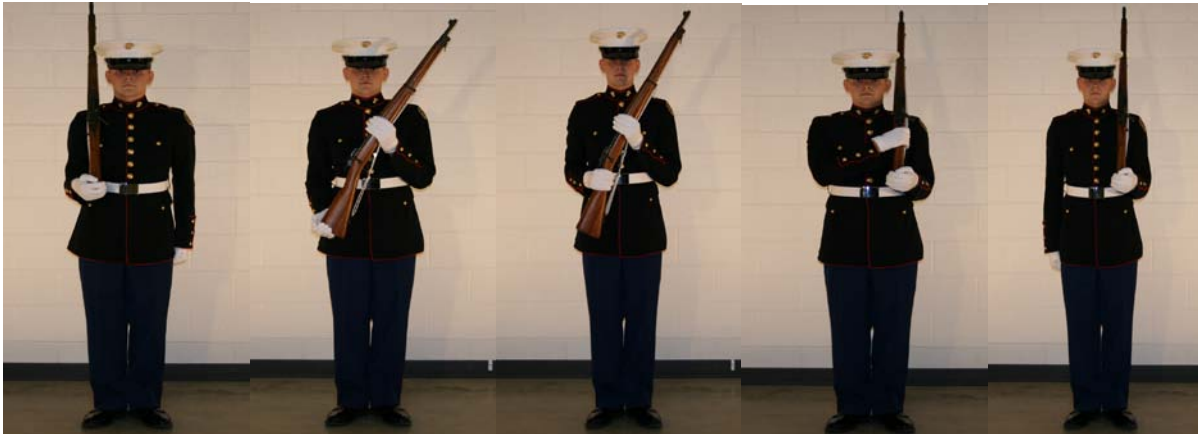


Figure 77  
Right Shoulder, Arms

Figure 78  
Count 1

Figure 79  
Count 2

Figure 80  
Count 3

Figure 81  
Count 4

**LEFT SHOULDER ARMS to RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS** is a five-count movement (Figures 82 – 87). At the command of execution, **ARMS**, grasp the rifle with the right hand at the small of the stock.

Count 2: Release the grasp of the rifle with the left hand and, at the same time, carry the piece with the right hand diagonally in front of the body, barrel up, butt in front of the right hip, the plane of the rifle parallel to and about four inches in front of the center of the body, barrel extending upward and to the left at an angle of about 45 degrees. The right forearm is parallel to the deck (horizontal) and resting against the body. Simultaneously, grasp the rifle at the balance with the left hand, palm toward the body, wrist straight.

Count 3: Regrasp the rifle with the right hand on the butt, the heel between the first two fingers, the thumb and fingers closed on the stock;

Count 4: Without changing the grasp of the right hand, place the rifle on the right shoulder, barrel up and inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees from the horizontal, trigger guard in the hollow of the shoulder, right elbow against the side, forearm parallel with the deck (horizontal), rifle in the vertical plane perpendicular to the front. **Carry the left hand, thumb and fingers extended and joined to the small of the stock, first joint of the forefinger touching the cocking piece**, wrist straight, and elbow down;

Count 5: Cut away the left hand smartly to the side.

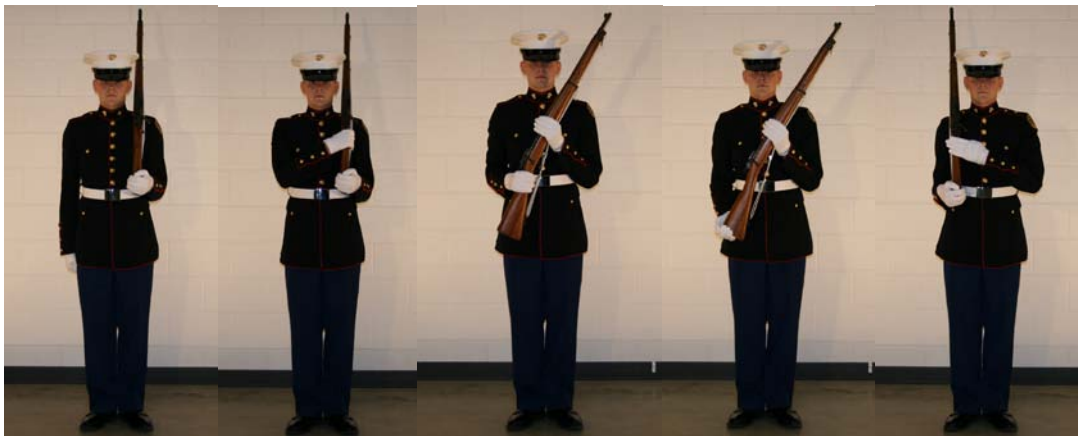


Figure 82  
Left Shoulder, Arms

Figure 83  
Count 1

Figure 84  
Count 2

Figure 85  
Count 3

Figure 86  
Count 4

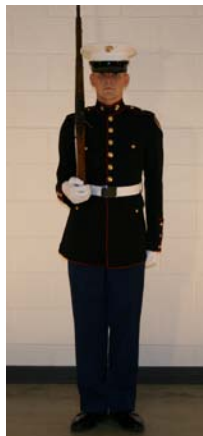


Figure 87  
Count 5

**RIFLE, SALUTE** from **ORDER, ARMS / TRAIL, ARMS** is a one-count movement. (Figures 88 - 90). At the command of execution, **SALUTE**, carry the left hand smartly to the right side, palm of hand down, thumb and fingers extended and joined, forearm and wrist straight, first joint of the forefinger against the rifle just above the stacking swivel. From **RIFLE, SALUTE**, the only command that may be given is **READY, TWO**.

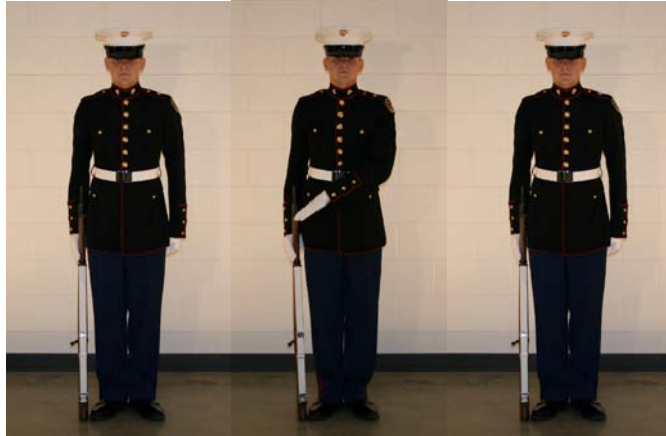


Figure 88  
Order, Arms

Figure 89  
Rifle, Salute

Figure 90  
Ready, Two

**RIFLE, SALUTE** from **RIGHT SHOULDER, ARMS** is a one-count movement (Figures 91 – 93). At the command of execution, **SALUTE**, carry the left hand smartly to the small of the stock, forearm parallel to the deck (horizontal), palm of hand down, thumb and fingers extended and joined, **first joint of the forefinger touching the end of the cocking piece**. From **RIFLE, SALUTE**, the only command that may be given is **READY, TWO**.



Figure 91  
Right Shoulder, Arms

Figure 92  
Rifle, Salute

Figure 93  
Ready, Two

**READY, TWO** from **RIFLE, SALUTE** is a one-count movement. At the command of execution, **TWO**, return the left hand smartly to the side.

**STACK, ARMS:** Members of a squad stack arms from their position in line at normal or close interval. If fewer than 6 individuals are in the squad, the number 2 man is the designated stack man; from 6 to eight members, number 2 man and the second man from the left are stack men; is more than 8 individuals in the squad, number 2 man, the second man from the left, and the center or center right individual are stack men.

The commands to stack arms are: **COUNT, OFF; “NUMBER 2 MAN, NUMBER 6 MAN DESIGNATED STACK MEN”** (example command), **STACK, ARMS.**

At the command of execution, **ARMS**, the individual on the left of the stack man grips his rifle by the upper hand guard, raises it with the muzzle vertical until the right arm is parallel to the deck (horizontal). He then passes his rifle to the stack man, who grips it with his left hand at the upper hand guard just below the stacking swivel.

The stack man places the butt of the left rifle between his feet, barrel to the front, muzzle tilted forward. He raises the stacking swivel of the left rifle with his thumb and forefinger of his left hand. He then swings the butt of his rifle 2 feet in front and 6 inches to the right of his right toe. He shifts his right hand to the stacking swivel of his rifle, which he engages with that of the left rifle.

The individual to the right of the stack man raises his rifle with his right hand vertically in front of his body, grasping the rifle with his left hand just below the stacking swivel. He then regrips the weapon at the small of the stock with his right hand. Without moving his right foot, he steps to the left front and carries his rifle well forward, barrel up. With the forefinger of his left hand, he hooks his stacking swivel to the free hook of the center rifle's stacking swivel. Then he rotates his rifle so that the barrel rests in the angle formed by the other two rifles. He pulls the butt of his rifle toward him until the stack tightens and then lowers the butt to the deck. He then resumes the position of attention.

Other rifles are passed to the nearest stack to the right. When passing extra rifles to the stack, the right hand grips the upper hand guard and the left hand (individual receiving the rifle) grips the balance (pass high, take low). When passing rifles, the muzzles remain vertical. The stack man places weapons in the stack, sights inboard, and tilted so they remain in place.

**TAKE, ARMS** from **STACK, ARMS.**

At the command of execution, **ARMS**, the extra weapons are removed from the stack and passed back. Weapons are held in the same manner as when passing toward the stack (pass high, take low). As each man receives his rifle he assumes the position of order arms.

When the extra weapons have been returned, the stack man grips his rifle and the rifle of the man to his left. The man on the right of the stack man steps out to the left front, keeping his right foot in place, as in stacking arms and takes his rifle. He then assumes the position of order arms.

The stack man disengages the two remaining rifles. He passes the left rifle to the man on his left. The man on the stack man's left grips his rifle at the upper hand guard and resumes the position of order arms. The stack man then resumes order arms.