

Flash of Crimson Officer Clinic

Marching Terms and Definitions

- 1st RULE OF MARCHING Start together, move together, stop together.
2nd RULE OF MARCHING Always be 1/2 way between front and back or side to side
3rd RULE OF MARCHING Connect the line, either straight or curved. (play dot to dot)
4th RULE OF MARCHING Use Physical Projection
5th RULE OF MARCHING Play your music or execute your equipment routine.

ADJUSTED SIZE STEP - A step size other than the standard 22.5" 8-5 step.
Used in "float" flows.

ALIGNMENT - Being "in line" either front to back or side to side in a straight (LINEAR) or CURVILINEAR form. The two types of alignment are DRESS and COVER.

ASYMMETRICAL – Meaning not symmetrical. Refers to a FORM being different on one side to the other.

BACKSLIDE - Marching backwards. Stay up on toes, heels off the ground, don't flex the feet.

COVER – Being in line front to back. Back people are covered by the front people. A type of ALIGNMENT.

CURVILINEAR – “curved lines”, Can refer to a drill FORM or marching path (direction).

DISTANCE - Front to Back Spacing in a straight or CURVILINEAR FORM.

DRESS – Being in line side to side in a straight or CURVILINEAR FORM. Line up the heels.
A type of ALIGNMENT.

DRESS CENTER - To set a FORM with correct SPACING and ALIGNMENT from the inside to the outside. Executed at the command: "Dress Center Dress."

EIGHT TO FIVE - A standard 22.5" step. Eight steps per five yards.

END ZONE – Side boundaries of the field. The OUT SIDE of the "0" yard line

FTL - Follow The Leader. A type of FLOW in which some marchers follow another marcher.
Generally in a CURVILINEAR pathway.

FLANK - A moving turn executed in 1 count

FLOAT - A type of drill FLOW that uses adjusted size steps so that as marchers arrive at the same time.

FLOW - The movement or transition from one drill FORM to another.

FOOTBALL FIELD - The performance area. 100 yards by 53.5 (54) yards

FORM – The actual “picture” being displayed by all marchers on the field. May contain elements of LINEAR, CURVILINEAR, SYMMETRY, ASYMMETRY or any combination of these.

HASHMARKS - Marks that divide the field horizontally into equal thirds. There are 28 (8 to 5) steps in EACH third. That equals 17.5 yards in each third.

HOLD THE FORM - A marching flow where the actual "picture" does not change as it moves on the field.

IN SIDE (IS) - Towards the "center of the field" horizontally or vertically.

INTERVAL - Side to Side Spacing in a straight or CURVILINEAR form.

LINEAR – A straight "line", Can refer to a drill FORM or marching path (direction)

OUT SIDE (OS) – Away from the "center of the field" horizontally or vertically.

PHYSICAL PROJECTION: All elements of physical appearance as a performer: Posture, Carriage, Poise, Instrument or Equipment position, and Uniform. Appear as tall as possible.

ROLL THE FEET - Refers to the correct marching style. "Peeling": Roll the foot up heel to toe. "Squeezing": Roll the foot down – heel to toe. Exaggerate the toe pointing up and extend the leg straight on forward marching. Do not ROLL THE FEET on BACK SLIDES.

SIDE ONE - From the press box - the left side of the field.

SIDE TWO - From the press box - the right side of the field.

SIDELINE - Front and back boundary of the field.

SLIDE - A body posture where the upper half of the body is facing in a different direction than the lower half of the body, often used as a type of FLANK turn.

SLOW TURN - A static or stationary turn executed in more than 1 count. Uses a smooth and consistent rotating motion similar to a "sweep" second hand on a watch.

SOFT TURN - A moving turn executed in more than 1 count. Often used in CURVILINEAR FTL FLOWS.

SPATIAL AWARENESS - Being conscious of all field coordinates and other performers. "May the Force be with You."

SPACING - Being equally spaced between either front to back or side to side in a LINEAR or CURVILINEAR form. The two types of spacing are DISTANCE and INTERVAL.

SYMMETRICAL - Refers to a FORM being the same on both sides.

YARD LINES - Marks that divide the field vertically every 5 yards. The vertical center of the field is the 50 yard line. The yard lines are number in decreasing increments of 5 down to the "0" yard line at each end zone.