

Command Voice

Purpose

- Verbal commands are the means in which to maneuver a formation from point A to point B in a military manner
 - Also used during Individual Drill Evaluations (IDEs)
- Good command voice leads to command presence
 - Necessary to succeed at Field Training and as a leader in general
- Most commands are comprised of two parts: the preparatory command and the command of execution
 - Preparatory commands are given with a rising inflection
 - Execution commands have no inflection, but are given at a higher pitch than the preparatory command

Command Voice Tips

- When giving commands, the leader will be in the position of attention
- Good military bearing is necessary
 - Do not lose your composure if you make a mistake
- Give the command “*As you were*” if you issue an incorrect or partial command
- Think about *you* marching, not the formation; if you follow the cadence *you* set, so will the formation
- Leader must be in step with the formation
- Always face the formation when giving a command; if they are marching a different way than you are facing, you can always turn yourself after you give the command
- For static commands, always allow a one second pause between the preparatory command and command of execution
 - This allows the formation to better prepare for the command of execution
 - Prevents you from sounding rushed

Aspects of a Good Command Voice

Loudness

- The formation must be able to hear you in order to follow your commands
- Tailor to the distance and number of individuals in the formation
- Do not strain your vocal cords; use your diaphragm when giving commands

Projection

- Ability of your voice to reach whatever distance necessary without undue strain
- To project the command, focus your voice on the person farthest away (i.e., guidon bearer when doing transitory drill)
- Erect posture, proper breathing, relaxed throat, and open mouth help to project your voice

Distinctness

- Distinct commands are effective; indistinct commands cause confusion
- Emphasize clear enunciation by using your tongue, lips, and teeth to form separate sounds of the word and to group those sounds to force words

Inflection

- Change in the pitch of the voice
- Starting at a normal speaking voice, pronounce the preparatory command with rising inflection
- Do not start the preparatory command too high so that it causes strain on your voice when giving the command of execution
- Do not start the preparatory command too low so that it is so guttural that it cannot be understood
- A properly delivered command of execution should have no inflection
- Command of execution should have a higher pitch than the preparatory command

Snap

- Expresses confidence and decisiveness
- The more snap you have as the caller, the more snap the formation will have in their marching
- You must have knowledge of the commands and how to execute them properly
- To achieve snap, call the commands at the precise instant the heel of the proper foot strikes the ground while marching
- Stand erect, breath without effort, and speak clearly