

10 Things You Thought You Knew About Drill

There are a number of idiosyncrasies that have crept into the personal drill done by cadets that are not per the standard in the A-PD-201-000/PT-000 Canadian Forces Manual of Drill and Ceremonial (commonly called the CFP-201). Here are some of the most common examples:

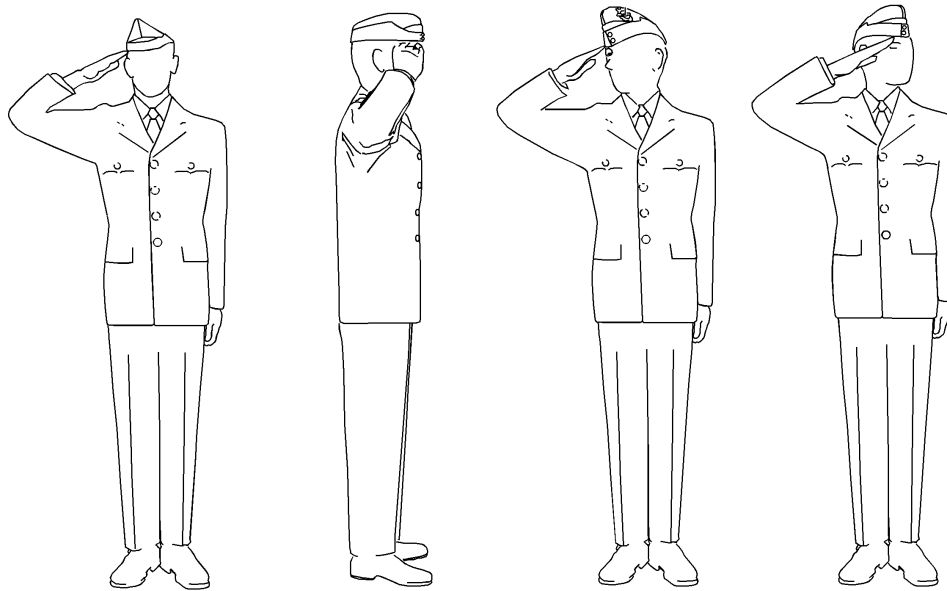
- 1. When saluting, your middle finger touches your eyebrow. If you wear glasses, it touches the corner of the frame.**

This only applies if you are wearing a cap with a peak (such as a forage cap). When wearing a wedge, beret, sea cadet cap, Glengarry, or similar headdress the CFP-201 says:

When wearing headdress other than a cap with a peak, the second finger is 2 cm above and in line with the outer tip of the right eyebrow.

CFP-201 Chap 2 para 43

When the wedge is worn properly, this means that your finger will be touching the bottom edge of the headdress.



CFP-201 Fig 2-8 Saluting, at the Halt, without Arms

In addition, when saluting to the right or left, the hand and arm position is adjusted to maintain the position touching the headdress. The hand is not to be held in mid-air away from the head.

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2. ***When marching in double time, the hands should be held tightly to the chest.***

The arms are to be swung naturally in the following manner:

22. *As illustrated in Figure 3-4, on the command DOUBLE – MARCH, squad members shall:*

- a. *step off with the left foot and double on the balls of the feet with easy swinging strides, inclining the body slightly forward;*
- b. *raise the feet clear of the ground at each pace;*
- c. *bend the arms at the elbow and, with the hands closed, swing the arms naturally from the shoulder; and,*
- d. *maintain dressing by the directing flank.*

CFP-201 Chap 3

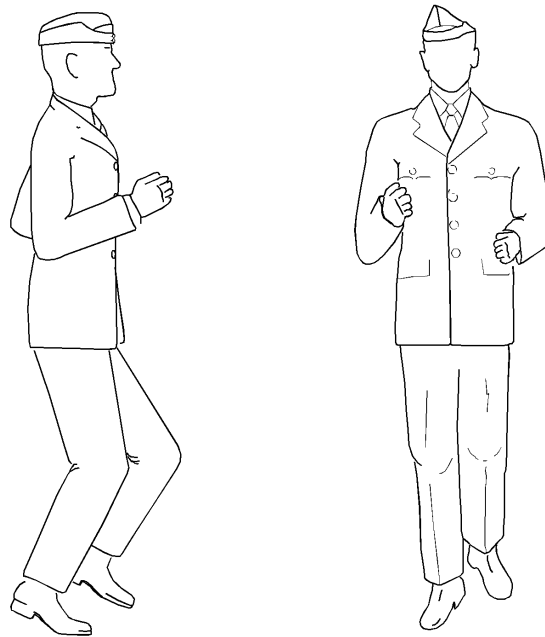


Figure 3-4 Marching in Double Time

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3. *The Flag Party Commander stands in the middle of the front rank of the flag party.*

The Flag Party Commander is the person who carries the senior flag. When a single flag is carried the commander stands between the two escorts. When two flags are carried, the commander is on the right.

In a Colour Party (the CF equivalent to a cadet Flag Party), the Colours are carried by officers (except guidons that are carried by master warrant officers) and the escorts are NCOs. It is the Senior Colour Officer who gives the commands. In cadet flag parties, the commands are given by the cadet who carries the senior flag.

4. *What about when three flags are carried?*

The CFP-201 only recognizes two configurations of Colour/flag party: with one flag or with two flags.

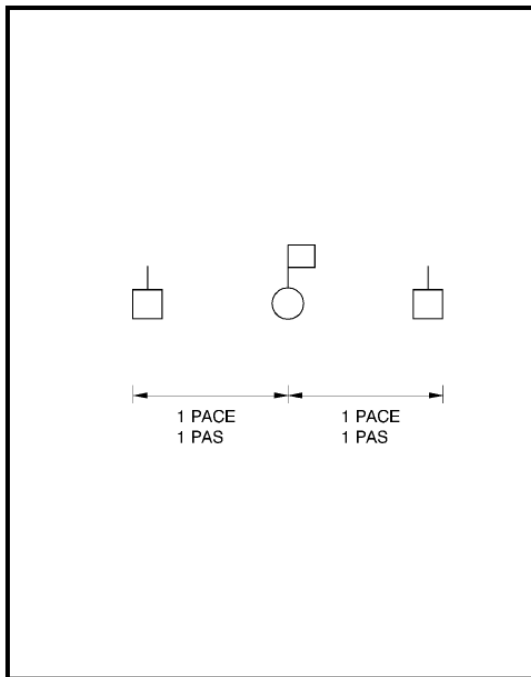


Figure 8-2-1 Colour Party for One Colour
Figure 8-2-1 Garde pour un seul drapeau consacré

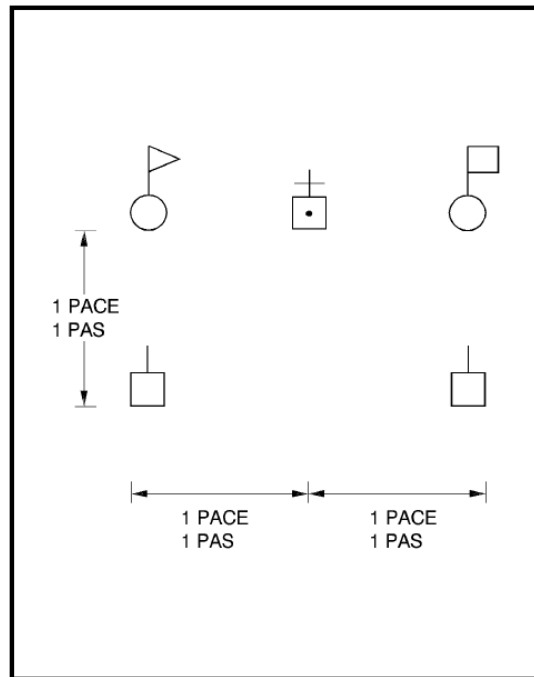


Figure 8-2-2 Colour Party for Two Colours
Figure 8-2-2 Garde pour deux drapeaux consacrés

Central Region Cadet Order 1816 confirms that in Central Region, at least, this also extends to cadet flag parties:

The practice of parading more than two flags on a ceremonial parade is not a CF convention.

CRCO 1816

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5. ***During the drill movement “Remove Headdress”, the hand grasps with wedge from the top with fingers slid under the side folds.***

All headdresses are grasped from the front. For the wedge, the buttons point towards the palm of the hand.

24. On the command REMOVE HEADDRESS BY NUMBERS SQUAD – ONE, squad members shall bring the right hand to the front of the headdress by the shortest route and grasp it in the front between the thumb and fingers, with the fingers aligned and parallel to the shoulders as much as practicable (Figure 2-6).

25. On the command SQUAD – TWO, squad members shall maintain the bend in the right arm, cut the upper arm to the right side of the body and the forearm parallel to the ground, and bring the right hand to the centre of the body. Maintaining the grasp on the peak of the headdress, squad members shall hold the headdress above the hand and in the centre of the chest.

26. On the command REMOVE – HEADDRESS, the two movements are combined. The standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

CFP-201 Chap 2

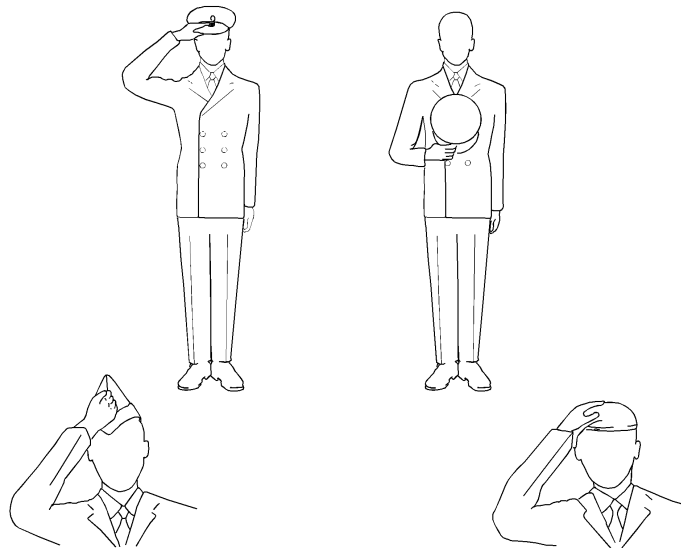


Fig 2-6 Remove Headdress

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6. ***Promenading is done by walking in signal file; in step with hands behind the back for a set number of paces; and with a modified about turn at the end.***

Though promenading is a formal procedure, it is not a drill movement and is meant to be done in a relaxed manner. As well, the entire group does not move in a single bloc but in singles, twos or threes.

6. A promenade is a slow, formal walk. Its origins lie in 18th Century European social customs for walking in public. It is carried out by officers waiting on duty, but off parade, prior to being fallen in. It is a procedure, not a drill movement, and officers promenading appear relaxed but attentive.

7. Officers will promenade at the edge of the parade ground near their troops singly or in groups of two or three and at a natural walking cadence, about 100 paces per minute. They shall informally watch parade activity, each group turning about together, in the direction of the troops, at the approximate boundaries of their troops' position on parade.

8. When parade activity has reached the point where the officers will soon be required, they shall take up positions on the edge of the parade ground, at ease, and await the order to fall in.

CFP-201 Chap 9 Sec 1

Note that in paragraph 7, it says *turning about* rather than *about turn*. The modified *about turn* often seen at cadet parades is not found in the drill manual and is therefore not proper drill. Since *about turns* are only done to the right, the appropriate movement to turn about in the direction of “the troops” is to do double wheels to the left or right, as required.

Though done in a relaxed manner, it is important to maintain a proper, dignified, military bearing. Laughter and chatting is not appropriate and attention should be directed towards “the troops” and what is occurring on the parade square.

When moving to the proper position on the edge of the parade square to await the order to fall in, breaking into a quick or slow march is not necessary. Those holding the officer appointments should simply promenade over to their assigned positions, halt, dress themselves automatically and then stand at ease in succession from the right until called upon (CFP-201 Chap 7 Sec 3 Para 29).

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7. ***When passing a more senior NCO, the proper form of compliment is to check the arms and turn the head and eyes to the left or right as appropriate.***

Checking arms as a form of compliment is not found in the CFP-201 and is, therefore, not proper drill. Regardless, Non-commissioned officers and warrant officers are not entitled to and shall not be paid, compliments.

3. In Canada, military compliments are only paid to the Sovereign; the Governor General; members of the Royal Family; recognized foreign royalty; foreign heads of state or government; the Prime Minister; the Minister and Associate Minister of National Defence; lieutenant-governors; and commissioned officers. Exceptions, such as compliments paid to deceased service members, are as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 23 and paragraphs 25, 26, 28, 29 et 41.

CFP-201 Chap 1 Sec 2

While on the march and passing a non-commissioned member, the arms are swung as per normal. While it is not inappropriate to offer a polite greeting while passing the NCO, a formal eyes right/left and/or a formal recognition of rank (such as saying their rank) is also not appropriate.

8. ***When in civilian dress; or in uniform and not wearing headdress, and passing a commissioned officer the proper way to pay a compliment is to do an eyes left (or right as appropriate) and check the arms.***

As was stated previously checking arms is not a form of compliment found in the 201. While on the march in uniform but wearing headdress, the arms are swung and the head and eyes are turned to the left or right as appropriate.

15. When in uniform and not wearing headdress, compliments shall be paid by standing at attention. If on the march, arms shall be swung and the head turned to the left or right as required.

CFP-201 Chap 1 Sec 2

When officers are in civilian dress, appropriate compliments shall still be paid.

17. Appropriate compliments shall be paid when recognizing an officer dressed in civilian clothing.

CFP-201 Chap 1 Sec 2

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While in civilian dress the CFP-201 says the following:

18. When dressed in civilian clothes, all members shall stand at attention and male members (less Sikhs) shall remove headdress, on any occasion when a salute would be correct in uniform and extreme winter weather conditions allow. On the march, the headdress is raised or removed, if applicable, and the head turned right or left. When headdress is not worn, it is correct to turn the head as required and offer a polite greeting.

CFP-201 Chap 1 Sec 2

Note that it doesn't mention checking arms. However, if the headdress is raised on the march in a manner similar to how hand salute is rendered, the left arm could be checked to side until the headdress is replaced on the head.

9. **Officer Cadets and CF non-commissioned members can be given a courtesy salute as a sign of respect.**

Non-commissioned members (including warrant officers) and subordinate officers are not entitled to be paid compliments. "Courtesy Salutes" are reserved for foreign officers and civilians under certain conditions. Neither officer cadets nor NCMs are foreign officers nor are they civilians.

25. Courtesy Salutes

a. Foreign officers shall be saluted in the same manner as Canadian officers unless the circumstances clearly dictate otherwise.

b. Service members may express their respect for individual civilians by using a salute as a formal means of greeting or farewell.

CFP-201 Chap 1 Sec 2

An exception to this is for deceased service members at cenotaphs, funerals and memorials.

Some cadet units will have cadets pay compliments to subordinate officers for "training purposes". Training cadets *when* to pay compliments is as important as training them *how* to pay compliments. Having cadets salute officer cadets isn't teaching them to salute properly. They are only learning how to pay compliments correctly when they are practising both the *when* and the *how*.

And finally...

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10. *During Last Post, O Canada, or God Save the Queen, the Flag Party is to dip the flags.*

When discussing this it is important to note that dipping flags as a form of compliment or salute is only done with Colours and only during specific circumstances. From the A-AD-200-000/AG-000 The Heritage Structure of the Canadian Forces (commonly referred to as the CFP 200):

5 Specialized terms

h. Dipping the Colours – means: (1) rendering a Royal salute with Colours to entitled dignitaries as noted in Chapter 13, Annex A,...

CP 200 Chap 4 Sec 1

Chapter 13 Annex A indicates that Royal Salutes are only rendered to The Queen and members of the Royal Family, Governors-General of Canada and other Commonwealth countries, foreign heads of state and lieutenant-governors of Canadian provinces.

An exception to this is the National Flag of Canada. Though it is considered a Colour, in certain ways it is treated differently than military Colours. When carried by a flag party, the Canadian Flag is not to be dipped.

12. The National Flag shall not be dipped or lowered as a means of paying a salute or compliment. (A National Flag worn as a Ship's Ensign shall return courtesy salutes. See Section 3, paragraph 9.)

CFP 200 Chapter 13 Annex A

Cadet ensigns, not being Colours, are not dipped as a form of salute. The National Banners of the cadet organizations, such as the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Banner; and local flags, such as squadron banners; parallel Canadian Forces Colours but are not afforded most of the honours and privileges of their CF equivalent. If treated as a parallel for Colours, the various banners would only be dipped during Royal Salutes. If treated strictly as flags, they would never be dipped at all.

The upshot of this is, with the arguable exception of cadet banners during a Royal Salute, cadet flags are not to be dipped – even during Remembrance Day. The same goes for the Canadian, provincial or virtually any other type of flag.

And there it is: ten things that most people (mistakenly) thought they know about drill. There are many more but these are among the most common.