

Guidon Manual Training Aid

All Central Iowa division Guidon operating procedures will conform to the Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual as revised in 2003.



Figure 6-VI-2. Order Guidon.

The position of attention for the guidon is assumed when FALL IN is announced or attention is ordered. The bearer holds the guidon staff in the right hand with a "v" hold. The right arm is down to the side. Keep the elbow against the body. The guidon ferrule rests at the outside edge of the front tip of the toe of the right shoe of the bearer. The staff rests against the right shoulder by the armpit in an effort to stabilize the guidon. The remainder of the body is at attention. The flat edge of the spear is facing forward. This position is known as ORDER GUIDON.

The command PARADE REST can only be given when the guidon is at attention and halted. This is a one count movement. On the command of REST, slide the right hand up the staff to shoulder height. Keep the staff perfectly vertical at this point. With as little motion as possible, then straighten the right arm

and tilt the staff directly forward at a 30 degree angle. Place your left hand behind your back just below the belt line. The fingers should be joined, palm flat and facing to the rear. At the same time the arm is being straightened, move your left foot 12 inches to the left. This is a modified position of attention for the guidon. Do not look around or talk.



a. Front



b. Side

Figure 6-VI-10. Parade Rest with the Guidon.

The positions are similar for AT EASE and AT REST. When AT EASE you may look around. The ferrule and right foot must remain in place; otherwise you can move about.

When AT REST is called, perform the same as above. You can talk quietly and you can hold the staff in either hand.

When the platoon or company will be called back to attention, on the preparatory command, such as “*PLATOON or COMPANY*”, move smartly back to the position of parade rest. When the command ATTENTION is given, go smartly to ORDER GUIDON.

From FALL OUT, the next possible command is FALL IN. When FALL IN is ordered, immediately take your position in the formation and go smartly to ORDER GUIDON.



Figure 6-VI-3. Carry Guidon.

While moving at quick time (normal marching), the standard position for the guidon staff is CARRY GUIDON. When moving from ORDER GUIDON to CARRY GUIDON, you must execute a movement on the preparatory command.

When the command FORWARD is given, reach across your body with the left hand and grasp the staff two inches above the position of the right hand. Change the right hand grip from the V grip to the strong grip. Raise the staff six inches with the left hand. Hold the staff vertical with the right hand--then move the left hand smartly back to the side. The ISM for this movement is “OVER UP CUT.”

Then step off on the command of MARCH.

When moving from CARRY GUIDON to ORDER GUIDON, this command is normally executed without command at the completion of a movement that required the guidon to come to CARRY GUIDON. The staff is allowed to slip through the right hand until the ferrule quietly comes to rest on the deck. The strong grip is then changed to the V grip. If a series of movements are to be executed in quick succession, the guidon should remain at CARRY GUIDON.

From ORDER GUIDON, another possible command is PRESENT ARMS or PRESENT GUIDON. On the command ARMS, extend the right arm until the lower portion of the staff is in the right arm pit. Keep the right elbow tucked against your side. Lower the staff so that it is parallel to the deck. As the staff is lowered, rotate the spear so the sharp edge of the spearhead faces down.



Figure 6-VI-5. Present Guidon.

To return to ORDER GUIDON, the command is ORDER ARMS. On the preparatory command of ORDER, use the left hand to smartly and audibly grab the staff at a point forward of your right hand. On the command ARMS, use the left hand to pull the guidon vertical to the position of CARRY GUIDON, then rotate the right hand as the left hand lowers the guidon to the deck. Use the left hand to steady the guidon as the staff slides downward. Make sure the spearhead is back facing to the front. When done, smartly cut the left hand back to the side.



Figure 6-VI-7. Movements to Carry Guidon from Present Guidon.

To move from PRESENT GUIDON to CARRY GUIDON, the command is READY FRONT. On the command of READY, grasp the staff smartly and audibly with the left hand at a point beyond your right hand. On the command FRONT, return the staff to the vertical position and then lower the staff to the position of CARRY GUIDON. Pivot the hand

as the staff is lowered to have a proper grip on the staff. Be certain the flathead of the spear is facing front. When you cut your hand back to the left side, smartly turn your head and eyes forward.

Guidon bearers are occasionally called on to salute from ORDER GUIDON or CARRY GUIDON. This command can be issued while in a formation or may be necessary if an officer is encountered en route to or from a formation.

The command is GUIDON or RIFLE SALUTE. On SALUTE, move the left arm smartly towards the staff, parallel to the deck, palm down, fingers joined approximately 18 inches about



Figure 6-VI-9. Guidon Salute from Carry or Order Guidon.

the right hand. Turn the head and eyes to the person being saluted. The first joint of the index finger should touch the staff. After the salute is returned, ORDER ARMS or READY TWO is given, move the left hand smartly back to the side and return head and eyes to the front.

The guidon bearer often leads the company, platoon, or division during double time or cadence runs.



The command given is DOUBLE TIME, MARCH. On the command DOUBLE TIME, the staff is tilted to the left. The right hand grasps the staff at the carry spot. The right forearm is level with the deck and the right elbow is tucked in. Grip the staff with the left hand at a point in front of where the neck and left shoulder join. The flat side of the spear should face forward.

6-VI-4. Guidon Carry at the Double Time