



State of California – Military Department  
California Cadet Corps

# CURRICULUM ON MILITARY SUBJECTS

Strand M3: Individual Drill

Level 11

This Strand is composed of the following components:

- A. Individual Drill
- B. Individual Drill with Weapons**
- C. The Drill Commander



“Individual Drill with sharpness,  
precision and snap”

# Table of Contents

- B. Individual Drill with Weapons..... 4
  - Objectives ..... 4
    - B1. Basic Procedures..... 5
    - B2. Order Arms..... 7
    - B3. Rest Positions..... 7
    - B4. Port Arms ..... 8
    - B5. Present Arms..... 10
    - B6. Inspection Arms ..... 10
    - B7. Right Shoulder Arms ..... 10
    - B8. Left Shoulder Arms ..... 13
    - B9. Changing Positions..... 14
- References ..... 16

Suggested Supplies:

Replica (3-4 pound) rifles or  
Props that can substitute for drill rifles

## B. Individual Drill with Weapons

Standard #1: Students gain identity and belonging as a Cadet while developing self-control, respect, discipline and confidence.

### OBJECTIVES

#### **DESIRED OUTCOME (Followership) / PRACTICUM B**

*90% of Unit Cadets can properly execute the manual of arms using a replica (3-4 pound) rifle with sharpness, precision, and snap when given proper commands.*

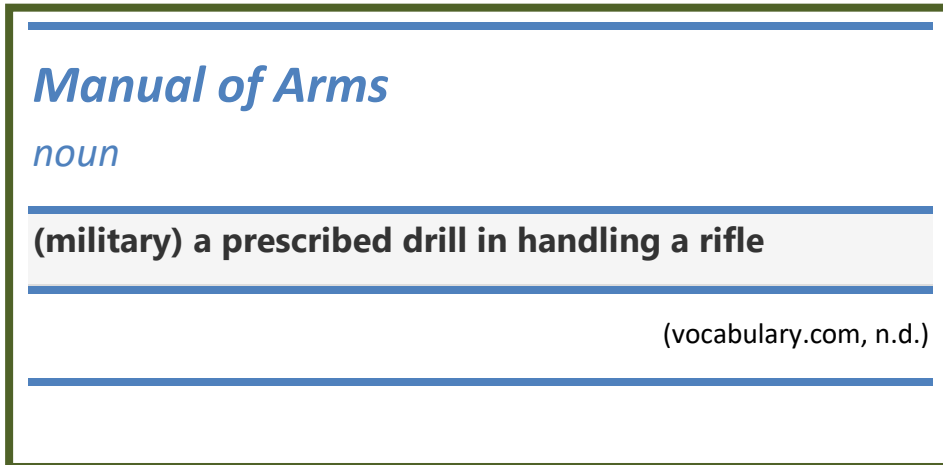
Plan of Action:

1. Identify the basic rules that govern the Manual of Arms.
2. Identify the parts of a rifle used in the Manual of Arms.
3. Properly execute *Order Arms* with a rifle.
4. Properly execute the *Rest Positions* with a rifle.
5. Properly execute *Port Arms* with a rifle.
6. Properly execute *Present Arms* with a rifle.
7. Properly execute *Inspection Arms* (if you have a M1903 Rifle).
8. Properly execute *Right Shoulder Arms* with a rifle.
9. Properly execute *Left Shoulder Arms* with a rifle.
10. Properly change from each of the positions in the Manual of Arms to any other position.
11. Experienced Cadets properly execute *15-Count Manual of Arms* with a rifle.

## B1. Basic Procedures

## Reference Materials:

- TC 3-21.5. Drill and Ceremonies (US Army). <https://cacadets.org/Regulations> Chapter 5 and Appendix D
- Fort Jackson Army Individual Drill Videos: <https://vimeo.com/channels/524805>



The Army Drill and Ceremonies Manual, [TC 3-21.5](#), covers the Manual of Arms in Chapter 5 for the M-16 series rifle. Other types of weapons are covered in Appendices B through F. Units of the California Cadet Corps usually use M1903 Springfield, M1 Rifles, or replicas that the equipment Cadets use for drilling with weapons. Appendix F covers the Manual of the Saber for those units whose leaders carry sabers during ceremonies. This lesson is based on the standards set in Appendix D, with some basic rules taken from Chapter 5.

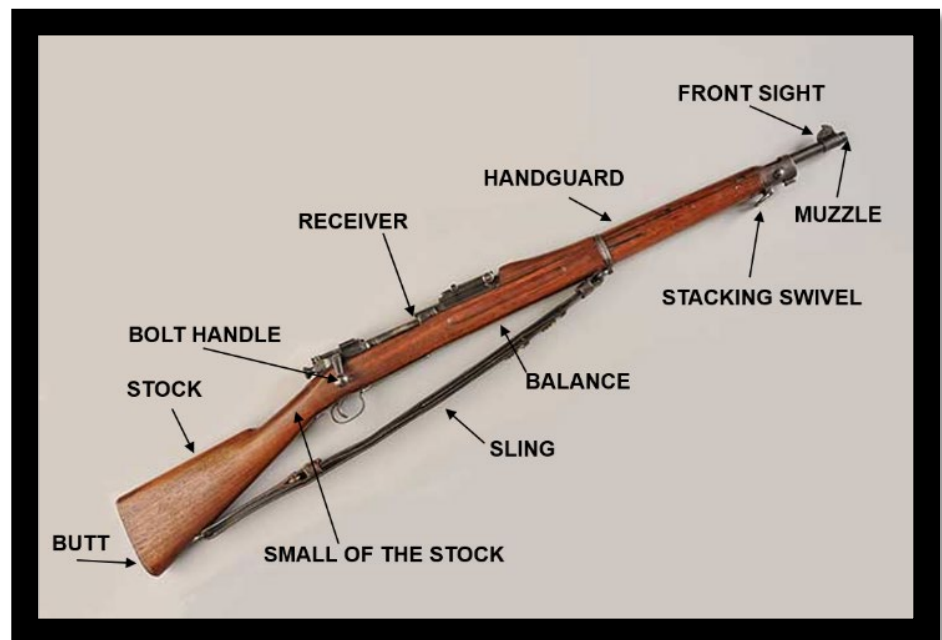
## Basic Rules:

- At the halt, all movements are initiated from Order Arms or Sling Arms, which are the *Positions of Attention* with the rifle.
- All precision movements are executed in quick time cadence.
- The command **Port, ARMS** must be given before the command for *Double Time*.
- Facings, alignments, and short-distance marching movements are executed at *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms*.
  - When these movements are commanded while at *Order Arms*, the Cadet automatically raises the rifle about 1 inch off the ground on the command of execution.
  - When the movement has been completed, the Cadet automatically returns the rifle to *Order Arms*.
- Facing movements are executed from *Order Arms* or *Sling Arms*.
  - When executing *Right, Face* and *Forward, March*, the facing movement is executed before the command for the manual of arms.
  - After a marching movement has been completed, *Order, Arms* or *Sling, Arms* is commanded before the command for the facing movement.

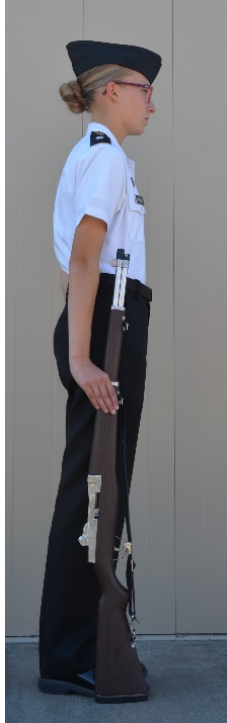
- In other words, **YOU CANNOT EXECUTE FACING MOVEMENTS WHEN THE RIFLE IS AT ANY POSITION OTHER THAN *ORDER ARMS* OR *SLING ARMS*.**
- **Ready, Port, ARMS** must be commanded following Inspection Arms and before any other movements can be commanded.
- *Port Arms* is the key position assumed in most manual of arms movements from one position to another except *Right Shoulder Arms* from *Order Arms* and *Order Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms*.
- Manual of arms movements are a combination of the *Position of Attention* and the procedures for the prescribed movement. Most manual of arms movements are executed with the head, eyes, and body stationary as in the *Position of Attention*.

The parts of the M1903 or similar rifle that you should know are:

- Butt
- Stock
- Sling
- Bolt Handle
- Balance
- Receiver Group
- Handguards
- Stacking Swivel
- Front Sight
- Muzzle



## B2. Order Arms



Execute *Order Arms* using the following procedures:

Assume *Order Arms* on the command **FALL IN** or from *Parade Rest* on the command of execution **ATTENTION**.

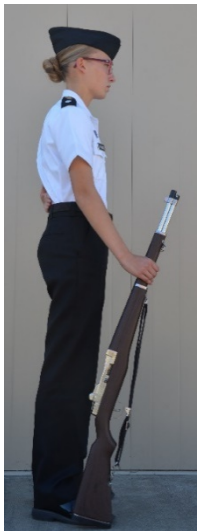
At *Order Arms*, maintain the *Position of Attention* with the rifle.

- Place the butt of the rifle on the marching surface with sights to the rear and touching the right foot.
- Place the toe of the butt on line with the front of the right foot.
- Secure the rifle with the right hand in a “U” formed by the fingers (extended and joined) and thumb.
- Keep the right arm as in the *Position of Attention* and hold the rifle with the right thumb and fingers with the fingers pointed generally downward and touching the sides of the handguards.
- Keep the right hand and arm behind the rifle.



## B3. Rest Positions

The rifle *Rest* positions are commanded and executed the same as individual drill with the following additions:



On the command of execution **REST of Parade, REST**, thrust the muzzle forward keeping the toe of the butt on line with the front of the right foot and the right arm straight.

- Execute *Stand at Ease* with the rifle in the same manner as *Parade Rest* except turn the head and eyes toward the commander/instructor.

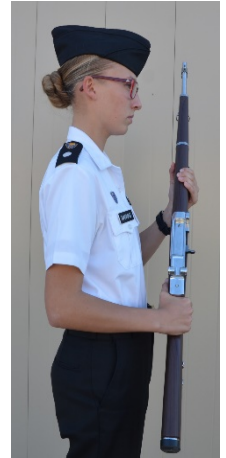
On the command **AT EASE** or **REST**, keep the butt of the rifle in place as in *Parade Rest*.

## B4. Port Arms

Execute *Port Arms* from *Order Arms* using the following procedures:

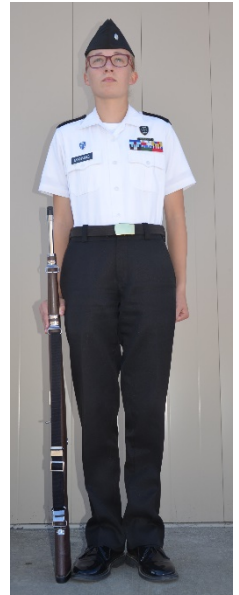
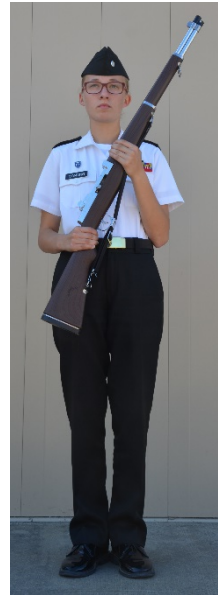
*Port Arms* from *Order Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is **Port, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, grasp the rifle with the right hand and raise the rifle diagonally across the body, keeping the right elbow down alongside the rifle (without strain).
- With the left hand, simultaneously grasp the rifle at the balance (grasping the wood stock right above the receiver) so that the rifle is about 4 inches (a fist) from the body.
- On count two, grasp the rifle at the small of the stock with the right hand.
- Hold the rifle diagonally across the body, about 4 inches from the body, the right forearm horizontal, and the elbows close to the sides.

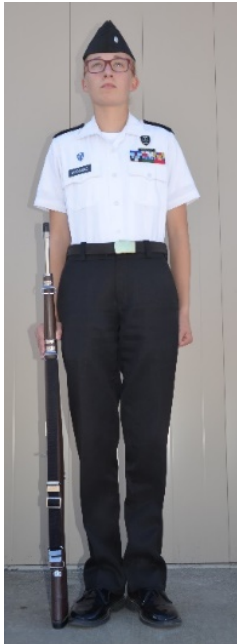
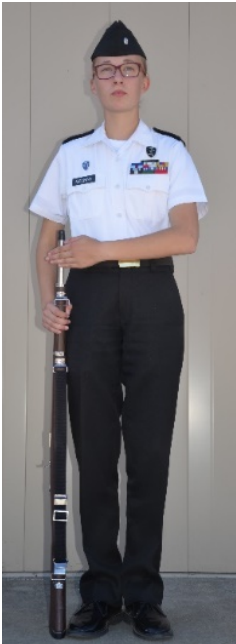
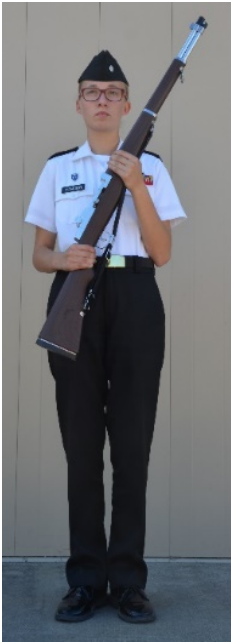


*Order Arms* from *Port Arms* is executed in three counts. The command is **Order, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, move the right hand up and across the body and firmly grasp the rifle on the upper stock (handguard) without moving the rifle, and keep the right elbow aligned alongside the rifle.
- On count two, move the left hand from the balance and lower the rifle to the right side until it is about one inch (1") from the marching surface next to the right foot.
- Guide the rifle to the side by placing the Order Arms from Port Arms index finger of the left hand at the top of the rifle near the stacking swivel, fingers and thumb extended and joined, palm to the rear.
- On count three, move the left hand sharply to the left side, gently lower the rifle to the ground next to the right foot, and resume the position of *Order Arms*.







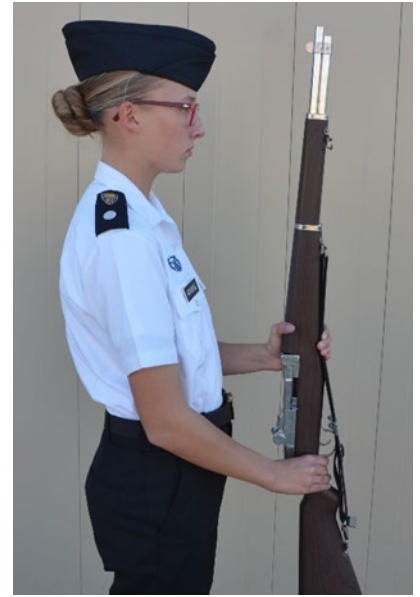
### B5. Present Arms

Execute *Present Arms* using the following procedures:

*Present Arms* from *Order Arms* is a three-count movement. The command is **Present, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute *Port Arms* in two counts.
- On count three, twist the rifle with the right hand so that the sights are to the rear, and move the rifle to a vertical position about four inches (4") in front of and centered on the body.
- Lower the rifle until the left forearm is horizontal.
  - Keep the elbows in at the sides.
- Keep the left thumb wrapped around the rifle and touching the right side of the handguard right above the receiver.

**NOTE:** Incline the barrel slightly backward to ensure that the weapon is vertical.



*Order Arms* from *Present Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is **Order, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, return the rifle to *Port Arms*.
- Counts two, three, and four are the same as *Order Arms* from *Port Arms*.

*Port Arms* is assumed en route to or from *Present Arms* when going to or from *Right Shoulder* or *Left Shoulder Arms*. *Present Arms* from or to *Port Arms* is a one-count movement.

When rendering reports or courtesy to an individual from *Order Arms*:

- Execute *Present Arms* and turn the head and eyes toward the individual addressed.
- *Order Arms* is executed automatically upon acknowledgment of the *Salute*.

### B6. Inspection Arms

Many replica rifles used in the CA Cadet Corps do not have functioning bolts, and those that do are often cheap and easily broken. It is not recommended that Cadets practice Inspection Arms unless they have access to actual (demilitarized) rifles. In that case, follow the instructions in [TC 3-21.5, Appendix D](#).

### B7. Right Shoulder Arms

Execute *Right Shoulder Arms* using the following procedures:

*Right Shoulder Arms* from *Order Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is **Right Shoulder, ARMS.**

- Execute count one, the command of execution **ARMS**, the same as in executing *Port Arms*.
- On count two, release the grasp of the right hand and grasp the heel of the butt between the first two fingers with the thumb and forefinger touching (NOTE: Do NOT put the right hand on the small of the stock as in *Port Arms*. Move it directly from the handguard to the butt of the rifle.)
- On count three (without moving the head), release the grasp of the left hand (without changing the grasp of the right hand), twist the rifle so that the sights are up, and place the weapon onto the right shoulder, moving the left hand to the small of the stock to guide the rifle to the shoulder.
- Keep the fingers and thumb (left hand) extended and joined with the palm turned toward the body. The first joint of the left forefinger touches the top of the bolt handle.
- Keep the left elbow down (*the photo below is incorrect*), and keep the right forearm horizontal (parallel to the ground) with the right upper arm touching the body and elbow on line with the back.
- On count four, sharply move the left hand back to the left side as in the *Position of Attention*.

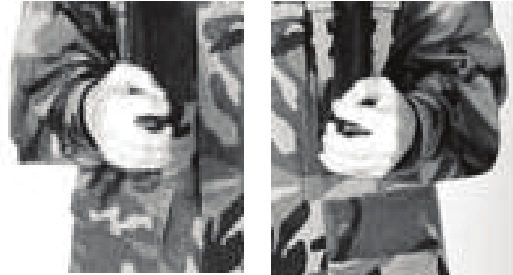


**Right Shoulder Arms from Order Arms**

**Left elbow should be down. Photo shows incorrect position of elbow.**



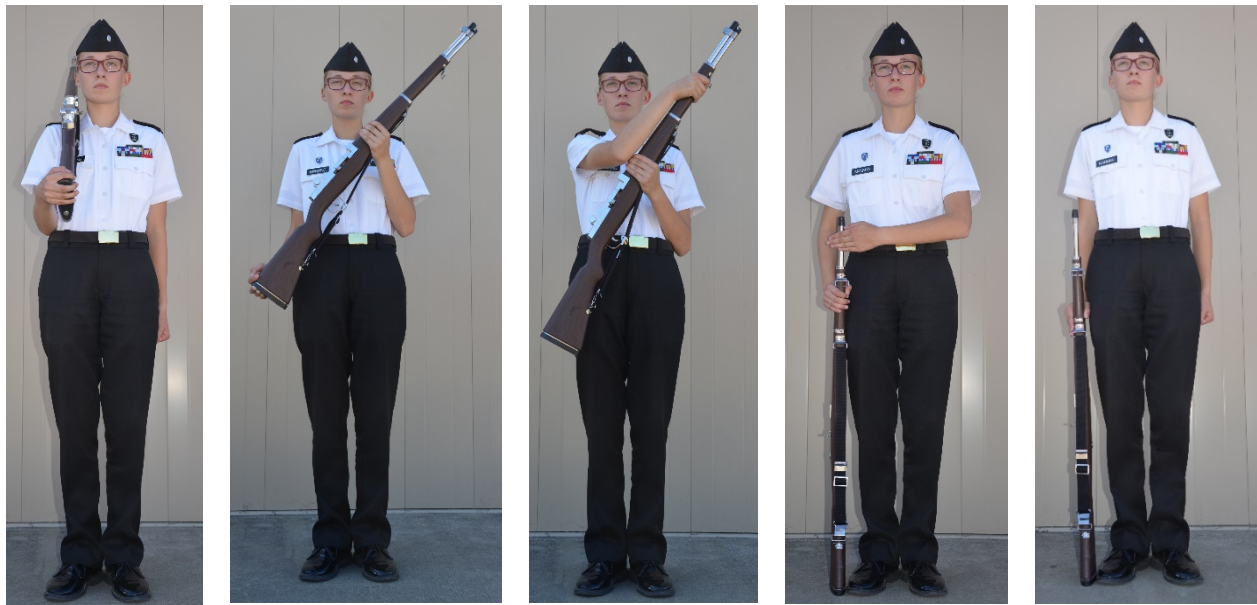
**NOTE:** It is very specific how one is to hold the butt of the rifle at Right and Left Shoulder Arms. Touch the tip of the index finger to the tip of the thumb, forming an oblong. The thumb and index finger go on the front of the rifle. The other three fingers go on the bottom of the rifle butt.



*Order Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is **Order, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, without moving the head and without changing the grasp of the right hand, press down quickly and firmly on the butt of the rifle with the right hand and twist the weapon (with the sights up), guiding it diagonally across the body and about four inches (4") from the waist.
- Grasp the rifle with the left hand at the balance.
- On count two, move the right hand up and across the body and firmly grasp the rifle just forward of the lower band without moving the rifle; keep the right elbow down without strain.
- Counts three and four are the same as from *Port Arms* to *Order Arms*.

**Order Arms from Right Shoulder Arms**

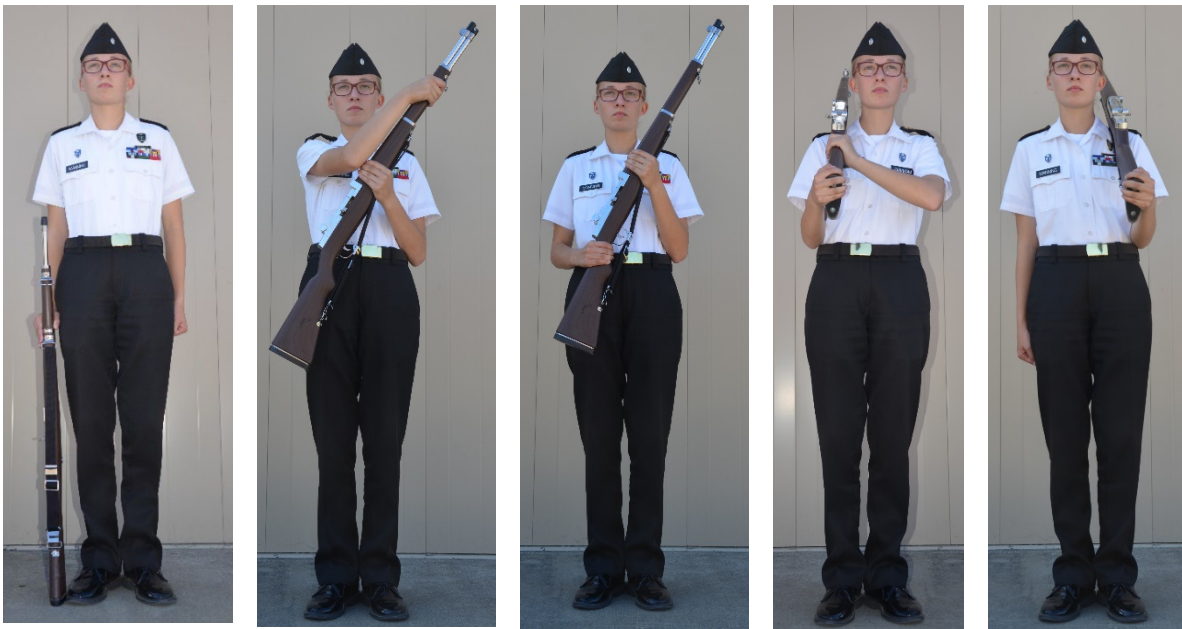


## B8. Left Shoulder Arms

Execute *Left Shoulder Arms* using the following procedures:

*Left Shoulder Arms* from *Order Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is ***Left Shoulder, ARMS.***

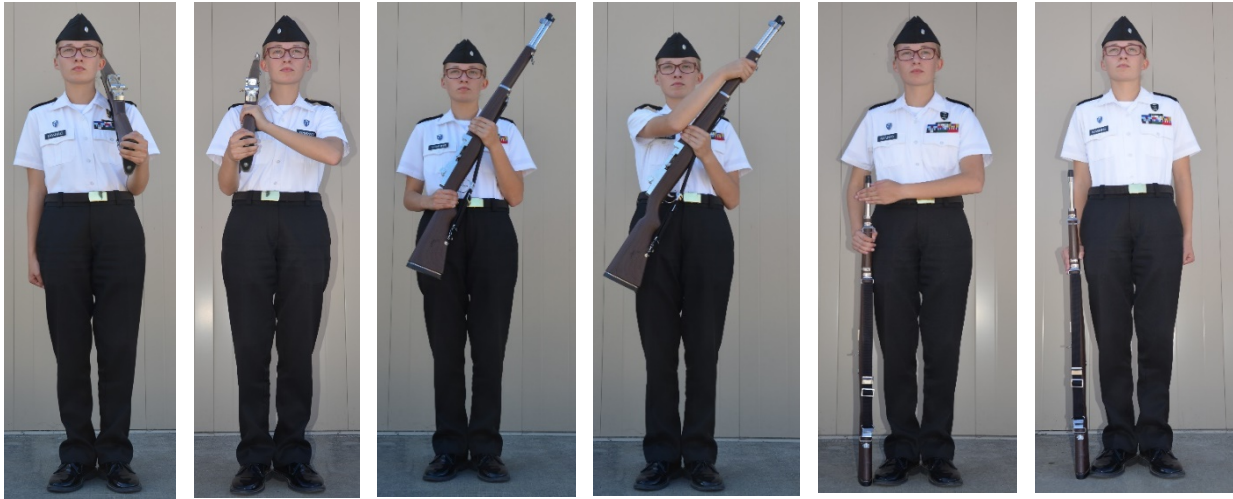
- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute *Port Arms* in two counts.
- On count three, release the grasp of the left hand and (without moving the head) place the rifle on the left shoulder with the right hand (with the sights up), keeping the right elbow down.
- At the same time, grasp the rifle with the left hand with the heel of the butt between the first two fingers and with the thumb and forefinger touching.
- The left forearm is horizontal (parallel to the ground), and the left upper arm is against the side and on line with the back.
- On count four, move the right hand sharply to the right side as in the *Position of Attention*.

***Left Shoulder Arms from Order Arms***

*Order Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms* is a five-count movement. The command is ***Order, ARMS.***

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, move the right hand up and across the body and grasp the small of the stock, keeping the right elbow down.
- On count two (without moving the head), release the grasp of the left hand and with the right hand move the rifle diagonally across the body (sights up) about four inches (4") from the body.
- At the same time, grasp the rifle at the balance with the left hand, and resume *Port Arms*.
- Counts three, four, and five are the same as *Order Arms* from *Port Arms*.



**Order Arms from Left Shoulder Arms****B9. Changing Positions**

To change position with the M1903 rifle use the following procedures:

*Right Shoulder Arms* from *Port Arms* is a three-count movement. The command is **Right Shoulder, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, release the grasp of the right hand and grasp the rifle with the heel of the butt between the first two fingers, with the thumb and forefinger touching.
- Counts two and three are the same as counts three and four from *Order Arms*.
- When marching, the command is given as the right foot strikes the ground; the right hand moves to the butt of the rifle when the left foot strikes the ground, immediately after the command.

*Port Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is **Port, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute count one of *Order Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms*.
- On count two, release the grasp of the right hand and grasp the rifle at the small of the stock and come to *Port Arms*.
- When marching, the command is given as the right foot strikes the ground; the first movement, taking the rifle off the shoulder, happens the next time the left foot strikes the ground.

*Left Shoulder Arms* from *Port Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is **Left Shoulder, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute *Left Shoulder Arms* in the same manner as counts three and four from *Order Arms*.
- When marching, the command is given as the left foot strikes the ground.

*Port Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms* is a two-count movement. The command is **Port, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute the first two counts of *Order Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms*.

- When marching, the command is given as the left foot strikes the ground; the first movement, putting the rifle onto the left shoulder, takes place when the left foot strikes the ground, so the Cadet skips a beat after the command is given.

*Left Shoulder Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* is a four-count movement. The command is **Left Shoulder, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute the first count the same as executing *Order Arms*.
- On count two, remove the right hand from the butt of the rifle and grasp the small of the stock (*Port Arms*).
- Counts three and four are the same movements as from *Port Arms*.
- When marching, the command is given as the left foot strikes the ground; the first movement, taking the rifle off the right shoulder, happens when the left foot strikes the ground – skipping a beat after the command.

*Right Shoulder Arms* from *Left Shoulder Arms* is a five-count movement. The command is **Right Shoulder, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute *Port Arms* in two counts.
- Counts three, four, and five are the same as from *Port Arms*.
- When *marching*, the command is given as the right foot strikes the ground; the first movement, putting the right hand on the small of the stock, happens when the left foot strikes the ground, immediately after the command.

*Present Arms* from *Right Shoulder Arms* or *Left Shoulder Arms*, while in formation, is executed from the *Halt* only, NOT while marching. The command is **Present, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, come to *Port Arms* from either shoulder and then execute *Present Arms* (in one count) from *Port Arms*.
- Cadets who might salute during *Eyes Right* while marching in a ceremony (Platoon Leaders and above): if carrying rifles, rifles should be at *Sling Arms*.

To resume *Right (Left) Shoulder Arms* from *Present Arms*, the command is **Right (Left) Shoulder, ARMS.**

- On the command of execution **ARMS**, execute *Port Arms* in one count and then execute the counts as prescribed from *Port Arms*.

### *15-Count Manual of Arms*

Experienced Cadets should be able to execute the 15-count manual of arms in unison from *Order*, to *Right Shoulder*, to *Left Shoulder*, to *Present*, to *Order Arms*. The command is **Fifteen-Count Manual, ARMS.**

## References

(n.d.). Retrieved from vocabulary.com: <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/manual%20of%20arms>