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Lecture Title : Drill and Marching

Introduction

Hello and welcome to yet another module on physical education and today we are talking about drill and marching. Drill commands are generally used with a group that is marching, most often in military foot drill or marching band. All branches of the military use drill commands. Command voice. Drill commands are best given in an excellent command voice. A command voice is characterized by DLIPS: Distinctness, Loudness, Inflection, Projection, and Snap. Due to the requirements of the command voice, the actual words of the command undergo elision to the point that those unfamiliar with the specific words may be unable to recognize them. An example of such elision is the command "Attention", which is usually uttered with the initial "a" hardly if at all audible, "ten" drawn out, and "tion" drastically shortened such that, in popular culture, the command often ends up being spelled "ten-hut".

General Principles

Most of the commands in modern drill are separated into two distinct parts; the Preparatory Command, and the Command of Execution. The preparatory command indicates to the person performing the movement that a command of execution is soon to follow – and which action to perform.. The command of execution indicates the movement to be performed. An example of this is the command "Present ARMS", which is utilized to command a group of soldiers to render a salute. In this command, the word "Present" is the preparatory command, whereas the following word, "ARMS" is the command of execution. The movement is performed immediately upon reception of the execution command. When issuing

the command, vocal inflection is varied so that the preparatory command is given less emphasis, and the most emphasis is placed on the command of execution. There is usually a slight hesitation between each element of the command, about the duration of a finger snap. Other examples of the two-part command structure are: "Right Flank...MARCH" "Order...ARMS" The vast majority of armies perform their drill from the base position of Attention. In this position, the person performing the movement stands straight, arms down and slightly flexed, fingers curled into the palm, thumbs pointed down and placed against the seam of the trouser, and the feet positioned at a forty-five degree angle with heels together. The most common command given by leaders to gather their elements into formations is the command "Fall IN", at which time the person takes their position in the formation and at the position of attention. From this position, almost any other drill command can be executed. In Commonwealth drill styles troops will generally fall in without formal commands and then be brought to Attention in order to begin the drill.

Common Drill Commands

Most commands are the same across all three services, but there are significant differences in the way movements are carried out. Mark Time: March without movement in the Quick time pace (a pace of 116 paces to the minute (normal) and up to 140 paces to the minute (Rifle regiments)) Forward: continue marching in quick time without breaking step Changing step on the march: order to step in on the left foot on the march (despite the name no change in the step should be made if completed properly). Commands: Squad/Detail/Platoon/Company etc: Warning of further commands to the group, if stood easy the response is to push your arms down behind your back and let your shoulders lock into place, brace and push your chest out and hold your head up high. If stood at ease, or at attention, no response should occur beyond listening for further words of command. Attention (Pronounced "Shun!" in the British Army and RAF, and "Ho!" in the Royal Navy): Bring your left leg up at 90 degrees and stamp down so both of your feet are in a 'V' shape. In the Royal Navy, however, the squad bring the left foot over to the right without stamping, so that the feet are at a 45 degree angle. This is traditionally done in the interest of not putting one's foot through the deck of a ship. Stand at ease: Given when stood at attention, bring your left leg up to a 90

degree angle, stamp down so feet are shoulder width apart, hands return to being clasped behind your back, staying braced up. Stand easy: Bring your arms behind your back at the top of your behind, and no longer need to be braced up. Squad will advance, left turn: Use the toes of your right foot and the heel of your left to pivot to your left. Stamp down like you would in Squad Attention. Squad, right turn: Use the heel of your right foot and the toes of your left to pivot to your right. Stamp down like you would in Squad Attention. Squad will advance, about turn: do a 180 degree turn, pivoting on the heel of your right foot and on the toes of your left foot, always turn around your right shoulder. Squad by the halt, left incline: do what you would do in a left turn, but only turn 45 degrees. Squad by the halt, right incline: do what you would do in a right turn, but only turn 45 degrees. Squad salute to the front, salute: bring your right hand up to the brim of your hat, facing forwards so it is just blocking a quarter of your right eye. Squad salute to the right, salute: bring your hand up to the brim of your hat, your hand in the same position as a front salute but turn your head to the right. Squad salute to the left, salute: do the same as salute to the right, but to the left. Squad right dress: Everyone snaps head to the right, and the front rank moves so they are about an arm's length from the person to their right, with the centre and rear ranks moving to stay in line.

Drill is Marching

In ancient history, the most powerful, efficient and developed empires developed ways of moving organized units of troops from one place to another on the battlefield, without individuals getting mixed up with other units. Otherwise, as masses of people manoeuvred amongst each other individuals would get lost and end up having to attach themselves to any old unit. A system of flags was developed so people could identify their own units (and side) on the field and make their way to their correct flag bearer if they got separated. But sticking to "formed up" squads was better, forming a box of men who moved as a single body. Overall it meant command systems were effective - men stayed together and could be commanded as units. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, testifies to the superiority of Roman discipline, and part of that discipline was an ordered method of moving formed up squads from one place to another. This discipline facilitates effective realisation of tactical man-management, and the result is a superior fighting army. During what historians have reluctantly come to call "The Military

Revolution" European armies between 1550 and 1720 became generally state-controlled, financed and permanent. "There was a resultant loss of individuality, with the need for better organization, good training - especially in drill - and strict discipline". Training became an institution. Since then, drill has become increasingly important as part of training, discipline and military parades. Goose Stepping was a form of extreme marching held by German, Prussian, and Russian heads of military to be an ultimate display of the unbreakable will and discipline of its soldiers. Most modern marching is not as extreme as the rigid goose step. Anything that resembles it is now unpopular because it has become associated with fascism. Nevertheless it is still used by some countries as a powerful display of military discipline. Military Drill in the Army is formalized with utmost precision in the fearsomely bulky Drill Book. The preamble to the Drill Book states that drill is the foundation of battle discipline. Drill master and anthropologist Robert Graves says there are three types of troops: (1) "those that had guts were no good at drill"; (2) "those that were good at drill but had no guts" and (3) "those that had guts and were good at drill". These last, for some reason or other, fought by far the best³. An army that regularly parades in public displays itself as a highly professional army. Even though the parade itself does not perform any useful function on a battlefield, it has an effect even in times of peace and in build-ups to wars. A rag-tag army is likely to be unable to put on parades, hence it holds that larger and better armies can display their discipline by means of public performances. It therefore acts as a psychological tool and a deterrent - it says that the army is ready, strong and trained. For example North Korea was facing off against the USA in 2002/2003 and making politically aggressive claims that it was developing nuclear weaponry. It put on a large number of military parades, sometimes including squads of children playing instruments and performing rigid dances, and they received attention in the news, commenting on how "modern" their army and military was. They could clearly be seen to be skilled; and this would act as a deterrent against many lesser armies. German Nazi parades in the 1930s were awesome, fast and hard. They clearly formed part of the psychological manipulation tools of the Nazis, making the people feel strong and proud, making them happier to put themselves behind such a dedicated and inspiring home force. So merely as a deterrent and as home inspiration, drill and parades perform useful military and political functions. As we are concentrating, in this text, on the ontology of training procedures, I will now concentrate on the role of drill on the

personal development of soldiers physically and mentally, and not look at the role of drill in formal military displays.

Drill and Physical Training British recruits on the final parade of basic training. Not everyone has the control over their bodies that athletes have. Strain, stress, laziness, inability, mental weakness and unfamiliarity prevent most people from having maximum control of their own bodies. When situations become stressful, cold or uncomfortable then people who have been trained to rigidly form their bodies around their will can undoubtedly perform better than those people whose only mind-body training has been computer games and casual sport. A recruit will spend an apparent eternity stood motionless at attention, sometimes in seemingly unbearable cold or heat. But with each such session, the cold becomes a little more bearable, the motionlessness becomes more familiar and more elegant and the recruit's body learns a little better how to conform completely to the wishes of its operator. In a tactical situation, on sentry, you must remain completely quiet and motionless in order to minimize the chances of being seen or heard. A recruit who has mastered hundreds of hours of drill, in the cold and in uncomfortable positions, will also be a master of his own body in such tactical situations. When a recruit moves on to skill at arms training the casual motionless and calmness, despite discomfort, is an essential ability of a good shot. If a recruit is not used to ignoring the minor discomforts of a held position, their minds will be distracted and their firing will be less accurate. Once drill is internalized and your body is accustomed to the discipline, it becomes more like a relaxing meditation than hard work, and your mind can wonder. Retrospectively, it feels to some like they no longer find it hard... it is hard, but, they have become accustomed to the hardness.

Drill and Discipline; Many civilians and military folk like to consider discipline to be the primary role of drill. Parades, it is frequently said, are a display of discipline and in training it forms a method of instilling discipline that can be visually and physically tested. It is a widely recognize method by which you break the will of untrained civilians so that they obey orders in situations where there is no time for a debate, doubt or delay. Yes, discipline is a major part of drill but by highlighting the other roles it plays before getting on to this subject, it is also to be highlighted the other functions that drill serves. When training recruits in drill it tends to bring out people's' attitudes. Employing typical low-level popular psychology, it is used

to "drill" discipline into recruits by pummelling them harder the more they resist, until they "break". When they break, they accept that they're rubbish at drill, that they are making mistakes, and that they will have to keep doing it until they get as good as they are being trained to be. Until they reach that point of breaking, recruits will resist the training. They may think they're "good enough", they may reject the need to do drill or they may reject the commands or make fun of drill. Once broken, they will accept drill. Although previous "attitudes" will surface, they won't interfere anymore with the actual obedience to the commands given. In short, their attitude has been overridden by freshly instilled discipline. That's how drill is seen to instil discipline amongst the average person. In addition, drill is used within the armed forces as a punishment. Drill can be made very physically demanding. On the coldest days, a squad commander can drill a group of men until they sweat, their legs and feet ache and hurt, and they can no longer perform the moves with full gusto. It is a form of exercise. Keeping those knees waist high when "marking time" (marching on the spot) can be a form of mild torture: a dynamic stress position. As such, many of the low-rankers in the armed forces pretty much hate drill for the memories of the angst. Although some come to like and respect it because they feel the benefits both physically and mentally.

Conclusion

Now we come to the conclusion of the episode. Drill commands are generally used with a group that is marching, most often in military foot drill or marching band. All branches of the military use drill commands. Command voice. Drill commands are best given in an excellent command voice. A command voice is characterized by DLIPS: Distinctness, Loudness, Inflection, Projection, and Snap. Due to the requirements of the command voice, the actual words of the command undergo elision to the point that those unfamiliar with the specific words may be unable to recognize them. An example of such elision is the command "Attention", which is usually uttered with the initial "a" hardly if at all audible, "ten" drawn out, and "tion" drastically shortened such that, in popular culture, the command often ends up being spelled "ten-hut". General principles. Most of the commands in modern drill are separated into two distinct parts; the Preparatory Command, and the Command of Execution. The preparatory command indicates to the person performing the movement that a command of execution is soon to follow – and which action to perform.. The command of execution indicates the movement to be

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