

## II. DEFINITIONS

Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies, Grand Commandery of Missouri  
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ABOUT: A wheel (or face) of 180 degrees.

ALIGNMENT: A straight line upon which several Sir Knights, or Ranks, are formed or are to be formed.

BASE: The element on which a movement is regulated.

CADENCE: The uniform time of step in marching or the succession of movements in the sword manual.

Quick Time – 120 movements per minute.

Double Time – 180 movements per minute.

Common Time – 90 movements per minute.

Sword Manual at a halt, and on the march is executed in quick time.

CENTER: The middle point or element of a command.

COLUMN: A formation in which the elements are one behind the other.

COMMANDER: The officer or junior officer, or Sir Knight who is actually in command of the lines. The honorary title of the head of the commandery is "Eminent Commander."

COMPANY: A subdivision of a commandery; not less than two platoons.

COMPANY LEADER: An officer or junior officer of any grade, or a Sir Knight, in command of a company (twenty-four files so designated).

COVER: To take position exactly in rear of another.

DEPLOY: To extend the front. In general to change from column to line, or from close to extended order.

DEPTH: The space from head to rear of any formation, including the leading and rear elements. The depth of a man is assumed to be 12 inches.

DISTANCE: Space between elements in direction of depth. See Par. 187 D.R.

DIVISION: A sub-division of a commandery formed for asylum ceremonies (see platoon). A sub-division of the grand parade of the Grand Encampment or of a Grand Commandery.

DRILL: The exercises and evolutions taught in the asylum or on the field, and executed in the precise and formal manner prescribed.

DRESS: Alignment to the right or left as in forming a rank.

ECHELON: Elements placed one behind another, extending beyond and unmasking one another, either wholly or in part.

ELEMENT: A file, squad, section platoon, company, or larger body, forming a part of a still larger body. (See unit.)

FACING DISTANCE: About ten inches, i.e., the difference between the front of a Sir Knight in ranks and his depth, or the distance between two Sir Knights in column or file.

FILE: A Sir Knight in rank. If in double rank it includes the corresponding rear rank Sir Knight. A single line faced to the right (or left) is called a column of files.

FILE CLOSERS: Officers or junior officers placed in rear of the line whose duty it is to rectify mistakes and to command sub-divisions.

FILE LEADER: The leading Sir Knight whom the other Sir Knights or files cover.

FLANK: The right or left of a command in line or column.

FORMATION: Arrangement of the Sir Knights of a command. The placing of all fractions in their order in line or in column.

**FRONT:** The space in width occupied by a command or any element. The front of a Sir Knight is 22 inches. Also the general direction toward which the command is moving.

**GUIDE:** One upon whom the command or Sir Knights regulates the march.

**HEAD:** The leading element of a column.

**INTERVAL:** Space between elements of the same line.

**JUNIOR OFFICERS:** All officers below the rank of Captain General. (See officers.)

**LEFT IN FRONT:** A column formed to the left from line, or to the rear from front. See right in front.

**LINE:** A formation in which the different elements are abreast of each other.

**MARCHING FLANK:** The flank farthest from the pivot in turning or wheeling.

**MOTION:** Distinct movements in the Manual of the Sword.

**OFFICERS:** The Captain General and all officers above that grade, and past commanders. (See junior officers.)

**PACE:** Thirty inches; the length of the full step in quick time.

**PIVOT:** The Sir Knight on the flank upon which the wheel or turn is made. Fixed Pivot-The Sir Knight on the pivot marks time and turns his body to conform to the front of the unit, gaining no ground during the execution of the movement.  
Moving Pivot – The Sir Knight on the pivot moves on the arc of a circle the radius of which is 30 inches, and turns his body to conform to the front of the unit.

**PLATOON:** A sub-division of a commandery, usually not less than 12 files, formed for drill. (See division.)

**PLATOON LEADER:** An officer or junior officer of any grade, or a Sir Knight in command of a platoon.

**PLOY:** To diminish the front, as pass from line to column.

**POINT OF REST:** The point on which a formation begins.

**POST:** Official position or place of officers or Sir Knights.

**IN QUARTE:** When the sword gripe is held, back of the hand down.

**RANK:** A line of Sir Knights placed side by side, also the grade of an officer.

**RIGHT:** The right extremity or element of a body of Sir Knights (contra, the left).

**RIGHT IN FRONT:** A column formed to the right from line. When the right of the line is on the right. A formation when the right of the line is in front. When the guide, in column of threes or sections, is on the left. When the file closers are on the right flank of the column.

**ROSTER:** A list of officers or Sir Knights for duty. The roll of officers and Sir Knights of a commandery.

**SECTION:** Two sets of threes abreast, in column, or in line.

**SQUAD:** A small number of Sir Knights for drill.

**SUB-DIVISION:** The several parts in which a commandery or larger body is divided, as threes, sections, platoons, etc.

**IN TIERCE:** When the sword gripe is held, back of hand up.

**TURN:** A movement placing a rank at right angles to its former position, but executed by the Sir Knights individually in succession.

**UNDER ARMS:** Equipped with accoutrements, with swords drawn or in the scabbard.

**UNIT:** (See Element).

**VERIFY:** To assure the correctness of a formation.

**WHEEL:** A circular movement by which a rank is placed at right angles to its former position.

**WHEELING DISTANCE:** A distance between sub-divisions in column, so that when wheeled into line the sub-divisions will exactly join. Equal to the front of the sub-division less the depth of a Sir Knight.

**WING:** That portion of a commandery, battalion, or larger body, from the center to the flank.