

SECTION 1 – COMPETITION OVERVIEW

1. Overview

This document provides operational procedures pertinent to the conduct of all Drill Meets for School Year 2025-2026 (SY 25-26) and beyond.

2. Drill Meet Overview

This SOP applies to all Marine Corps specific regional and national-level drill meets, but should be used for local meets in order to prepare teams for rules and regulations at Headquarter administered events.

3. Attendance

Schools will be allowed to have a maximum of 40 cadets to use between the armed and unarmed divisions. You must compete in all events in both Divisions in order to use **40 Cadets**. If you are competing in only one division you may use no more than 20 cadets. Cadets are authorized to compete in as many events as their instructor authorizes, but shall only participate in one inspection and one color guard. This means if a cadet participates in armed inspection they can not compete in unarmed inspection. Similarly, if a cadet competes in armed division CG they can not compete in unarmed division CG. **Violations of the attendance rules will result in immediate disqualification from the event.**

Events will consist of:

a. **Armed Division: 20 Cadets Max**

(1). Armed Inspection Platoon – (10 cadets) Uniform for the inspection platoon will be Blue Dress “B” with ribbons and badges. All cadets shall wear all earned ribbons and badges and appropriate rank, but at the minimum must have the drill team ribbon. White gloves will be optional. **A cadet can only compete in either Armed or Unarmed inspection, not both.**

(2). Armed Regulation Drill – (Minimum 10 cadets) Deck size: 90'W x 60'L*. Uniform: Any authorized service or dress MCJROTC Uniform. **May use cadets from the Unarmed Division if you have a team competing in both divisions.**

(3). Armed Exhibition Drill – (Minimum 10 cadets) Deck size: 90'W x 60' L*. Uniform: Any authorized service or dress

MCJROTC uniform. If wearing Blue Dress "B", ribbons, badges, and white gloves are optional. **May use cadets from the Unarmed Division if you have a team competing in both divisions.**

(4). Color Guard (Armed Division) - (Male, female, or mixed) Deck Size: 55'W x 55' L*. The only authorized uniform is Blue Dress "B". Ribbons, badges, and white gloves are optional. **A cadet can only compete in either Armed division or Unarmed division CG, not both.**

b. **Unarmed Division: 20 Cadets Max**

(1). Unarmed Inspection Platoon - (10 cadets). Uniform for the inspection platoon will be Blue Dress "B" with ribbons and badges. All cadets shall wear all earned ribbons and badges and appropriate rank, but at the minimum must have the drill team ribbon. White gloves will be worn. **A cadet can only compete in either Armed or Unarmed inspection, not both.**

(2). Unarmed Regulation Drill - (Minimum 10 cadets) Deck size: 90'W x 60' L*. Uniform: Any authorized service or dress MCJROTC Uniform. Ribbons and badges (if applicable) are required with Blue Dress and Service uniforms.

May use cadets from the Armed Division if you have a team competing in both Divisions.

(3). Unarmed Exhibition Drill - (Minimum 10 cadets) Deck size: 90'W x 60' L*. Uniform: Any authorized service or dress MCJROTC uniform. If wearing Blue Dress "B", gloves, ribbons, and badges are optional. **May use cadets from the Armed Division if you have a competing in both divisions.**

(4). Color Guard (Unarmed Division) - (Male, female, or mixed) Deck Size: 55'W x 55' L*. The only authorized uniform is Blue Dress "B". Ribbons, badges, and white gloves are optional. **A cadet can only compete in either Armed or Unarmed inspection, not both.**

*As close to dimensions as possible.

Note: Unarmed CG and Armed CG are comprised of a standard CG and the delineation only refers to the division the individuals are competing in, both are executed with rifles)

4. **EQUIPMENT**

1. Only the authorized Glendale Drill Rifle will be used for Armed Regulation drill. Any faux 1903 rifle specifically manufactured for close order drill may be used for Armed Exhibition, but must have a working bolt. Color Guard will be executed with the Glendale (faux wood and chrome) Drill Rifle. rubber butt plate is required on all rifles.

2. For Armed Regulation Drill, slings may be white or black and taping of sling is at the instructors' discretion. Only black tape will be used.

3. Gloves may be moistened for safety purposes.

4. Armed Regulation - The Armed Drill Commander will be equipped with NCO Sword, Scabbard, and FROG.

5. Armed Exhibition - The Armed Exhibition Drill Commander will be equipped with either an NCO sword with scabbard and frog or a drill rifle. Any faux rifle explicitly manufactured for close order drill is authorized. For Exhibition, alternate stock colors, any color sling, or tape that compliments the rifle may be used. Weight of the rifle must remain relatively the same and will factor into the difficulty of the routine.

6. Armed Inspection - The Armed Inspection Commander will be equipped with an NCO sword.

7. Unarmed Regulation - The Unarmed Regulation Drill Commander will not carry a sword.

8. Unarmed Exhibition - The Unarmed Exhibition Drill Commander will not carry a sword or Drill rifle.

9. Color Guard - The Color Guard will utilize the standard issued National Ensign and MCJROTC Colors. These Colors must be on the standard 9 ½ foot pole with pike. Rifleman shall use the Glendale (faux wood and chrome) Drill Rifle with a rubber butt plate. Teams can use either the white velcro sling or the white standard clasp slings.

SECTION 2 - COMPETITION SPECIFICS

A. *Competition Specifics*

1. Drill working group representatives on-site will maintain sole judgment pertaining to rule enforcement. All decisions made by the Regional Directors regarding rules, procedures or other matters necessary to the running of the drill competition are final.
2. The competition day will end with an awards ceremony open to all spectators.
3. Tentative times and schedules for the competition day are posted under the Event Schedule for planning purposes months in advance. When the competition field is set, the final Event Schedule will be posted approximately two weeks prior to the competition date. The final event Schedule will include the finalized event start times for each attending school.
4. The schedules for armed & unarmed will be offset to ensure no school is forced to compete first in any event or go early in every event. Teams shall be at each event check-in area 15 minutes prior to their timeslots. Penalties will be enforced if a timeslot is missed without prior communication. Inform event representatives if you are running late for an event.

SECTION 3 – PERFORMANCE REGULATION SPECIFICS

A. *Performance Regulations*

1. Events have been structured to support scoring in alignment with the competition score sheets and scoring in all events comes down to adherence to drill regulations, precision of movements, and creativity and ingenuity in exhibition drill. Those schools that deliver excellence in all areas will gain the top scores.
2. Bayonets, handguns (demilitarized or otherwise), props, special effects, music or musical instruments (bugles, drums... any musical instrument), or pyrotechnics are not allowed.
3. A cadet is “performing” and is considered a “competitor” when he/she enters the competition area and materially participates within the competition. Simply being “on the floor” does not meet that bar.
4. Signaling to let the unit on the floor know that they are approaching their performance time limit is prohibited.

5. No separate cadence judge will be in place for a competition using judges of this caliber. The Head Judge and other judges may reduce scores and add notation if they know the performance was out of the standard cadence range (112-120 steps per minute), or for any team who displays uneven cadence (i.e., marching at a vastly faster cadence while turning compared to standard marching cadence in Color Guard). A 20-point penalty (minor violation) and a 50-point penalty (for egregious incorrect cadence such as ceremonial cadence or other cadence where no attempt at regulation marching cadence is made) will be in play.

6. Boundaries violations occur when a cadet clearly passes a coned boundary or makes contact with a cordoned or tape boundary. Penalties will be assessed per occurrence in regulation drill. If the team continues to march outside the boundary with no attempt at correction, additional penalties will occur for each command outside the boundary. During exhibition penalties are accessed for each cadet outside the boundary.

7. All halts and stationary movements require a **5-count PAUSE** before giving the following verbal command. Failure to pause will result in a penalty for each occurrence.

SECTION 4 - EVENT SCORING & TIMING

A. *Score sheets & Score Tabulation*

1. All event score sheets can be found in advance of the competition on the MCJROTC Drill website. Please review these sheets in advance to ensure your school gains the maximum score available.

2. Scoring is straightforward and standard. In no event will the number of males or females on a team be a consideration for judges when evaluating teams. The teams are composed of the cadets chosen by the instructors to perform, without bonus or deduction for the team's gender composition.

3. The scoring system in use for the Marine Corps JROTC Drill Nationals is known as a "Proportional Scoring System". In short, it ensures all four events receive the exact same percentage of overall points available, while rewarding the excellence each

school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors in each event.

4. The overview of this scoring system is relatively simple. All team events are worth exactly 1,000 points each regardless of point totals awarded by the judges. The school who is the winner of any particular event receives the maximum points available in that event (1,000). For example, the school with the highest raw point total earned in Inspection will receive 1,000 points (regardless of the actual points awarded by the judges). The team finishing in 2nd place will receive a percentage of the 1,000 points identical to the percentage they finished behind the first-place team. 3rd, 4th, etc. to the final team will all receive points in the same manner.

5. The shortened table below shows A practical example of this application. The judges' raw points earned is listed, along with the percentage each team finished behind the winner. These percentages are then multiplied into the total max points available to generate a scoring points total for each school within that event.

6. Unit leader scores will be added into platoon scores for an overall total.

Event

Placement	Judge Raw Score	Earned Score	Actual Score or % of Winning Proportional Scoring
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Points Earned

1st place team	900 pts.	100% (900 of 900)	1,000 pts. awarded (100% of 1,000)
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2nd place team	810 pts.	90% (810 of 900)	900 pts. awarded (90% of 1,000)
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3rd place team	788 pts.	87.6% (788 of 900)	876 pts. awarded (87.6% of 1,000)
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4th place team	733 pts.	81.4% (733 of 900)	814 pts. awarded (81.4% of 1,000)
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5th place team	600 pts.	66.7% (600 of 900)	667 pts. awarded (66.7% of 1,000)
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B. Overall Scoring

1. A complete scoring package maintaining all of the judges' score sheets, as well as team placement information in every event will be available immediately following the Awards Ceremony.

C. Tie-Breaking

For Team Events:

- ◆ Level #1 - total only Head Judge scores
- ◆ Level #2 - total only overall evaluation scores
- ◆ Level #3 - team who competed EARLIEST

For Event Championship Totals:

- ◆ Level #1 - highest total raw points earned
- ◆ Level #2 - most 1st place trophies, then 2nd, etc.
- ◆ Level #3 - highest Regulation points earned

D. Event Judging

1. All Drill Competitions are judged in accordance with MCO 5060.20 dated 15 May 2019, with the exception of "Uncase The Colors" executed during the Armed and Unarmed Color Guard sequences. This will be judged in accordance with Army Training Circular 3-21.5. Judges shall be obtained from active duty and recently retired positions with strong backgrounds in the areas they will be grading. While the MCO was never designed to grade cadets marching in boxes, the overwhelming majority of what is written is completely applicable. Our goal is to reinforce these areas to the judges before and during the event to make these standards hard and fast for every competing team where they apply.

2. Judges must enforce rules from the manual, not those rules written specifically or applied specifically for individual units and the recruit depots. (example, the commander must

travel with the platoon on a flank, we do not flair out, this means your back will be to the platoon on a left flank)

3. Judges will be monitored throughout the day and reminded about the boundaries and consistencies needed to provide fair judging for schools regardless of when they compete during the event. This prevents "judge's preference". Additionally, judges will receive, in advance, paperwork & on-site training to best prepare them for the event.

4. Judges do not have the discretion to exclude penalties based on their opinion, if a rifle is dropped, a flag or equipment touches the ground, or a cadet goes out of bounds etc. they will mark it appropriately.

5. Event Head Judges will meet with the cadet commander just prior to entry to the competition deck to ensure the correct team is ready to enter. The commander will be given very brief instructions, allow them to ask questions, and then the judge will return to the drill floor. The Head Judge will quickly ensure the other judges have the correct score sheet, and then summon the team to enter. This will be done with the judge commanding, *SCHOOL NAME, REPORT!*. The team will THEN enter the competition area.

6. Judges are instructed to move around the competition areas to allow the best angle to judge. Consistency is key, judges should do the same thing for each platoon. Cadets may use the entirety of all drill areas. Judges are instructed to move out of any cadet's path, but may come within close proximity of a cadet to gain the best possible judging perspective - ensure your cadets are aware of this. Cadets will be allowed free access to all drill area space.

7. Each team is judged by the same set of judges within each event, the head judge will and field judges must remain consistent.

8. Interactions with judges are completely forbidden. As a matter of proper conduct, discussion with judges during the competition about any aspect of judging will result in disqualification. Any questions from parents, cadets, or instructors regarding any portion of this competition should be directed to the Judging Director of the MCJROTC Drill Competition.

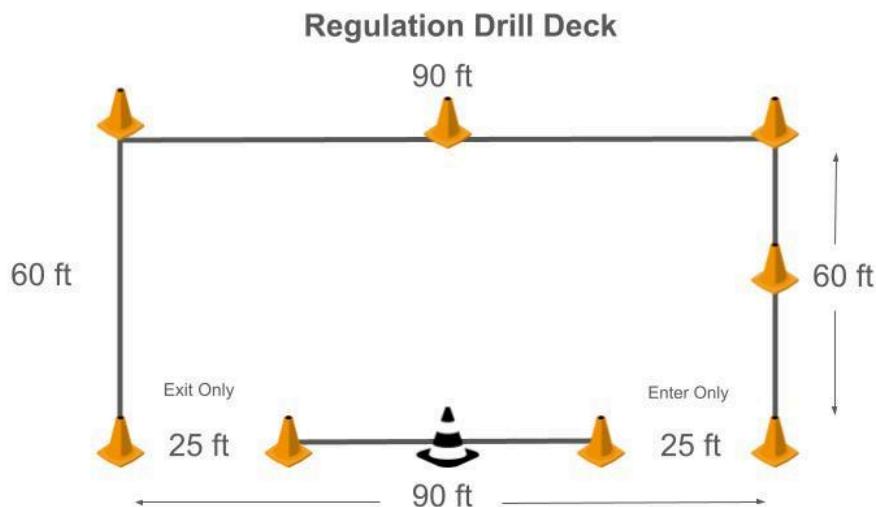
9. Judges will not discuss subjective scoring matters among themselves. They will, however, gather after a completed event to discuss correct rulings on boundary violations, omitted commands & manual-based non-subjective items. This helps to ensure correct rulings on these crucial items.

10. **SCORESHEET REVIEW:** The Head Judge will allow your score sheets to be reviewed by either the SMI or MI immediately after your team has left the drill floor. They may take a photo or their own notes. If the team official feels there has been an error, simply follow the cadet runner to the scoring table and state you would like to discuss your sheet with the Competition Director to solve this issue ASAP. Do not discuss issues with judges.

SECTION 5 – GENERAL TEAM COMPETITION INFORMATION

A. General Information

1. The entry/exit position of the area, as well as the positioning of the Head Judge in Report-In & Report-Out is detailed on the Drill Floor map. (NOTE: exhibition allows the Head Judge to be placed anywhere on the drill floor by the competing team) Design your routines to match these diagrams. Failure to follow proper access points will result in disqualification. Practice using the decks as listed below:



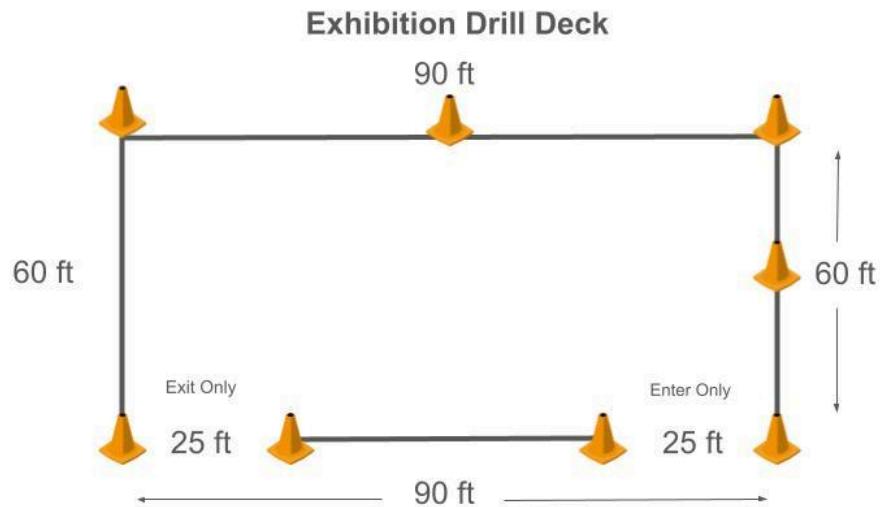
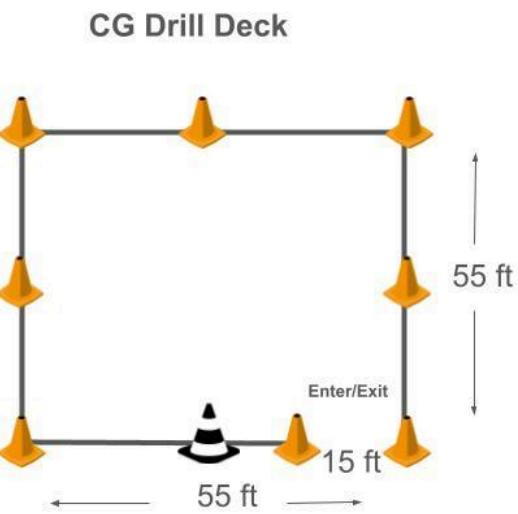


Fig 2: Exhibition drill deck. Unit must enter from the right and exit to the left. Unit can report in from anywhere on the drill deck.



B. Drill Area Specifications

1. Drill areas are created using traffic pylons or other visible or appropriate boundary marking. The floor diagrams posted on-line maintain entry/exit points that are 25' for

regulation and exhibition, and 15' for color guard. These are the only points where a team may enter/exit a drill area. **For regulation and exhibition the team will enter from the right and exit from the left. For CG the enter/exit is in the same location to the right side of the drill deck - .** Again, in exhibition drill teams will be allowed to place the Head Judge where they wish for them to stand for both Report In, and Report Out.

2. All events (except Platoon Inspection) are held in the open, easily watched by all. However, for Platoon Inspection, no spectators are allowed in the competition area, unless authorized by the SMI/MI of the competing team. Cadets who are on an inspection team (armed or unarmed) may not watch the inspection of their school's cadets.

3. **Boundary violations.** purposely entering or exiting in a way not prescribed in this SOP will result in disqualification. This does not account for a slight mishap with a cadet missing the boundary point. In that event the team will be penalized -10 per cadet that was outside the boundary.

SECTION 6 – TEAM INSPECTION (In-person only)

A. General Information

1. Teams will form their Unit Inspection team in the same way that they do every other team. The team selects the needed cadets as well as a C/CMDR for the detail. Inspection will have a different tenor than past years - please read this document to ensure strict compliance. Absolutely no touching of the cadets is allowed. No repeated movement commands. Judges will address cadets from the position of attention and will limit "knife hands" and other similar movements. Judges will point to areas needing improvement but the overall atmosphere will not be belittling or overly adversarial.

2. Each judge will have the same questions they ask of all cadets they evaluate throughout the day. Unarmed and Armed divisions will have different questions. These questions are not given to teams in advance. Questions will pertain to Marine Corps Leadership subjects, Chain of Command, First Aid, History, and current events.

3. Units must pay attention to the entry/exit described in this document and the floor diagram on-line. Proper execution is imperative for teams to earn a top score.

4. School Instructors control the area being inspected in regards to spectators! Only those spectators who are with your program should be inside your inspection watching. The Regional Director or staff member or other Event Official may enter the room to ensure the judges are following the correct procedures. If you are not familiar with someone in the inspection area, politely ask them to leave.

B. Inspection Procedures

1. The inspection will be held in a completely isolated area or room away from other cadet activities. The Inspection area will maintain a wall separating the competition area from the ready area. The Head Judge will call for the next unit when the previous team is completed and has left the area. Completed teams will march OUT of the competition area immediately without delay or stopping when completed.

2. There will be one Inspection Team for the Unarmed Division and a separate Inspection Team for the Armed Division. **A cadet shall only compete in either Armed or Unarmed inspection, not both.**

3. While the preceding unit is being inspected, the C/CMDR will assemble their inspection cadets in the inspection ready area, as shown in the floor diagram.

4. After the previous team departs the inspection area, the team up next will be summoned and will report in column formation just outside the entry door to the Inspection area. The Head Judge will approach the cadet commander just outside the competition area. The Head Judge will direct parents and supporters into the inspection area and to turn off cell phones. The Head Judge will have the Cadet Commander review and initial the score sheet to ensure it is the correct team. Upon having the score sheet initiated, the Head Judge will then return back into the Unit Inspection area. The Head Judge will ensure the other judges are ready, and then command in a loud voice, "**XYZ High School, REPORT!**"! The Cadet Commander will march to a location 3 paces and centered on the head judge, about face, and

command "fall in". The unit will fall-in through the entry opening as shown on the diagram.

5. The unit will be formed with 3 squads of 3 cadets each, centered on the Head Judge in the formation.

6. Once inside the area, the Cadet Commander will command, "Open Ranks, March". He/She will not check the alignment and distance of the three squads. The Cadet Commander will step off and position three paces in front of and one pace to the right of the first squad leader. Once the unit finishes adjusting, He/She will command "Ready Front Cover". On the command "cover" the Cadet Commander will return to a position that is approximately 6 paces from the platoon and centered on the Head Judge and then Report Into the Head Judge (*Example Good Morning Master Sergeant, Bellville High School is reporting in for inspection, we will performing in accordance with Marine Corps Order 5060.20 respectfully request permission to utilize your drill area*). After Report-In, the Head Judge will step forward to inspect the commander. This will be the cue for all other judges to begin their inspection of the cadets in formation.

7. The Head Judge will end their inspection and tell the CMDR to wait until they return to Report-Out and complete the inspection. The Cadet Commander will About Face and face the unit during the inspection occurring with the other judges. The Head Judge will move to positions around the unit to review the inspection by the other Marines.

8. As an inspector halts in front of each cadet, Cadets in ranks shall salute and provide a very brief greeting to the Inspection judges when a judge halts in front of them (**Before they move to "Inspection, Arms" in the Armed Division**). An example would be, "Good morning Staff Sergeant, Cadet Phillips ready for inspection". Once the inspection is complete the judge will notify the cadet in a clear manner, the cadet will salute and give the greeting of the day. The judges will depart.

9. When the Cadet Commander is sure all judges have completed their inspection, and the Head Judge has returned to their position at the front of the formation, the cadet commander will then About Face and face the Head Judge and verbally report out to the Head Judge. Upon reply by the judge to acknowledge the report out and depart, the cadet commander will execute "About

Face", execute "Close Ranks, March" and march from the inspection room in column formation, leaving through the exit point. (it is understood that it is not completely inline with the drill manual, but has been adjusted for brevity).

10. After exiting the area, the team should continue marching completely out of the room as directed by the diagram.

11. A single instructor or other designated team representative is encouraged to wait for the runner to execute the Scoresheet Review in the hallway area outside the exit door.

12. The formation of the unit must be done exactly as shown in the map and in this description. Please do not ask if you can use a similar formation, entry or execution method; all teams use the method outlined.

C. Cadet Verbal Responses

1. If a cadet doesn't know the answer to a question posed to him/her, a confident, "MSgt., this cadet does not know at this time!" or similar.

D. Inspection Judging

1. Vocalizations will be strident but not designed to intimidate or haze cadets in any manner. Judges will provide immediate feedback on deficiencies to the cadet during the review. While designed to be a forceful interaction, the judges will be briefed, trained and monitored to ensure all rules are followed. Absolutely no touching of the cadets is allowed. No repeated movement commands. Judges will address cadets from the position of attention and will limit "knife hands" and other similar movements. Judges will POINT to areas needing improvement but the overall atmosphere will NOT be adversarial.

2. Inspection will include 3 questions and 2 minutes maximum for each cadet to determine their poise, confidence, and overall bearing. The question should not be designed to confuse the cadet. Straightforward questions shall be used in the areas of cadet leadership knowledge, Marine Corps history, current events, chain of command, and first aid.

Examples:

Who is the Secretary of State?

What are three leadership traits?

Who was the 1st Commandant of the Marine Corps?

What country just experienced a devastating earthquake?

What are three cold injuries?

3. While it is rare, a judge may incorrectly apply a regulation during inspection. If a cadet feels a rule has been applied incorrectly the cadet can reply respectfully with "Sir, I have been instructed that "thus & so" is correct". Don't lose military bearing!

4. If a judge incorrectly applies a regulation during the inspection, immediately contact the Judging Director and discuss the incident. He will then contact the judges and make a ruling, thereby assuring the scoresheets reflect the correct rule interpretation and scoring.

5. Judges control the cadet interaction. If a judge asks for more volume or less volume on responses, etc., give the judge what they seek.

E. Related Inspection Matters

1. Hair length should correspond to current Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, but understand this is an inspection and fresh haircuts and well manicured female hair will likely score higher. General appearance should be well-groomed and uniforms should be perfectly assembled and well-prepared for inspection.

2. How late in the day the team is competing in the inspection competition is taken into consideration by all judges during the inspection competition (judges know the difference between a uniform that was unprepared and one that has been worn throughout the day). Cadets are required to wear their uniform to include all authorized ribbons, badging, etc. appropriate for that uniform. At a minimum each cadet will have at least the drill team ribbon and be ranked a Private First Class or above.

F. Gear Requirements and Regulations

1. The uniform for inspection is Dress Blue Bravos with ribbons and badges. White gloves are required for unarmed, but will be optional for Armed teams.

2. Cadets competing in the armed division will use the Marine Corps issued Glendale Rifle with a black or white sling.

SECTION 7 - PLATOON REGULATION DRILL

A. General Information

1. Regulation drill deck: 90' W x 60' L (As close to these dimensions as possible).
2. All of the Regulation Drill movements must be executed, in the order they are listed, using the commands listed on the scoresheet in strict accordance with the MCO and the event SOP.
3. Commanders must give each command in sequence from memory. No cue cards or prompter cards will be allowed. Each omission, addition of "extra" movements, or movements given out of sequence will be assessed a Ten (10) point penalty.
4. **All stationary commands (including "Halt") must be held for a minimum of FIVE COUNTS.** This means there will be at least a five-second pause after a command of execution, and prior to the next preparatory command. A five-point penalty will be assessed for each infraction. The penalty points will also be assessed on the commander's score sheet. Commands on the march do not require a five-second pause.
5. All units will perform utilizing 3 squads of at least 3 cadets per rank with a single Cadet Commander.
6. **May use cadets from the Armed Division in Unarmed Exhibition or vice versa if you have a team competing in both Divisions. Cadets may crossover Divisions to participate in the Exhibition and Regulation portion of the competition.**
7. The Unit Leader will position the platoon in the Ready Area which is directly outside the 25' entry access to the right of the drill deck. The Head Judge will approach the team in the Ready Area and ask the Unit Leader if the team is ready to begin and ask if the commander has any questions. Once the Head Judge and unit leader agree the unit is ready, the unit leader can begin by exiting the ready area when the head judge commands "School name, Report". All cadets including the cadet commander must start from the ready area and enter and exit through the access points in the diagram. The Unit Leader will have the platoon "Fall In" 6 paces from her/him centered on the drill deck while allowing enough space between the boundary and the commander to call the card properly, stay in bounds, and maintain 6 paces from the platoon for the halted portions of the card. This is approximately 5-6 paces from the boundary. The

head judge will be positioned directly in front of the center cone. Then, the Unit Leader will salute and report in with an appropriate greeting, name of team, name of school and a brief statement telling the judge they are ready to begin and by what manual they will be performing in accordance with. (*Example Good Morning Master Sergeant, Bellville High School is reporting in for armed/unarmed regulation, we will performing in accordance with Marine Corps Order 5060.20 respectfully request permission to utilize your drill area*) The Unit Leader will be judged from the time he/she enters the drill area, until the team departs. The platoon will be judged from the first command given by the Cadet Commander.

8. During the marching portion of the drill card, the Unit Leader must position himself/herself where they can best control the platoon, but at the same time following the drill manual. When Halted the Unit Leader will be 6 paces and centered. On each halt during the march it is required that the commander reposition to 6 paces and centered before giving the next command.

9. To report out, the unit leader will halt the platoon 6 paces and centered on the head judge. The unit leader will salute and report out. (example - "Cadet XXXX from XXXX High School has complete the drill card, respectfully request to leave the drill area)

10. If a school chooses to use a Platoon Guide, the Guide will be graded on their performance of the Guidon Manual and proper execution of drill movements for the platoon guide per MCO 5060.20. Guides are optional and are not required. Using a Platoon Guide will not get a school any extra points.

11. Unit Leaders will not check alignment during Dress Right Dress.

12. Unit Leaders will go through the motions of checking alignment during Open Ranks, but will not adjust individuals in each squad. Following "ready front cover" the commander will position 6 and center on the platoon, pause and return to 3 paces and left of the 1st squad leader to "Close ranks". Then return to 6 and centered.

B. Gear Requirements and Regulations

1. Teams competing in the Armed Division will use the issued Glendale drill rifle. Drill rifles must have a rubber butt plate, no exceptions.
2. Slings may be white or black and taping of slings is at the instructors' discretion. Only black tape will be used.
3. The Armed Regulation Drill Commander will be equipped with NCO Sword, Scabbard, and FROG.
4. The Unarmed Regulation Drill Commander will not carry a sword.
5. Uniform: Any authorized service or dress MCJROTC Uniform may be worn for Regulation Drill. Short-sleeve khakis shirts are authorized for year-round wear for competitions.

C. Judging and Scoring

1. Judging will be according to the current MCO 5060.20 Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual. Teams will use the appropriate Manual of Arms, according to Manual of Arms for the MCJROTC Daisy Drill Rifle 20 Aug 2019.
2. Review the score sheet to maximize your points. No extra/free commands are authorized. You must follow the drill card exactly. Utilizing a 30" step is required as prescribed by the drill manual, chopping or adjusting steps to stay in bounds will result in a boundary violation regardless if a cadet exceeds the limitations of the drill deck.
3. Teams must avoid movements unauthorized in the MCO. These movements will result in penalties at Marine Corps JROTC Drill Competitions.

SECTION 8 - COLOR GUARD DRILL

A. General Information

1. All of the Color Guard movements must be executed in the order they are listed, using the commands listed on the scoresheet in strict accordance with the MCO. However, no Color sergeant will be in use - the National Color bearer will command the unit.
2. All color guards must contain four cadets only. Two cadets will bear arms and two cadets will bear colors. The National

Colors will be the senior flag with MCJROTC battle standard used as the second color. Both flags should be the MCJROTC HQTRs issued flags. The C/CMDR for the Color Guard unit will be the National Color bearer.

3. The entire sequence must be completed from memory. No external assistance may be used to complete the drill. If assisted, the team will receive a zero from each judge.
4. A five-second delay is required after all "stationary" commands.
5. Color Guard drill deck: 55' W x 55' L
6. There will be one Color Guard for the Unarmed Division and a completely separate Color Guard for the Armed Division. **A cadet shall only compete in either Armed or Unarmed CG, not both. Violations will result in both teams being disqualified.**
8. Upon direction of the Head Judge, the Color Guard will position themselves at the entrance of the drill deck, colors will be cased. As soon as the Color Guard is formed, the Color Guard Commander will be commanded "School name, Report" by the Head Judge. At that time the Color Guard Commander can begin the execution of the card. The Color Guard Commander will position the Color Guard six paces and centered on the Head Judge who will be even with the boundary and centered on the front of the drill deck, and proceed with uncasing procedures. Upon completion of the Uncasing the Colors sequence, the Color Guard Commander will report in to the head judge by giving an appropriate greeting, name of team, name of school and a brief statement telling the judge they are ready to begin (*Example Good Morning Master Sergeant, Bellville High School is reporting in for Color Guard, we will performing in accordance with Marine Corps Order 5060.20 and Army Training Circular 3-21.5 for uncasing, respectfully request permission to utilize your drill area*). The entire Color Guard will be judged from the time the team is called to attention outside the drill deck, until they exit the drill area and receive fallout. The sequence must be committed to memory. 5 points will be deducted from the overall score for each incorrect command or sequence violation. A minimum of two judges will accomplish the Color Guard grading.
9. To report out, the unit leader will halt the platoon 6 paces and centered on the head judge. The unit leader will present colors and report out. (example - "Cadet XXXX from XXXX High

School has complete the drill card, respectfully request to leave the drill area). The Head Judge will dismiss the Color Guard upon completion of the Performance Phase.

10. Judging will be according to the current MCO 5060.20 Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual and the current TC 3-21.5 Drill and Ceremonies - Army Publishing Directorate for the uncasing portion.

11. There will be a 20-point deduction if at any point a rifle, rifle sling, or flag bag makes contact with the deck inappropriately. There will be a 50-point deduction if at any point the Colors touch the deck or the flags are not properly positioned for height. The U.S. flag must be higher or even with the service flag. Deductions for significant flag height differences are at the discretion of the judges.

B. Uncase Colors

The Color Guard will start and enter the Floor with the Colors cased. They will march forward and turn so they will be centered on the Head Judge. The Color guard will be in a line formation with the cased Colors at the Carry Position. The National Color Bearer directs the Color Guard. **At this point, they will Transition to the ARMY TC to Conduct UNCASE.**

The command is "**LEFT GUARD, RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS**". Once the Guard is at Right Shoulder, they will cut automatically. At the same time the Guard cuts the flag bearers will grasp the harness at the harness socket with their left hand. It will remain there for the remainder of the movement.

15-14: CARRY COLORS: At the Carry, rest the ferrule of the staff in the socket of the sling. The socket is below the waist and adjusted to ensure that the finials of all Colors are of equal height. Grasp the staff with the right hand (even with the mouth) and incline it slightly to the front with the left hand securing the ferrule in the socket.

The command is then "**SLING, ARMS**". The Color guards immediately adjust their slings and assume the position of Sling Arms.

5-12. SLING ARMS: To execute Sling Arms: On the command of execution ARMS, grasp the rifle barrel with the right

hand and raise it vertically. Grasp the sling near the upper sling swivel with the left hand, and release the right hand. Place the right hand and arm between the sling and rifle and place the sling over the right shoulder. Regrasp the sling with the right hand so that the wrist is straight, the right forearm is horizontal, the elbow is tight against the side, and the rifle is vertical.

The command is then "**POST**". The Color guards face to the Half Left (Right) as in marching, take four steps swinging their free arm, halt, and execute About Face.

The command is "**UNCASE THE COLORS**". The Color bearers lower the Colors (the Colors SHOULD NOT be lowered to the position of attention and thrust under the arm) until they are parallel to the deck. The two guards move forward and untie and uncase the Colors. The Color bearers unfurl (Colors should be rolled) and immediately return the Colors to the Carry Position. While the Colors are being unfurled, the guards fold the cases and secure them in their left hand.

When the Colors are in the Carry Position, the command is "**PRESENT, ARMS**". The Color guards, and the organizational Colors, Salute immediately on the command Arms. The organizational Color Bearer shall, on the first count, raise their right hand several inches (such that their arm will be parallel to the marching surface) and thrust the Colors forward on the second count. **The pike will remain flat to the front.** The rifle bearers will grasp the sling with the left hand and render a hand salute on the second count with the right hand.

The command is then "**ORDER, ARMS**". On the command of execution, the Rifle bearers will cut their salute and the right hand will drop as in the position of attention, then immediately return up to grasp the sling of the rifle. The wrist should be straight and the forearm should be horizontal to the deck with the elbow tight to the body. The left hand will cut after the sling is grasped on order arms. The organizational Color Bearer shall snap the Colors back to a point inclined slightly forward, and then lower their right hand slightly several inches placing the hand back even with the mouth.

The command is then "**POST**". On the command of execution POST, the Color guards march with a coordinated arm swing until they are one step beyond the Color Bearers and halt. Then face inboard, take one more step forward so they are behind their Color Bearer then face left or right so they are facing the back of the color bearer. They will place the folded cases inside the white belt (center rear) of the Dress Blue Uniform (NOTE: can be draped OVER the belt).

Once they are complete, the Color guards will assume their original positions, by taking two side steps and then one step forward so they are on line with the Color bearers. Adjusting their slings is automatic and they return to Right Shoulder Arms.

The command is then "**LEFT GUARD, LEFT SHOULDER ARMS**". Once the rifle is back in the guards left shoulder, the left guard and both Color Bearers will cut. The Color bearers will drop their left hand back to their side as in the position of attention and the left Guard will cut his right hand back to their side as in the position of attention. **THIS WILL COMPLETE THE PORTION OF DRILL THAT IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ARMY TC.**

***The Unit Leader is NOT allowed to have any free movements during Regulation or Color Guard in either Division.**

C. Gear Requirements and Regulations

1. Color Guards will be armed with the issued Glendale (faux wood and chrome) Drill Rifle. Rubber buttplates are required.
2. The standard color staff consists of a 9-1/2', hardwood pole capped at each end by metal ferrules. A metal spearhead will be screwed into the top ferrule.
3. The Color Guard will utilize the standard-issued National Ensign and MCJROTC Colors.
4. The only authorized uniform for Color Guard is Dress Blue "B". Ranks, Ribbons, badges, and white gloves are optional.

D. Judging and Scoring

1. The color guard sequence consists of many scoring opportunities. Review the score sheet to maximize your points.
2. Color guard should be conducted at a normal cadence of 112-120 and maintain a consistent cadence (Do not speed up in turns, mark times, or counter marches. Ceremonial pace or inconsistent speed will result in deductions per movement in addition to overall penalty points of -20 or -50 depending on severity. 30" step where required is appropriate, modifying steps to avoid boundary violations will result in an out of bound penalty of -10.

SECTION 9 - PLATOON EXHIBITION (Armed and Unarmed)

A. General Information

1. Exhibition routines consist of stationary and marching drill movements as well as maneuvers that are limited only by the creativity of the drill team. Teams should remember that this event is a military competition with military judges -- therefore design your routines with good military taste and flavor.
2. Both ARMED and UNARMED exhibition routines may contain a variety of styles and sequences. Traditionally, within the Armed Ex category, little deviation is maintained between the general styles on display historically of almost every performing school. Some units exchange more rifles, some throw more doubles, etc. but most are fairly straightforward and easy for judges to compare. Within the Unarmed Ex category, two distinctive styles are performed and sometimes blended together. One is a slower, more deliberate "marching" exhibition style while some use a more "high-energy" style that involves a far faster tempo, as well as more arm and hand movement (also executing many movements that are truly non-regulation, fully exhibition in nature). The scoresheet as written has places to excel in either. Just ensure whatever style you utilize the final product shows impeccable dress, alignment and cover; numerous formations and transitions; dazzling and talented movements that make a judge wonder "how long did it take to learn that excellence?" - all tempered by an understanding that this is a MILITARY competition with MILITARY judges. Clapping between your legs, lying on the floor, unnatural, exaggerated or

provocative hip swaggers generally have not been received well by judges scoring at an event of this level.

3. Teams should design their routine to ensure they have solid participation by all members during the bulk of the team exhibition routine to gain a maximum score. It is acceptable to highlight the talents of soloists & others briefly.

4. Any dangerously risky or very long rifle tosses (longer than a standard front-to-rear formation toss) is prohibited. Do not have any rifle travel in a manner that places any cadet, except the receiver, at risk of being hit. Cadets must have direct eye contact prior to any person-to-person aerial toss. Violations or excessive risk will result in disqualification from the Exhibition event.

5. No cadet may not be lifted off the drill deck by any means. The team will be disqualified from that event and receive no points.

6. At no time may any drill rifle be intentionally struck on the marching surface by the barrel. This can cause severe floor damage and poses a greater chance of damage to the rifles as they are not constructed to absorb this impact. Units will be disqualified.

B. Gear Requirements and Regulations

1. Any authorized service or dress MCJROTC uniform may be worn for Exhibition Drill. Short-sleeved khaki shirts are authorized for wear year-round for competitions.

2. Routine Length - 5-8 minutes once the first cadet enters the drill deck or a portion of the routine begins off the drill deck.

2. Armed Exhibition - The Armed Exhibition Drill Commander will be equipped with either an NCO sword with scabbard and frog or a drill rifle.

3. Drill Rifle - Any faux rifle explicitly manufactured for close order drill; however, must be in a similar weight tolerance as Marine Corps issued rifles. All rifles must have rubber butt plates and a working bolt. For Armed exhibition, all members must have a rifle or in the case of the commander, a sword or rifle upon entering the drill deck and will not ground the rifle at any time during the performance.

4. Unarmed Exhibition - The Unarmed Exhibition Drill Commander will not carry a sword or Glendale Drill rifle.
5. Armed and Unarmed drill decks will be 90' W x 60' L (As close to these dimensions as possible). Observe the drill deck diagrams for prescribed entry and exit points. These are mandatory, the team must enter from the right, front of the drill deck, and exit the left, front between the 25' access points. Violation of this will result in disqualification.
6. The entire team must start off the deck, but the cadet commander can position the judge where he/she chooses to report in.
7. **May use cadets from the Armed Division in Unarmed Exhibition or vice versa if you have a team competing in both Divisions. Cadets may crossover Divisions to participate in the Exhibition and Regulation portion of the competition.**

C. Judging & Scoring

1. ALL ARMED exhibition judges will be instructed to take control of and visually inspect/hand-weigh a cadet's drill rifle at random in the event ready area just before all exhibition performance. This will be done before the routine begins to ensure the judge maintains a clear picture of the degree of difficulty the rifle presents during their routine and to see any obvious rifle safety issues that could cause injury.
2. Judges look at many categories when it comes to the degree of difficulty of a team performance in exhibition drill. These items can include the total number of competitors performing on the floor, extreme precision, rifle maneuvers, formations, intricacy, slap sequences, use of deck space etc. Remember that exhibition drill is subjective, but judges should observe the categories on the scoring sheet and award scores appropriately.
3. Judges at the MCJROTC Drill Competitions are asked to look at the routine mechanics as well as the togetherness, flow, and style of the performance.
4. The Exhibition score sheet above all others should be studied in great detail to see how your performance may be designed to receive the maximum amount of points available.
5. Any dropped rifles will incur a 5-point penalty for a 1st offense from a team, with 10-point penalty occurring for 2nd and

subsequent drops. Rifle safety & control are major emphasis points at MCJROTC Drill Competitions.

6. Judging will be based on the following areas:

Report In	All movements to HJ and verbal report-in
Report Out	Verbal report-out up until the Command order arms
Floor Coverage	Meaningful drill activity occurring on 70 % of the Entire floor
Overall Impression	Overall routine presentation
Military Flavor	Routine proudly befits a military JROTC competition
Movement Difficulty	Routine as presented required MUCH PRACTICE!
Movement Precision	Exacting, teamwork - "anti-sloppy"
Movement Variety	Diversity of movements to display overall excellence
Showmanship	Flair, style, and game face that turns heads and rivets watchers
Cadet Bearing	Supreme effort, snap, and concentration in the routine
Cadet Appearance	Uniform / overall cadet preparation & presentation
Weapons Handling	Specific solo/team weapon maneuvers & manipulation/throwing of weapons.

D. Event Timing

1. An official timekeeper among the judges will keep the official total performance time in Exhibition Drill only. Event timing will begin when the first cadet crosses the drill area entry point and ends when the last cadet crosses the exit point.
2. Teams performing any synchronized, team displays just prior to entering the drill floor for their performance with judges waiting will have the clock start, and judging will begin to include this exhibition display. We are not discouraging this

action, we are just ensuring this display is judged and graded as a part of the performance. Please ensure your performance does not go over the maximum time limit if this is a part of your performance.

3. The penalty assessed for a performance not falling between these time periods is one (1) point per second over/under the time range. The time limit for Platoon Exhibition Drill is between **5 minutes and 8 minutes**.

E. Deductions and Penalties

Penalties and deductions are not at the discretion of the judge, if a violation occurs the judge must access a penalty.

- 1. Boundary Violations - 10 points per occurrence.** Any time an individual breaks the midpoint of the coned area or makes contact with a taped area. Also applicable if the team changes from a 30in step or adjusts marching to specifically avoid going out of bounds. This is accessed for every cadet that is considered out of bounds.
- 2. Missed or incorrect commands - 5 points per occurrence.** A commander misses a command, says a command out of sequence or calls a command incorrectly. Does not apply if the commander corrects his/herself before the execution command. Missed commands will be lined through and given no points.
- 3. Pause Violation - 5 points per occurrence.** Any time a commander does not wait 5 seconds before calling the next command in halted or after halting on the march.
- 4. Uneven/Improper Cadence - 20 points minor/50 Major.** At the judges discretion, any time a unit is marched at a speed different than the standard quick time cadence, such as a ceremonial pace for CG or regulation or when the speed varies dramatically when transitioning between movements.
- 5. Improper Flag Height/Formations - 50 points.** Any time the Marine Corps flag is above the U.S. flag height or the height of the Marine Corps flags is excessively different in height from the U.S. Flag. By rule the U.S. flag must be even or slightly higher than the Service flag. Or the CG is lined up with the U.S. flag on the wrong side.
- 6. Uniform/Equipment Violations - 20 minor/50 Major.** Includes wearing the wrong uniform, not wearing ribbons or devices in regulation or exhibition, using the wrong type of flags. Flags or equipment making contact with the ground.

7. **Dropped equipment - 10 points per occurrence.** Any time an item other than a rifle makes contact with the ground. This includes covers, flag bags, and slings, but does not include smaller items such as ribbons that become dislodged.
8. **Missing Cadets - 25 points per cadet.** Accessed on regulation and exhibition when the number of cadets including the commander is less than 10.
9. **Time Violations - 1 point per second.** Accessed only on exhibition for anytime under 5 minutes and over 8 minutes.
10. **Dropped Rifles - 5 points first and 10 points each subsequent.** In exhibition drill, anytime a rifle departs a cadet's hands and makes contact with the ground outside of the cadets control.
11. **Disqualification - The following violation will result in disqualification from the event.**
 - a. Not following virtual video taping, one-take ,or time rules
 - b. Entering the drill deck incorrectly or starting on the drill deck.
 - c. Arguing with judges
 - d. Using regulation rifles well outside specifications set forth in the SOP
 - e. improper uniform in CG/Inspection, or wearing cammies in any event.
 - f. Purposely being late to an event to change position in the schedule.
 - g. Using a cadet in both unarmed/armed CG or inspection

F. Video/Virtual Drill Meet

1. As required, MCJROTC meets will be held in a virtual setting. This will require instructors to submit videos for their Cadets' performances.
2. Each competing school will film the entire sequence of all routines with the camera at one fixed location for all performance events. There will be only one video taken of each event. It is essential all instructors honor this requirement. A time stamp will be visible in every submission of every video recorded event. No one will get a do-over for Marine Corps sponsored meets. From the time the unit starts its first event until the completion of the last event, the unit will have a total of 2.5 hours for each Division. Cadets are authorized to

compete in as many events as their instructor authorizes, but shall only participate in one color guard. This means if a cadet competes in armed CG they can not compete in unarmed CG. Violations of the attendance rules will result in immediate disqualification from the event. Also retaping a segment due to a missed command, dropped rifle, or any mistake will result in disqualification. The events for a virtual MCJROTC Drill Meet will be the following and can be recorded in any order, but must only be recorded once:

- a. Unarmed/Armed Regulation
- b. Unarmed/Armed Exhibition
- c. Unarmed/Armed Color Guard

3. Judging. Each event will be judged by at least two judges. Ideally each event will have three judges. There will be a head judge identified who will ensure all judges score their cards and are marked consistent with the MC and Army Drill manuals. This may require a Zoom session between the judges to discuss each performance much like at a hosted drill competition where the judges huddle to discuss the unit's performance before submitting the cards. All judging is done with one pass, judges may not rewatch portions of the card just like at an in-person drill competition.

4. Submission Instructions.

a. The unit will provide film of each performance event to be evaluated. Per the drill deck diagrams, the unit will enter the drill deck from the front right side. The camera will be positioned centered on the front of the drill deck 9 to 20 feet behind the center cone and be elevated to between 9 and 15 feet. The camera may be operated manually and zooming in and out will be allowed when the unit is executing static movements or halted. The camera should follow the unit as they execute the drill card and the sound should be on so that the calling of cadence is audible. Make sure you have conducted an ORMA prior to set-up for this filming and it is executed in a safe manner. For stability of the camera, it is recommended you use a tripod on an elevated platform. It is important the camera remains in a fixed position for the duration of the drill performance.

b. Only one color guard will be evaluated for each division. It may be all-male, all-female, or mixed.

- c. Each of the three performance events (Regulation, Exhibition, Color Guard) for each Division will be filmed from the time the head judge walk out to give the command "School name, Report" until the team's exit from the drill deck.
- d. Submit your recorded videos per meet instructions. Each event should be labeled, "School Name - Event Title - Date"; example: "Brenham - Unarmed Color Guard - 27 Jan 25".