

# 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regimental Cavalry

Training Headquarters

## Cavalry Training Bulletin

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Volume - 1

Issue - 3(revised)

Date: 11/1/2006

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## Moving out from Formation:

Preparatory Commands - "Form", "By", "Forward", "2,4, and Files"

Execution Command - "March"

In this section we will be discussing the movement of the squad from formation.

There are three basic column formations, column of 4's, column of 2's, or a file. When you increase the size of your rank the command is "Form", to decrease the size of your rank the command is "By".

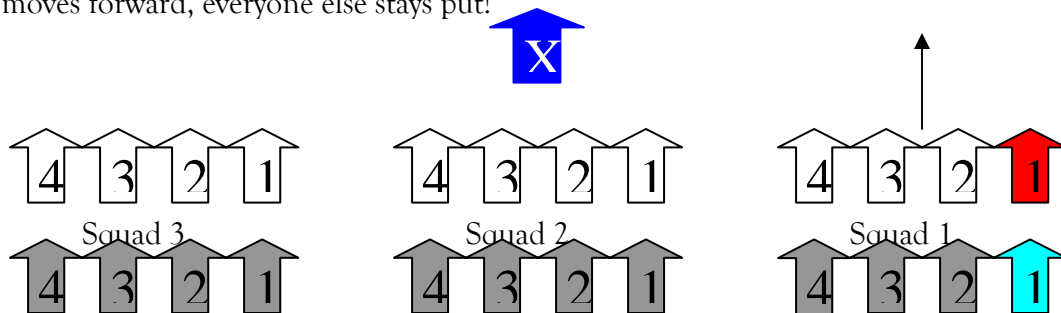
So here we are, all formed up and ready to go! You hear the command "Forward By 4's", Remember you are in formation and we can have long ranks, so we are shortening them down by fours, thus the preparatory command "By". The number 1 through 4 Troopers of front and rear ranks move forward at the walk (default movement when no other gait is issued), as the rear rank clears the Second Squad by 4 paces the Second Squad moves forward 4 paces and then automatically obliques right till they are behind the 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, then they do a "Forward" command. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad clears the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad by 4 paces the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad in turn moves forward 4 paces and then obliques right and then forward when they are guided behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad.



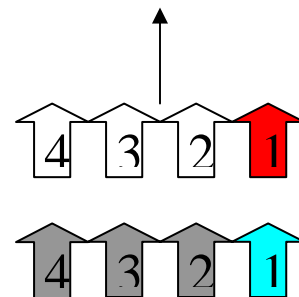
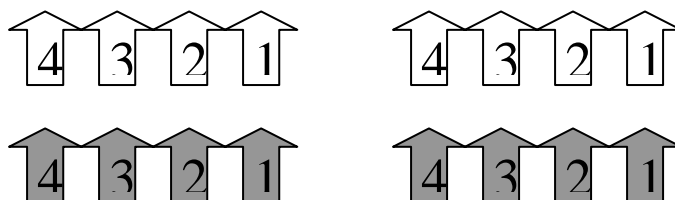
### "Forward By Fours"

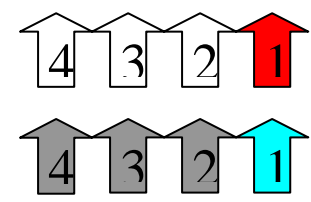
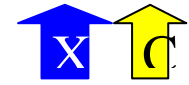
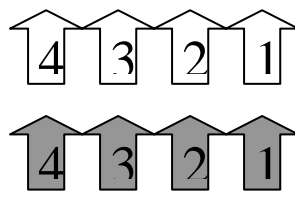
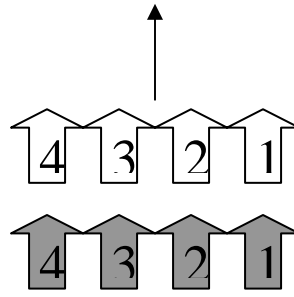
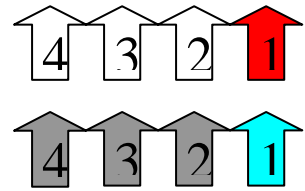
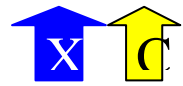
### "March"

Squad 1 moves forward, everyone else stays put!

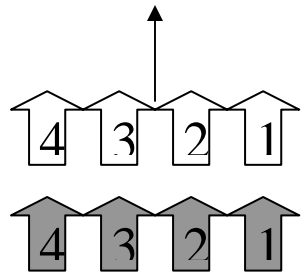
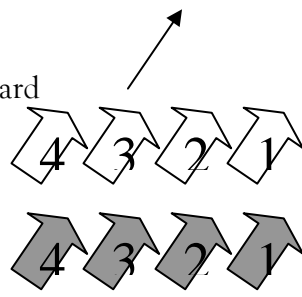


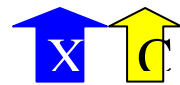
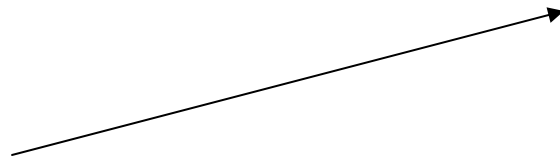
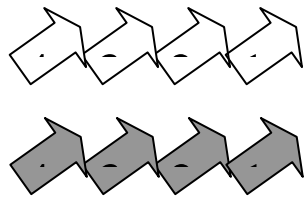
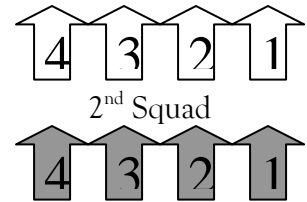
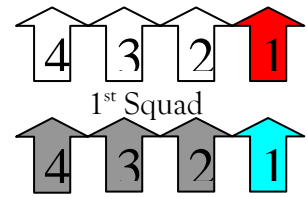
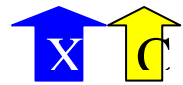
As soon as the 1<sup>st</sup> Squad moves 4 paces Past the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad moves Forward 4 paces and oblique to the right



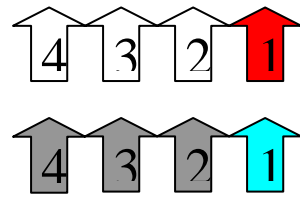


When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad obliques to the right, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad moves forward 4 paces and obliques to the right

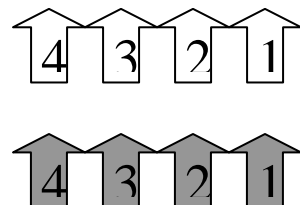




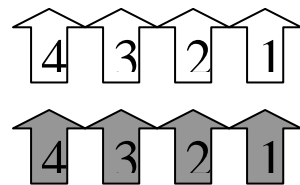
1<sup>st</sup> Squad



2<sup>nd</sup> Squad



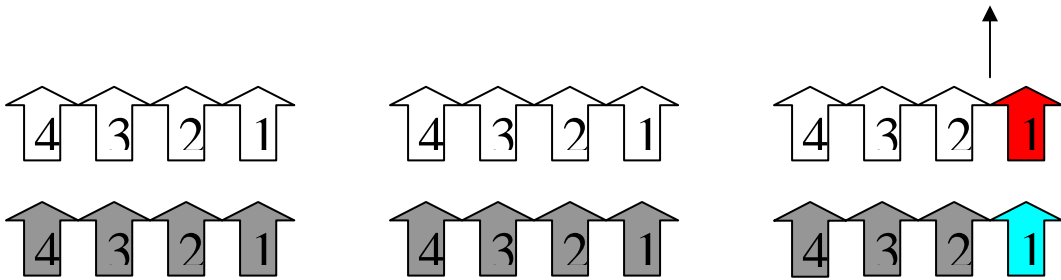
3<sup>rd</sup> Squad



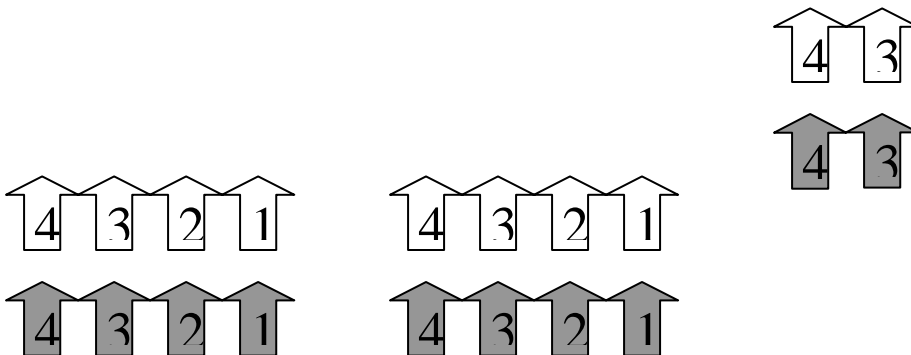
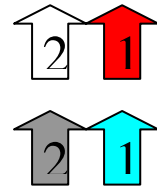
This is how we should end up!

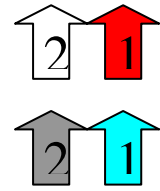
**“Forward by 2s”  
“March”**

This is done just like above but the 1 and 2 Troopers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Squad move first, then the 3 and 4 Trooper of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squad moves forward 4 paces obliques to the right, when they do the 1 and 2 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad moves forward 4 paces then obliques... you get the picture!

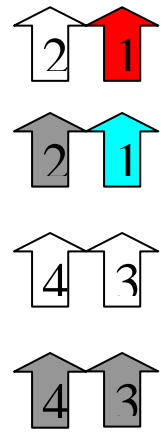
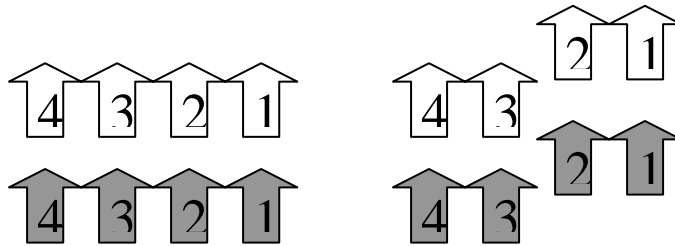
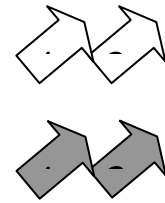


When the 1 and 2 Troopers move forward by 4 paces, the 3 and 4 moves forward 4 paces and obliques

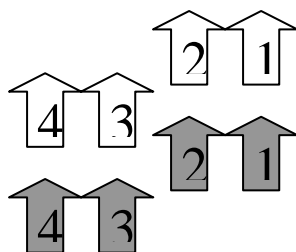
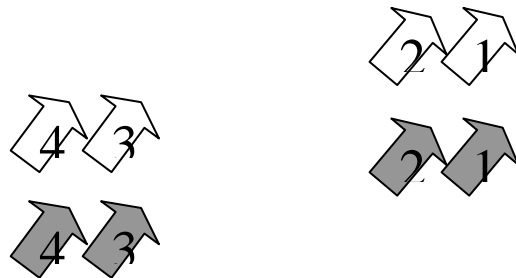




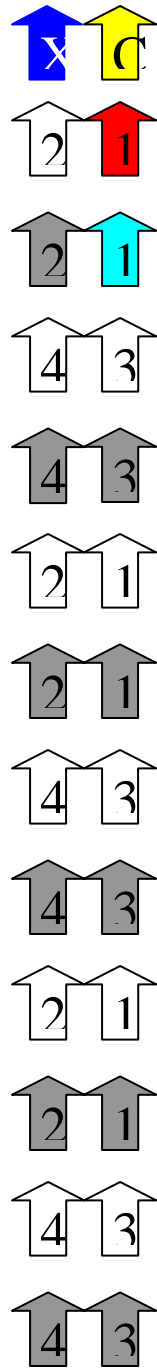
When the 3 and 4 obliques the 1 and 2 of 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad moves forward



And so on...



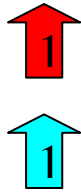
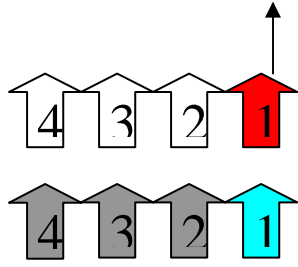
We should look like this when we are done!



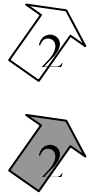
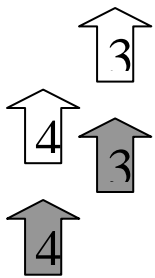
From here on out I will only show one squad, the movement and order is the same for all the squads.

**“Forward By files”  
“March”**

Guess what the same thing only you move out in single file! The ones move first, then the 2s, when they have moved 4 paces they oblique right then the 3s move forward, and so on...



We should end up like this:





## Proper Gaits:

No this is not what you walk thru!

Preparatory Command "At the Walk, Trot, or Gallop"

Execution Command "March"

The proper commands for increasing or decreasing the speed at which you are moving are - Walk, Trot, Gallop. The Gallop is not a full blown run away speed! It is more like a fast lope or a canter! Poinsetts actually defined the gaits as:

Walk - 100 yards per min

Trot - 240 yards per min

Gallop - 300 yards per min

To break it down for practicing:

Walk - 300 feet per min, 5 feet per second, or 50 feet in 10 seconds

Trot - 720 feet per min, 12 feet per second, or 50 feet in 4.2 seconds

Gallop - 900 feet per min, 15 feet per second, or 50 feet in 3.33 seconds

Every horse has a different gait, but if we work on obtaining the above speeds it will be easier to maintain close and tight formations when on the march! Some horses will need to slow down, some will have to speed up!

One other speed command is "Charge" it is an execution command and again it is for a quick short burst of speed, but we maintain our order and keep our lines straight! It is not a full out every man for himself run at the enemy! Charges were used for impact and to scare the you-know-what out of Infantry!

## Transitioning Size of Columns:

Now that we are on the move, we can change our column size by the following commands:

Preparatory - "Form 2s or 4s" - to increase the size of your ranks

"By 2s or Files" to decrease the size of your ranks

Execution - "March"

We are marching in Columns of 4s, we want to go to Columns of 2s:

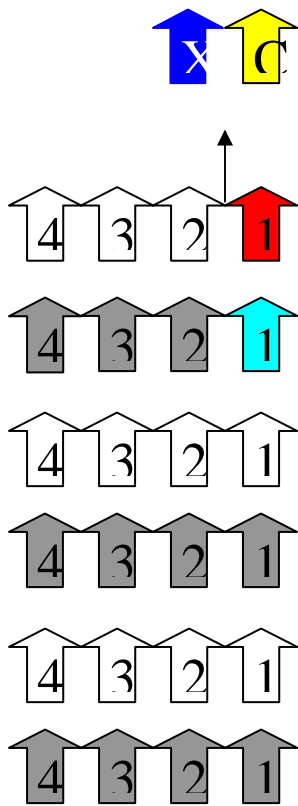
"By 2s"

"March"

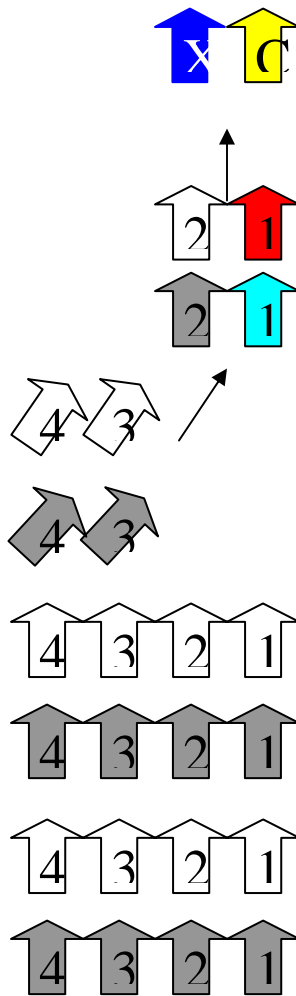
The 1s and 2s of the 1<sup>st</sup> squad keep marching forward, everyone else stops, or slows down one gait. When the 1s & 2s of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squad pass the 3s & 4s, the 3s & 4s oblique right and guide on the 1s & 2s. As soon as the 3s & 4s of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squad are in place the 1s and 2s of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad move forward and when they clear the 3s & 4s the 3s & 4s oblique right and move into position, the Squad 3 does the same thing!

Here is how it should look:

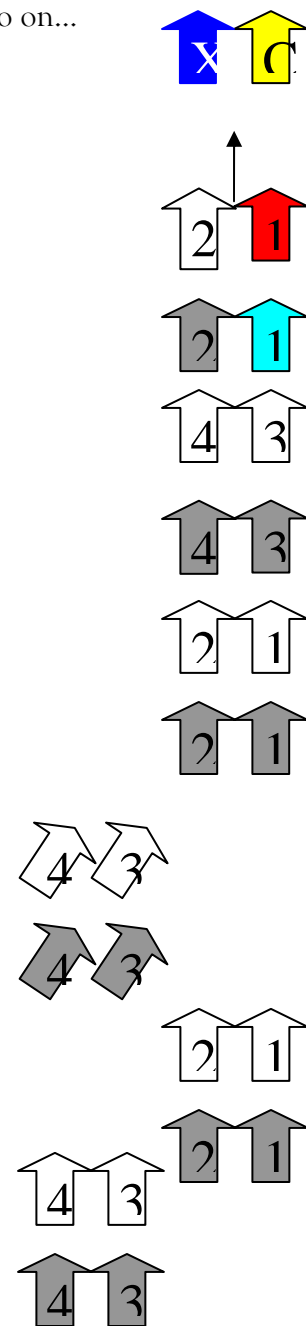
“By Twos”  
“March”



The 3s & 4s  
Oblique right



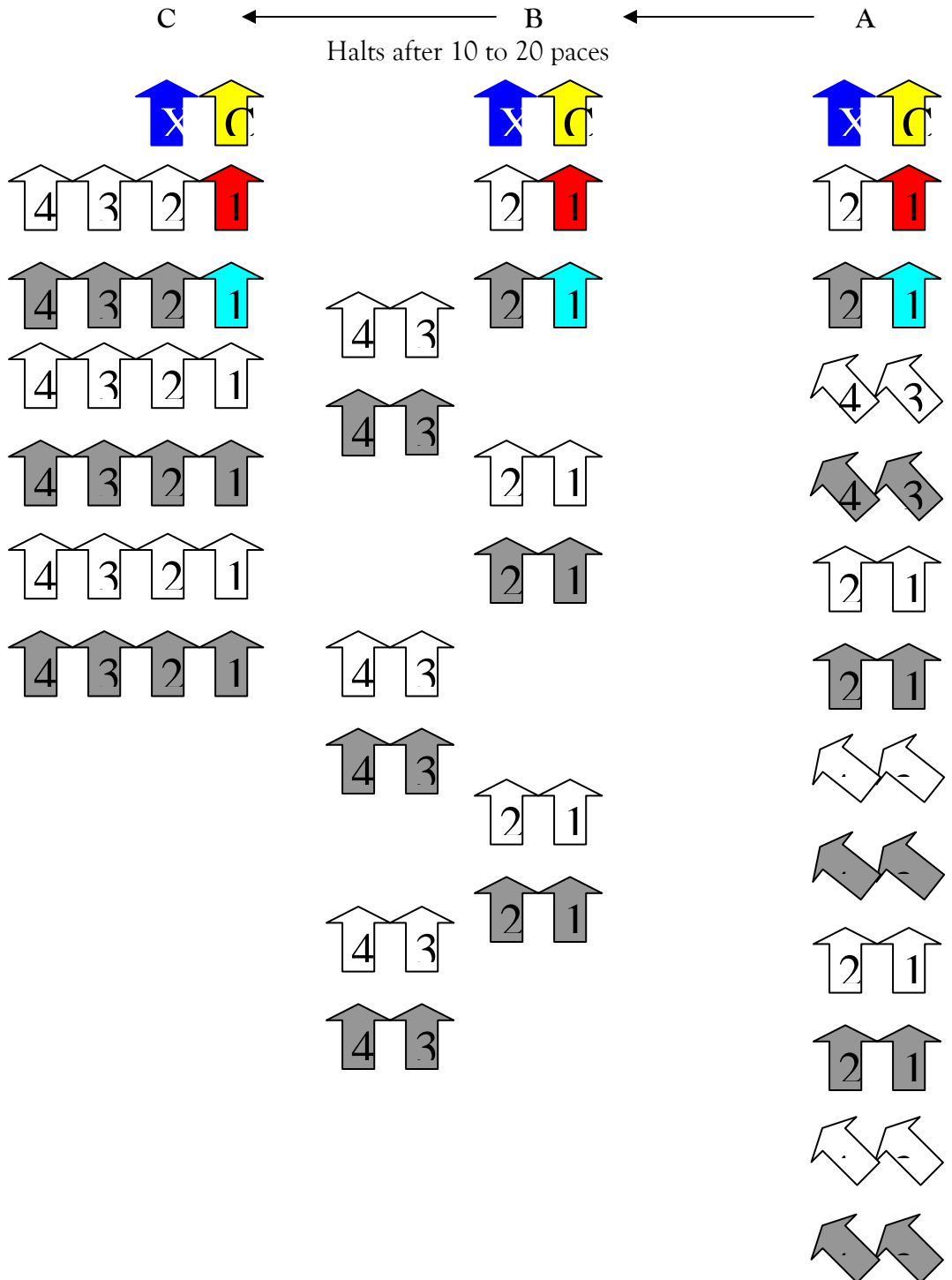
As soon as the 3s & 4s form  
up the 1s & 2s of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Squad move up  
And so on...



From columns of 4s from a column of 2s...

**“Form 4s”  
“March”**

Everyone keeps moving forward at the current gait, at March all the 3s & 4s oblique LEFT, once past the 2s they will go forward. After about 10 to 20 paces depending on the length of the column, the 1<sup>st</sup> squad numbers 1 and 2 will do a halt or slow one gait. Once the 1<sup>st</sup> squad numbers 3 & 4s catch up they halt or continue at the slower gait and guide right . Squad 2 numbers 1 and 2 continue moving forward till they come up to Squad 1 then halts or keep same gait, Squad 2 numbers 3 and 4 catch up and guides right. Squad 3 does the same thing.



To form up in files the same pattern works! Squad 1 - 1s go forward, everyone else stops, then Squad 1 - 2s go forward then oblique right and fall in behind the 1s, then 3s go forward and fall in behind the 2s, then 4s oblique right and fall in behind the 3s. Then Squad 2 moves as above, then Squad 3... then Squad 4... I will show you with one Squad due to the size of a full 4 squads in a file!

“By Files”  
“March”



Here is what it will look like if we did it by a column of 4s...

All the ones move forward, then the 2s oblique right, then the 3s then the 4s...

