

FORMATION DEFINITIONS

1. **ABOUT** – A three part movement to make a “U-turn” and may be to the right or left, either by the column or troopers (individual).
2. **CLOSE RANKS** -- Command given to bring the troops back into alignment (odd numbers remain in place and even numbers move forward into the line).
3. **COLUMN** – A formation in which the mounts are placed nose to croup. Spacing for a single column and column of twos is generally 4-6 feet apart. (while in a column, riders (troopers) follow the lead rider)
4. **COUNT OFF** – Either by the numbers (all troopers 1 - ? or by 2's) On the command “Count” all troopers will look in the direction of the rider and mount on the end (either right or left) and on the command “Off” the count will begin. This is how even and odd is established.
5. **ECHELON/DIAGONAL**-A step like formation in which the nose of the horse is aligned with the knee of the rider ahead. This formation could be to the right or the left. Usually used to move a crowd away from an object in a gradual manor. Right Diagonal would move the crowd to the Right and a Left Diagonal would move the crowd to the Left.
6. **DISCIPLINE** – Quick, appropriate reaction from the rider to correct the mount for biting or kicking (at) another mount or rider, within 3 seconds of the improper action. Always be aware of warning signs: pinning ears; feel the swing of the hindquarters, nose reaching toward another rider or mount). Being aware of the warning signs will enable you to stop the improper behavior. Biting and Kicking can not be tolerated and the mount may be considered unsuitable for Mounted Law Enforcement work.
7. **DRESS**--The term for aligning the formation from side to side.
8. **GUIDE**--The mount on which the troops are going to align with (may be right or left, usually the 1st rider/mount in the unit, but during a wheel alignment is on the hub of the wheel).
9. **HALT**--The command given to stop the movement.
10. **INTER-LOCK**--A tactical formation used after dividing a crowd and hold both sides apart. In this formation, from a column of twos, the mounts are side-by-side with every other mount facing the opposite direction. LEFT mount turns in front of the mount to his RIGHT & RIGHT mount turns behind the LEFT mount to face opposite directions. When forming the interlock from a single column of troopers the First horse turns right and the second left on down the line.

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11. **LINE**--A formation in which troops are aligned side-by-side mounted boot to boot (or rider's bodies aligned).
12. **MOUNT**--The horse or, the command given for the rider to obtain his/her seat.
13. **OBLIQUE**--Is a 45 degree movement either in a column or as troopers.
14. **OPEN RANKS**--Command given to space the troops for inspection, mounting, dismounting (odd numbers move forward 10 feet or one horse length creating a new line).
15. **PREPARATORY COMMAND**--The verbal command given as to what the movement will be. In this command it may have the: formation, movement, direction and gait.
16. **TROOPERS**--Each individual rider and mount.
17. **TURN/FLANK**--90 degrees either to the right or left.
18. **WEDGE**--A reverse "V" formation used for tactical situations to divide a crowd.
19. **WHEEL**--the term for turning a line of troopers either right or left while maintaining the alignment of the line formation, guiding on the rider and mount at the hub of the wheel.
20. **YO**--The term used to execute the commands. All riders and mounts move on YO!