

Military Parade Commands

Colour Party – The Colour Party (Flag bearers) is a spectacular feature of any military parade and it is regarded as an honour for each flag bearer to display their particular standard.

Catafalque Party – A Catafalque Party is a guard, usually of four people, that stands watch over the coffin of a distinguished person or a significant monument. A catafalque is a raised platform supporting a coffin for display before burial. Catafalque parties are mounted around coffins as a sign of respect and around memorials on occasions of remembrance such as Anzac Day. Rifles are reversed and heads bowed.

Cane Squad – Swagger Sticks are short, straight canes made from polished reddish/brown wood with brass metal tip and embellishment on top. They are used while standing or “on the march” in military parades, inspections and formal events.

The following is a list of commands that you will hear from your guard commander

You will need to listen to the commands that are for the whole unit as well as your position in the Unit.

Unit – This command applies to everyone in the formed up parade.

Guard – This command applies to the ceremonial line of armed soldiers.

Catafalque Party – Catafalque party commands are given separately to guard commands.

Slope Arms – Weapon is carried on left shoulder.

Order Arms – Weapon is placed beside right leg at attention.

Colour Party – Flag Bearer commands are given separately to guard and Catafalque commands.

Bear standards – Flag pole is placed in holster.

Order Standards – Flag bearers take poles out of holders and place beside right leg at attention.

Cane Squad – Cane Squad commands are given separately to guard, Catafalque and Colour Party.

At Ease – Stick in right hand, behind your back resting on right forearm, sticking out right, feet apart.

Shoulder Sticks – Stick in right hand at side, resting on shoulder, left hand at side feet together

Carry Sticks – Stick in left arm pit, resting on left hand, parallel with the ground.

Trail Sticks – Stick in right hand, at side parallel with the ground.

Salute – At Carry Sticks, keep stick in arm pit, move left hand to side, salute with right hand
– Longest way up, shortest way down

Stand at ease – Flags and weapons held forward, body still rigid.

Atten-hut – Attention. Flags and weapons held upright against right leg. Canes at Shoulder Sticks

Stand easy – Upper half of body can relax.

Marching – Always lead off with your LEFT foot. The command Quick (when there is a drummer present) will be given to begin marching. The drummer will beat a 2-pace roll before the unit leads off with left foot. Watch the person in front of you to remain in step as a unit when marching and maintain a steady rhythm.

Right turn / Left turn – Heel and toe turn 90 degrees.

Right (or Left) Wheel – Parade turns right (or left) whilst on the march.

Right (or Left) About Wheel – Parade turns right (or left) at 180 degrees. whilst on the march.

Eyes right (left) – Turn head 45 degrees.

Eyes front – Return head to front.

Halt – Parade continues 2 paces and halts on the RIGHT foot at the command halt.

Fall Out – Right turn and 3 paces.

Dismissed – Right turn and 5 paces.

NOTES: At NO TIME should your hands EVER be in your pockets. When not in use, keep your hands down at your sides thumbs tucked in.