

## **Guides, Captains, and Dressing**

As is explained to me by two experts and a satchel full of books.

There are markers. There are guides. And there are captains.

Markers are anyone the colonel designates to stand where the battalion will form a line. They can be Lt.Colonels, Majors, Adjutants, Sgt. Majors, or anyone selected because they're available. You always wondered why we faced that rock instead of that tree? It's because the markers were placed there.

Guides can be of the company or general variety. The left and right general guides keep the battalion line established. The markers are guiding these guys. Company guides are usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. on the right and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. on the left.

The captain is the guy in charge of the company, but usually standing in the wrong place.

Who comes out and stands in the line of guides (sometimes called the line of markers) depends on which way you're dressing. BTW, the line of guides is one step beyond the where all the men are standing.

If the dress is right, like we normally do, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. stays where he normally stays. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. steps out to the line of guides and faces to the right. Manuals and diagrams indicate that the guide will move 1 to 3 men in the direction he is facing. Let's move 1 man for now. The guide stands there until the colonel says: "Guides, POSTS". Then they return to their normal positions. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgts, that is behind the rear rank next to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

If the dress is left, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt steps out to the line of guides and faces to the left. Stepping in front of the captain is not a problem because the captain has moved to the end of the company. He's standing to the left of his last man. He's standing in the spot of that other captain. At "Guides, POSTS" everyone goes back to where the "normally" would be.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt of the last company stands on the line with the men. He doesn't stand in the line of file closers.

If that's not enough. Center dress... The companies on the left of the colors are performing a right dress and the companies on the right are performing a left dress. The rules above apply to each side of the line.