



# Pacific Region Cadets

ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADETS  
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS  
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

---

THE CANADIAN CADET ORGANIZATION IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN FORCES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVILIAN ARMY CADET, AIR CADET, AND NAVY LEAGUES OF CANADA

---

## BACKGROUNDER DOCUMENTATION

### THE ORIGINS OF DRILL AND CEREMONIAL

The famous English author Rudyard Kipling in his essay, “The Magic Square” theorizes that the elements of military drill including keeping step, the line, the wheel and forming ranks and files were first discovered in the very dawn of human consciousness. Kipling wrote that modern drill and ceremonial has its origins in the hunting tactics devised by early man to drive game into the open. In order to survive in a harsh world the hunters of the community learned to work together in an organized and disciplined fashion.

At one time, military drill and tactics were the same, much of the former being movements needed on the field of battle. Such drills have existed since ancient times. The Romans are reputed to have used cadence marching for tactical formations. General military ceremonial drill developed early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as changing conditions divorced tactics from barrack routine and ceremonial.

The foot and arms drill of the services were derived from tactical practices to move troops in an orderly and efficient manner and form the basis of the precise maneuvers used in military displays and ceremonies today.

There is no doubt that among the world’s military, the foundation of discipline is based on parade drill. The leadership epigram, “You have to learn to take orders before you can give them” has been proven time and time again. Good drill, well rehearsed and demanding the highest precision, is an exercise in personal leadership, self-discipline, and alertness.

The hallmarks of drill in the Canadian Cadet Organization are efficiency, precision and dignity. These qualities are developed through self-discipline and practice. They lead to unit pride and cohesion. Units which display constant competence in drill, are recognized universally as highly trained, well disciplined, professional, and well led. Drill sets the standard for the execution of any duty, both in the individual and in the group. Drill that is well taught and executed results in a sense of confidence that is essential to morale and esprit-de corps and is the basis of all teamwork.