

**OTS 206 DRILL
LESSON PLAN 1**

COLOURS AND SUNSET

1 period

Introduction

Historically, drill was used to manoeuvre field troops across terrain and during battle. In the past an army would be measured by the quality of the drill, dress, deportment and discipline of its soldiers. Presently, the Canadian Forces use drill only during ceremonial occasions (i.e. Remembrance Day parades, Change of Command).

Navy League Corps practice drill to:

- a) maintain the time-honoured traditions of our navy; and
- b) develop a sense of unit pride and a high standard of discipline and deportment.

The Ceremony of Colours – What it is and why we do it.

The Royal Canadian Navy performs the act of Colours every morning at 0800 hrs. Historically, the ensign (national flag) was raised to indicate friend or foe to other ships. Today, it is used for ceremonial and traditional purposes.

Personnel for Colours

The ship's company (cadet corps) will muster on the drill deck approximately 15 minutes before Colours (depends on the corps CO). Cadets are used for the following positions:

- a) The National Flag or Ensign– on the main halyard (usually the centre of the mast)
- b) The Navy League Cadet Flag – on the starboard outer halyard (when facing the mast)
- c) The Preparatory Pennant – on the port outer halyard (when facing the mast)
- d) Boatswain – handles the pipes

The Procedure for Colours

“5 minutes to Colours, sir/ma'am”

- “prep” flag closed up (all the way to the top)
- announced by the cadet on the Ensign

“1 minute to Colours, sir/ma'am”

- announced by the cadets on the Ensign
- ship's company turns to face the mast by parade commander (XO, cox'n, etc.)

“Colours, sir/ma'am”

- “Prep” flag dipped 4 feet (or 1/3 from the top)
- announced by the cadet on the Ensign
- after parade commander says, “very good”, bos'n pipes the still
- after the still, members outside of a division salute as the Ensign and NL Cadet flag are raised.

“Carry on, sir/ma’am”

- announced by the cadet on the Ensign
- parade commander responds with, “Carry on”
- bos’n pipes the carry on
- after the pipe, members saluting come back to attention, cadet strikes the “prep” flag (all the way down)
- prep flag is secured

The Procedure for Sunset – performed at sunset on ship, and at a preset time when on shore. Personnel required are the same for sunset as it is for colours.

The procedure for sunset is also very similar to that of colours, with the following exceptions:

- In reports from the cadet on the ensign, the word “Colours” is replaced with “Sunset”.
- The ensign and NL Cadet flag come down instead of up.

Conclusion

Well executed drill involves more than just an individuals ability to perform the movements.

Proper squad drill involves the following:

- discipline – on behalf of the members, to listen for the order and to carry out the movement promptly and correctly
- dress – as important as properly executed drill is to the image of a unit, a high standard of dress must be maintained to complement the drill
- deportment – the way in which an individual presents themselves to others will have a direct effect on the standard of drill (i.e. slouching, head down, etc.)

- Reiterate the purpose for Colours and Sunset being practiced in the Navy League.
- State the flags and personnel used during the ceremony.
- Explain what happens at:
 - a) 5 minutes to ...
 - b) 1 minute to ...
 - c) Colours (or Sunset)

Time permitting, candidates should have the opportunity to take part in or observe the ceremony of Colours as the instructor explains the procedure in stages.