

# Constituent Commandery Manual of the Sword



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## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to assist the Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies in the execution of Asylum Tactics and sword use. More detailed information can be found in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of the World and the Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. Further reference should include the Manual of Knights Templar Tactics and Asylum Ceremonies published by the Grand Encampment of the World.

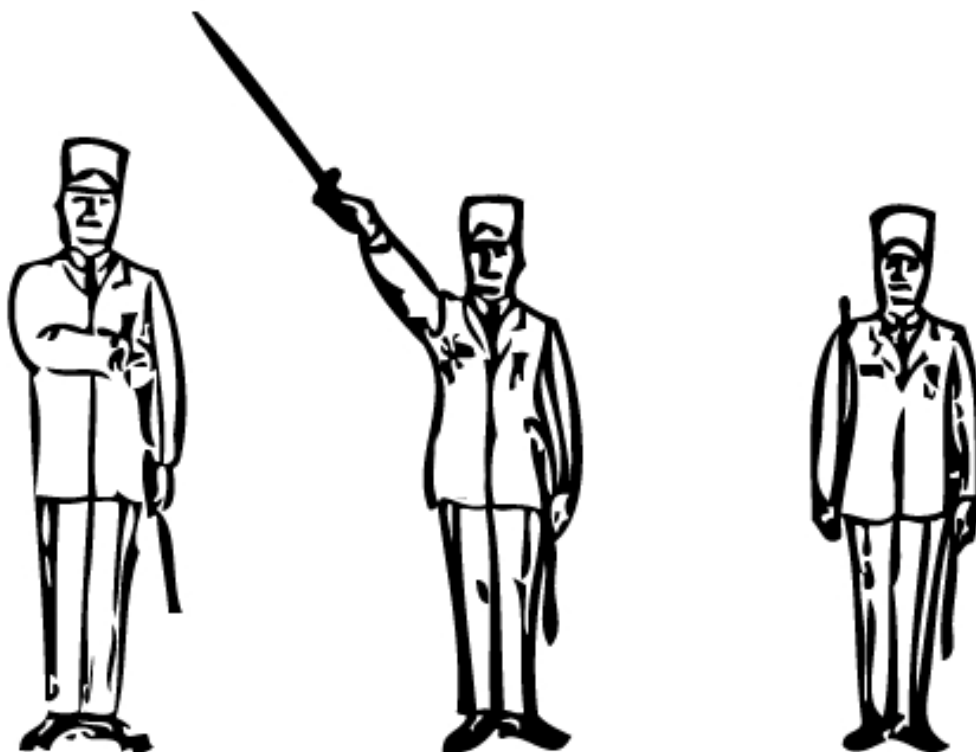
## BASIC SWORD SKILLS

### Draw Swords

**First Movement:** Grasp the scabbard with the left hand. Seize the grip of the sword with the right hand. Withdraw the blade about six inches from the scabbard.

**Second Movement:** Draw the sword quickly from the scabbard, throwing the sword upward with the right arm extended at an angle of 45° ahead of body. Drop the arm to the side, bringing the blade of the sword against (not on) the shoulder, holding the grip with the forefinger and thumb, thumb against the thigh and other fingers.

**In Ranks:** On the command “Draw,” execute the first movement. On the command “Swords,” execute the second movement.



Movement 1

Movement 2

### Returns Swords

**First Movement:** Seize the scabbard with the left hand, near the mouth, and incline the scabbard forward. At the same time, drop the sword across the body to the left and grasp the blade between the first two fingers of the left hand. Draw the sword upward between the fingers until the point is level with the mouth of the scabbard. Insert the sword point into the scabbard and return the sword to within six inches of completely sheathed.

**Second Movement:** Seat the blade smartly in the scabbard. Do not “click” the sword, as is commonly done in Blue Lodge. Drop hands to the side.

**In Ranks:** On the command “Return,” execute the first movement. On the command “Swords,” execute the second movement.



Movement 1



Movement 2

### Order Swords

When Ordering Swords, the command is “Order” is a command of preparation (meaning no movement should occur.)

On the command “Swords,” drop the sword point to the ground, blade to the front (first movement.) Bring the blade to a vertical position against the right toe and place the hand on the top of the hilt, three fingers in front of the grip, thumb and little finger in the rear, elbow close to the body.



### Un-Cover

When Un-Covering, the command “Un” is a command of preparation (meaning no movement should occur.)

On the command “Cover,” take the chapeau by the front piece with the left hand. Raise the chapeau from the head and place it on the right shoulder, slightly to the front, holding it in that position with the left hand.



### Re-Cover

When Re-Covering, the command “Re” is a command of preparation (meaning no movement should occur.)

On the command “Cover,” replace the Chapeau on the head. Drop hand to the side.

### Carry Swords

When Carrying Swords, the command “Carry” is a command of preparation (meaning no movement should occur.)

On the command “Swords,” resume the position of “Carry Swords” in one motion.





## SALUTES

### Present Swords

**First Movement:** Sword is raised and brought to the front with the wrist straight with forearm and elbow firm to the side. Cross the hilt as high as the chin, with the point of the blade inclined forward six inches.

**Second Movement:** Resume the position of “Carry Swords” in one motion, dropping the arm to the side and bringing the blade against the shoulder.

**In Ranks:** On the command “Present Swords,” execute the first movement. On the command “Carry Swords,” execute the second movement.



First Movement



Second Movement



Third Movement

## Hand Salute

Raise the right hand smartly until the tip of the forefinger touches the lower part of the headdress (if uncovered, the forehead) above the right eye, thumb and fingers extended and joined, palm to the left, forearm inclined at about 45°, hand and wrist straight; at the same time, look toward the person saluted; drop the arm smartly to the side (do not throw it outward.) At no time should a Sir Knight talk through a salute.



## Officer's Present Swords / Officer's Salute

Those entitled to the "Officer's Present Swords" are those Sir Knights wearing shoulder straps or those who are in command of a group of Sir Knights, such as a Captain of the Escort. Those entitled to the "Officer's Salute" are those Sir Knights wearing shoulder straps and not in line. Appointed officers in chairs or in an Escort are considered in Line.

The Officer's Present Swords and Officer's Salute comprise the same motions, however they are timed differently. When executing an Officer's Present Swords, the Sir Knight will execute the first two motions and remain in that position until commanded to "Carry Swords." When rendering an Officer's Salute, all four motions will be done in sequence, without pause.

Example:

|   |   |                                   |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| "Present  | - | Officers execute first movement.  |
| Swords"   | - | Officers execute second movement. |
| (Officers will remain in this position until commanded to "Carry Swords") |   |                                   |
| "Carry  | - | Officers execute third movement.  |
| Swords"   | - | Officers execute third movement.  |

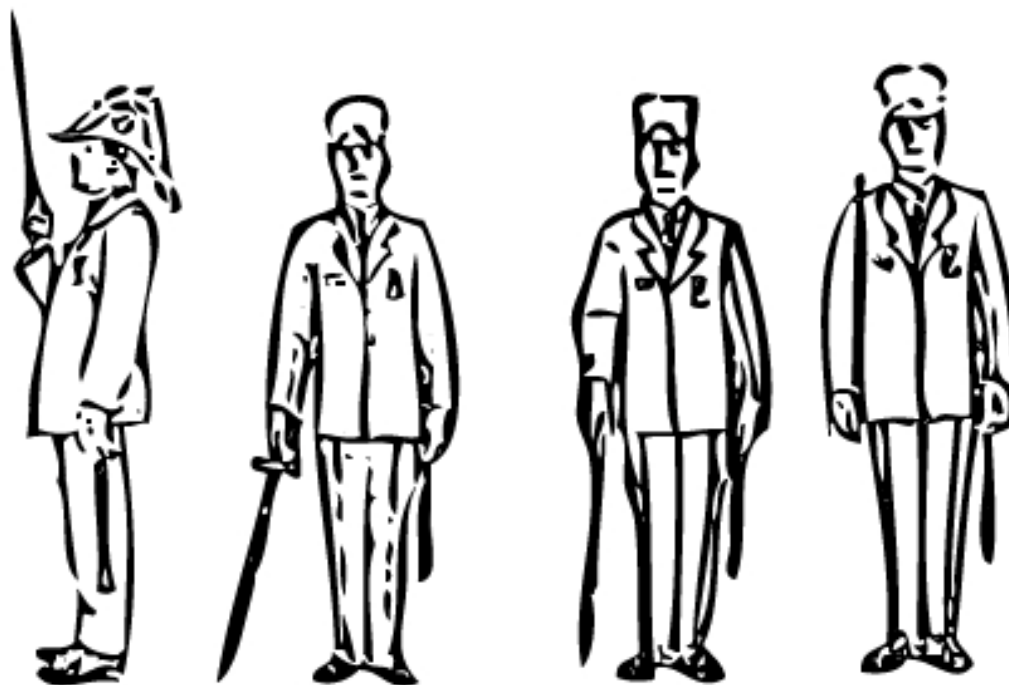
**First Movement:** Sword is raised and brought to the front with the wrist straight with the forearm and elbow firm to the side. Cross the hilt as high as the chin, with the point of the blade inclined forward six inches.

**Second Movement:** Drop arm to the side with the hand open, side of the blade facing forward and the sword pointing about sixteen inches in front of the right foot.

Resume the carry position in two movements.

**Third Movement:** Rotate wrist inward, bringing the edge of the blade to the front, sword pointing ahead of the right foot.

**Fourth Movement:** Come to "Carry Swords."



First Movement

Second Movement

Third Movement

Fourth Movement

## ADVANCED TACTICS

### Invert Swords

When Inverting Swords, the command “Invert” is a command of preparation (meaning no movement should occur.)

**First Movement:** On the command “Swords,” drop the point of the sword directly forward, about fifteen inches, grasping the blade (about nine inches from the guard) with the left hand, palm to the front.

**Second Movement:** Release the grip with the right hand and invert the sword with the left hand to a position about four inches in front of the center of the body, blade vertical, edge to the right, guard at the height of the chin. Grasp the blade with the right hand at the height of the belt.



First Movement



Second Movement

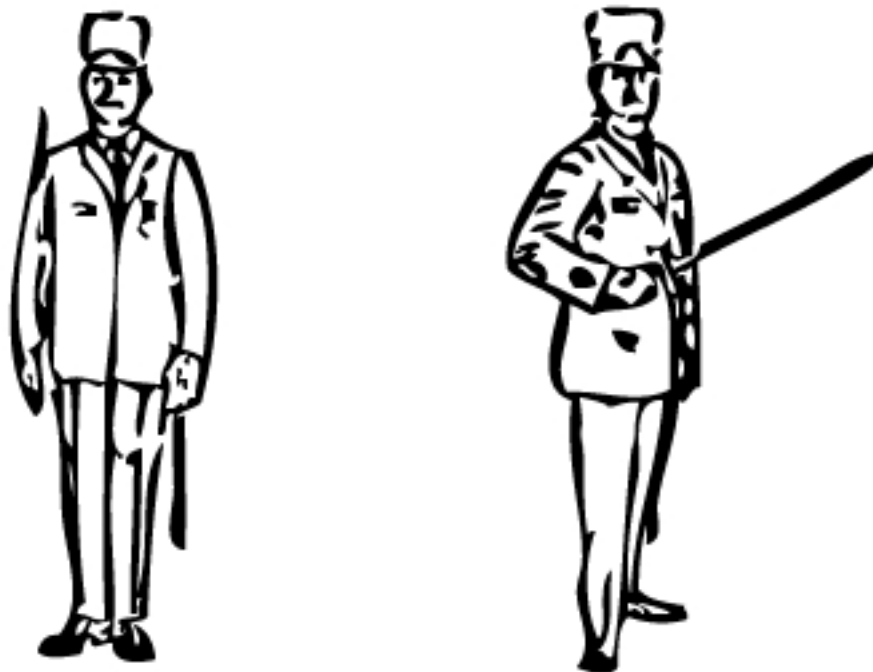
This series of movements is often completed utilizing a basic four count.

1. Incline the sword.
2. Grip the sword with the left hand.
3. Invert the sword.
4. Grip the blade with the right hand.

### The Guard Position

The guard position can only be executed from the “Carry Swords” position. It is the preparatory position for the command “Give Cuts.” The foot position of the Guard position is important in forming an Arch of Steel.

When the command Guard is given, turn the left foot square to the left-turning on the left heel and plant the right foot firmly about eighteen inches to the front, feet at right angles, the weight resting principally on the right foot, the shoulders oblique to the front, the head and eyes square to the front. At the same time, raise the sword hand on a line with the lower edge of the belt, about two inches from it, the guard three inches from the center. Drop the sword diagonally to the left, the blade eighteen inches in front of the left shoulder, edge up, with the thumb on the back of the grip. The sword is held without constraint.



## The Arch of Steel

An Arch of Steel is always given from the “Carry Swords” position. To execute an Arch of Steel, an Escort must be formed and positioned facing inward, about three paces (six feet) apart at “Carry Swords.” The commands can then be given.

When forming an Arch of Steel, the command “Form Arch of Steel” is a command of preparation (meaning no movement should occur.)

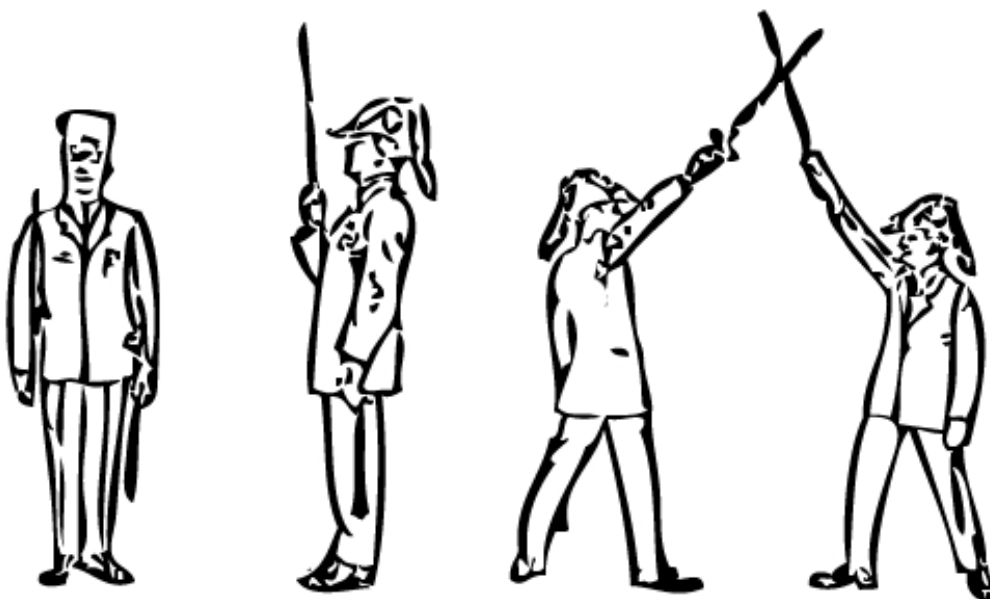
**First Movement:** On the command “Cross,” the Sir Knights in Line will execute a “Present Swords.”

**Second Movement:** On the command “Swords,” the Sir Knights in Line will assume the footing of the “Guard” position. At the same time, they will raise and extend the sword arm, rotating the wrist and forearm 270° to the left, bringing the back of the hand toward the left, wrist as high as the head, with the edge of the sword up. The blade should be in prolongation with the forearm, engaging the sword of the Sir Knight opposing.

To break an Arch of Steel requires an additional two movements.

**Third Movement:** On the command “Carry,” the Sir Knights will return to the position of “Present Swords.”

**Fourth Movement:** On the command “Swords,” the Sir Knights will assume the position of “Carry Swords.”



Preparatory

First Movement

Second Movement

## Kneeling

To Kneel with a sheathed sword: On the command Kneel, carry the left foot about twenty four inches to the rear. Kneel on the left knee, the body and left thigh erect, the right leg below the knee, nearly vertical, with the right hand hanging on the side.

To Kneel with a drawn sword: Same as above, except the hands will come to rest on the top of the sword hilt.

To Kneel while passing the words: At the command “Chapeau,” place the chapeau on the floor to the left of the right foot, feathers to the left, peak pointing inward toward the body. The cap is placed with the crown down. Resume position of kneeling.

To stand when Kneeling, following the passing of the words: The command “Secure” is a command of preparation (meaning no movement should occur.) At the command “Chapeau,” grasp the vision of the chapeau with the left hand, placing it on the right shoulder. At the command “Re-Cover,” replace the chapeau on the head and drop the hand to the side.” At the command “Arise,” stand smartly.



