



*Demo Management 2013*

*SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT*

# Crowd Control

## Instructional Notes

### Objectives:

To define the Seattle Police Department's philosophy for implementing responses to Unusual Occurrences.

To ensure that all Officers and First-line Supervisors are given the mental and physical skills to perform effectively in an Unusual Occurrence.

### Required Materials:

Through a combination of lectures and practical exercises, all class participants will acquire the mental and physical skills required to perform effectively in an Unusual Occurrence.

### Introduction:

With protests becoming more frequent, the Seattle Police Department must be prepared to confront the possibly of these types of Manifestations. Topics include Crowd Control Formations, Mass Arrest and Baton Tactics.

### Overview:

The training will instruct Seattle Police personnel on the crowd control procedures, equipment and tactics needed to safely operate in a hostile environment.

## Presentation:

### Crowd Control Basic Commands Module#1

#### Oral Commands are given in two parts:

- Preparatory Commands
- Command of Execution

#### Basic Commands:

- Squad, Standby
- Attention
- Port Arms
- Order Arms
- Parade Rest
- At Ease
- On Guard
- Safe Guard

#### Basic Command for Face Shields

- Face Shields Down
- Face Shields Up

#### Basic Command for Squad Movement:

- Forward March
- Half Step March
- Double Time March
- Mark Time March
- Column Right March
- Column Left March
- Forward at the On Guard, March
- Forward at the Safe Guard, March
- Counter Column March
- Baton Push at a Half Step, March
- Addressing Crowd "MOVE BACK"

*Audible Options:* (Commands given to squad/platoon during movement)

Address Crowd- (Move Back)

Baton Cadence- (Baton striking shin guard or riot shield)

This section will introduce Class Participants to Basic Commands used in a crowd control environment. Class Participants will be able to perform the correct response when given each of the Riot Squad Command.

Give Pause between the "Preparatory Commands" and "Command of Execution".

## Escort/Arrest Techniques Module#2

### Use of Force Continuum

### Escort/Arrest Techniques

- 2 Officer Escort
- 3 Officer Escort
- Baton Carry

## Riot Baton Techniques Module#3

### Retention Techniques:

- "D" Pattern Strip
- Push/Pull
- Distraction Strike
- Torso Turn
- Seizing One Wrist
- Rear Attack- High and Low
- Rear Attack-Choke Hold
- Torso Block

### Deflection Techniques:

- Drop Deflection
- Overhead Roof
- Left/Right Side Block

### Baton Strikes:

- Baton Push
- Reverse Strike
- Thrust
- Circle Strikes

This section will address specific physical techniques that can be applied to overcome passive resistance after a "Dispersal Order" has been given. These protesters maybe sitting or lying down and may go limp when the Officer attempts to arrest them. This section will provide options to overcome passive resistance using a minimal amount of force.

Class Participants will be able to apply 3 different Escort/Arrest Techniques to overcome resistance of a subject.

This section will introduce the Riot Baton and techniques that officers may use during a crowd control incident. (If possible, Baton course maybe trained by using rotating task stations)

Class Participants will learn "Deflection Techniques" (to protect themselves from hostile attacks), and perform different application of "Baton Strikes", and "Retention Techniques" during a crowd control incident.

## Crowd Control Formations Module#4

### **Tactical Objectives:**

- Containment
- Isolation
- Dispersal

### **Formations:**

- Column
- Double Column
- Line
- Line formation with Close Support
  - Gap Slide
  - Linear Support
- On Line from a Double Column
- Diagonal Left and Right
- Wedge
- Rescue Formation

### **Tactics:**

- Surge
- Crossbow
  - Rescue/Arrest Formation
  - Line Formation
  - Crowd Division
  - Re-enforcing
  - Lateral Support
- Mass Arrest
- Encirclement

### **Summary:**

Law enforcement has struggled with the challenges of policing demonstrations and other forms of civil unrest. Seattle PD must incorporate and maintain best practices that have been successfully used across the country in preparing for such events. Failure to do so can result in undermining police-community relations and it can lead to civil litigation due to the policies (to include training) or tactics used during such events..

Commands for Crowd Control Formations are given orally and/or with hand signals. Crowd Control Formations are used for Show of Force, Crowd Containment, Dispersal Tactics, and Arrest.

## Crowd Control Basic Commands

Oral Commands are given in two parts

Preparatory Commands states movement to be carried out and mentally prepares officers for the "Command of Execution".

Command of Execution tells when the command is to be carried out.

Note: A brief pause is given between the Preparatory and Command of Execution.

Basic Commands:

Squad, Standby Preparatory command used to gain the attention of a squad.

Atten Tion Baton positioned on the right side of the body, with the butt of the Riot Baton resting on the ground next to the officer's right foot.

Port Arms Baton raised to a 45 degree angle, from the right hip (*Stripping Motion*) to the left shoulder.

Order Arms Return to the position of attention.

Parade Rest Extend both arms toward the ground with baton held in both hands across front of the thighs. Baton is parallel to the ground with feet at shoulder width.

At Ease Stand in a relaxed manner with the baton down on the right side of the body, moving the left foot about shoulder length apart.

On Guard Left foot forward to assume a strong stance with a slight forward lean. Baton held at a 45 degree pointed forward with the high end at nose level and the lower end near the right hip.

Safe Guard Left foot forward with a slight forward lean. Baton pointed forward and parallel to the ground. Left arm locked out, right hand near the right hip.

**DRESS TO YOUR RIGHT**

## **Crowd Control Basic Commands**

### **Basic Command for Face Shields**

**Face Shields Down** Usually given from Port Arms. Has movement during the preparatory command of **Face Shields**, with the right hand raised to the Face Shield. When the command of execution **Down** is given, face shield is lowered.

**Face Shields Up** Usually given from Port Arms. Has movement during the preparatory command of **Face Shields**, with the right hand raised to the Face Shield. When the command of execution **Up** is given, Face shield is raised.

### **Basic Commands for Riot Shields**

**Atten Tion** Standard position of attention. Riot Shields in the down position on the left side of the body.

**Riot Shields Up** Riot Shields raise to the front with the top portion of the shield at eye level.

**Riot Shields Down** Riot Shields lowered to the left side of the body (*back to the standard position of attention*).

**On Guard** Done from a position of the Riot Shield Up. Left foot is forward, with a baton held in the right hand is place against the upper portion of the Riot Shield to reinforce it. The Riot Shield may rest on the left thigh with the upper portion slightly angled outward.

On the command of "**Forward on the On Guard - March**", Officers will strike the Riot Shields with their Baton as their left foot strikes the ground.

**Riot Shields, Parade Rest** Place the Riot Shield's base in front of the officer, on the ground. The Riot Shield should face the crowd with the officer securing the top half.

**SPACING AND MOVEMENT IN FORMATION SHOULD BE UNIFORM.**

## Crowd Control Basic Commands

### Basic Command for Squad Movement:

**Forward March** Starting with the left foot, march taking full steps (approx. 30 inches). Can be done when officers are in an On Guard or Safe Guard to gain territory and conserve energy.

**Half Step March** Starting with the left foot, march taking half steps.

**Double Time March** Starting with the left foot, moving at a slow jog.

**Mark Time March** Starting with the left foot, March in place.

**Column Right March** Command of execution is given when the right foot strikes the ground. On the next (*left*) step, the point officer of the column pivots on the left foot 90 degree to the right, the right foot takes a full step. Succeeding officers continues to march forward and turns 90 degree at the pivot point.

**Column Left March** Command of execution is given when the left foot strikes the ground. On the next (*right*) step, the point officer of the column pivots on the right foot 90 degree to the left, the left foot takes a full step. Succeeding officers continues to march forward and turns 90 degree at the pivot point.

**Forward at the On Guard (stomp and drag) March** Done when the officers are on the On Guard. On the command of execution, **March**, begin forward *Stomp and Drag* while maintaining an On Guard (*Baton remains static*).

**Forward at the Safe Guard (stomp and drag) March** Done when the officers are on the Safe Guard. On the command of execution, **March**, begin forward *Stomp and Drag* while maintaining a Safe Guard. Baton is brought to chest level and thrust forward when the left foot strikes the ground. Baton is parallel to the ground.

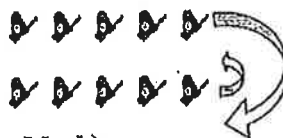
**Baton Push at a Half Step (modified stomp and drag) March** On the command of execution, **March**, the baton is pushed forward at a 45-degree angle as the left foot strikes the ground and pulled back when the right foot goes forward.

**Audible Options:** (Commands given to squad/platoon during movement)

- **Address Crowd**-Officers give verbal command of **MOVE** when the left foot strikes the ground and **BACK** when the right foot is then moved forward next to the left foot.
- **Baton Cadence**- Officers will strike their baton against the shin guards or riot shields as their left foot strikes the ground.



**Counter Column March** Command of execution is given when the left foot strikes the ground. On the next (*left*) step, the point officer of the column on the right, will pivots 180-degree to his left and marches in between the Double Column. The point officer of the column on the left, will pivots 180-degree to his right and marches around the outside of the Double Column. Succeeding officers continues to march forward until they reach the pivot point set by their point officer and follow their column.



#### **Commands for APR Deployment (Gas Mask):**

Masking of APR (Air-Purifying Respirator) will be done as commanded by the Platoon or Squad Leader.

**Prepare to Mask Move** On the Preparatory Command of "Prepare for Masking", Squad Leader and/or Assistant Squad Leader will identify the even or odd officers to place their gas mask on. On the Command of Execution of "Move", the designated officers will step behind a cover officer and complete the task. When the officer has completed the masking, they will step back into the formation and the cover officer will mask.

**Clockwise Line Relief Move** May be deployed when a second line of officers (Close Support) are behind the front line. On the command, the second line of officers will mask up and prepare to provide cover the front line. On the Command of "Clockwise Line Relief - Move", the front line will face right and move behind the second line of officers to mask up. There is an option of returning the original line up front if needed.

**Prepare for Gap Slide Move** May be deployed when a second line of officers (Close Support) are behind the front line. On command, the second line of officers will mask up and prepare to provide cover the front line. On the Command of "Prepare for Gap Slide - Move", the second line will step forward through the gap and replace the front line allowing them to mask up.

**MASK MASK MASK Emergency Masking:** When it is necessary to mask up the entire Squad or Platoon for emergency deployment of "Riot Control Agents", the Preparatory Command and the Command of Execution is "***MASK MASK MASK***". Hand signal of tapping your both shoulders will be given at the same time. Officers should attempt to maintain visual contact with the crowd during "Emergency Masking".

**ANY MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL SHOULD BE DONE IN FORMATION.**

## Crowd Control Formations

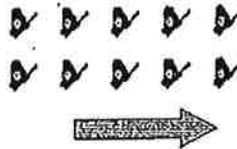
### Single Column Formation

**Single Column Move** Unit Leader points to the location where the Column is formed. Officers form a Column facing the direction indicated with officers facing the point person's back (30" spacing between officers).



### Double Column Formation

**Double Column Move** Unit Leader points to the location where the Double Column is formed. Officers form a Double Column with the point person at the front and to the right (Spacing should be 30" between column- 30" between officers in the column).



### Line Formation

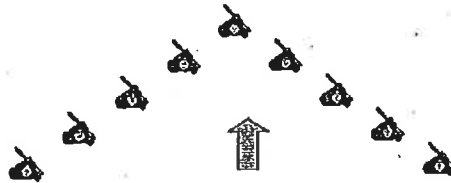
**Line Formation Move** Unit Leader points to the location where the Line Formation is formed. The point person moves to the location indicated with the officers forming on each side of him (Left column forms to the left of the point person, right column to the right side).



**COMMANDS SHOULD BE BOTH VERBAL AND BY HAND SIGNS**

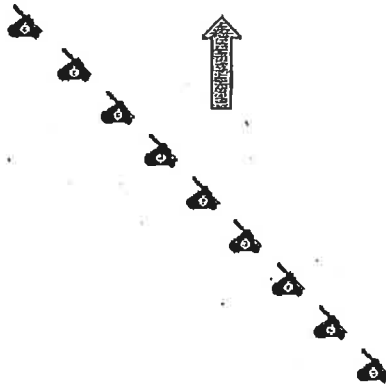
## Crowd Control Formations

**Wedge Formation Move** Unit Leader points to the location where the Wedge Formation is formed. The point person moves to the location indicated with officers angling back on both sides (*one step back and one step to the side*).



### Diagonal RIGHT (or Left) Formation

**Diagonal Right (or Left) Move** Unit Leader points to the location where the Diagonal Formation is formed. The point person moves to the location indicated with officers angling 45 degree back to the right from the point person. Diagonal Right Formation is formed to move the crowd to the right (*Diagonal left is formed with the point person right front of the formation*).

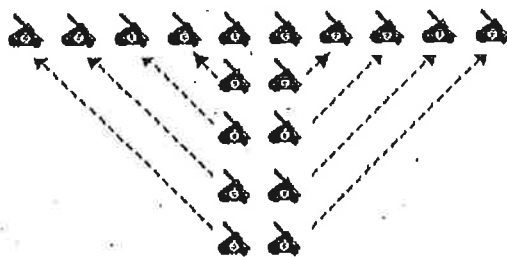


**ALL MOVEMENT INTO FORMATIONS, DONE AT A DOUBLE TIME.**

## Crowd Control Formations

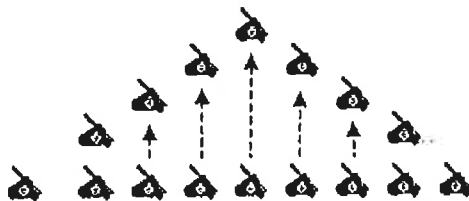
### Double Column to Line

**Line Formation Move** Unit Leader points to location where the "Line Formation" is formed. Lead Officers in each column remains in position. The remaining officers move to the right (left) side of the Lead Officers.



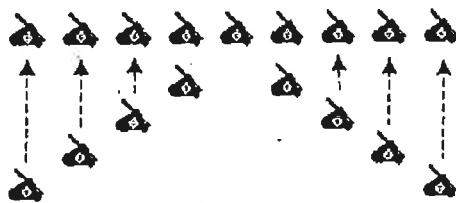
### Line Formation to Wedge

**Wedge Formation Move** Unit Leader points to the Officer who will be the point person. Point Officer marches forward, with remaining officers "Mark Time" marching until the officer to their right (left) is 45 degree ahead. The remaining officers will then fall into the "Wedge Formation".



### Wedge to Line Formation

**Line Formation Move** Point Officer remains in position by "Mark Time" marching. Remaining Officers move forward until a "Line Formation" is achieved.

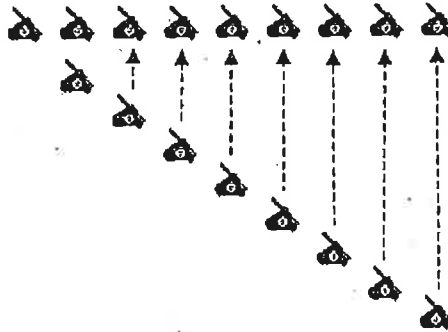


**WHEN DEPLOYING MULTIPLE SQUADS, DRESS TO THE CENTER**

## Crowd Control Formations

### Diagonal Right (left) to Line

**Line Formation Move** Leftmost Officer remains in position by "Mark Time" marching. Remaining Officers move forward until a "Line Formation" is achieved.



### Crossbow Line Formation

The Crossbow is an aggressive maneuver used to penetrate a crowd to rescue a person, or perform an arrest. The squad is moved into the "Double Column" formation with a minimum of 8 officers to provide sufficient protection.

**Crossbow, Arrest (Rescue) Move** Squad Leader identifies the person to be arrested/rescued. The first 2 officers are the arrest/rescue team and the remaining squad is the protective guard.

**Rescue.** If the movement is a rescue, the team yells as they run toward the person they rescue.

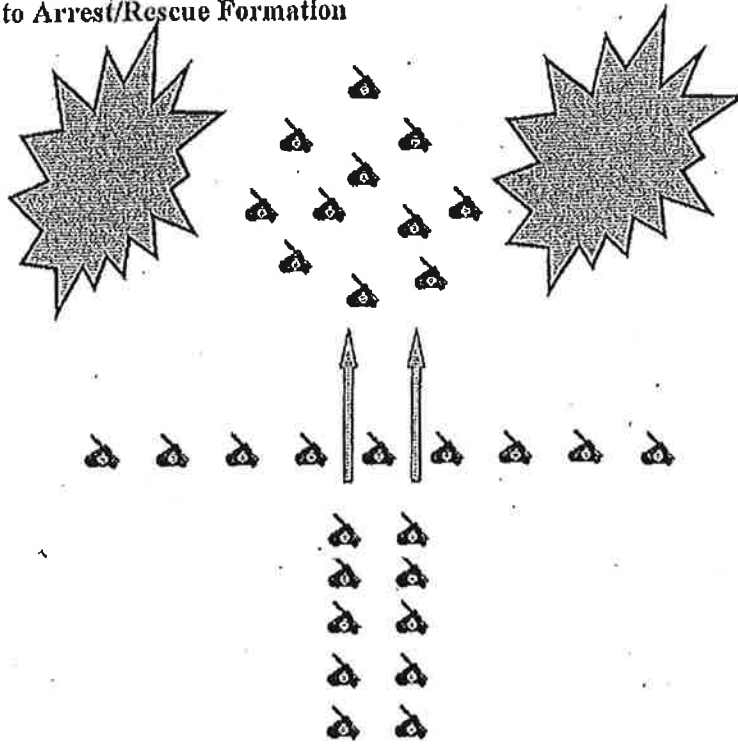
**Arrest.** If an arrest, arrest team may hand off their batons to the Squad Leader or place them on their belts and the movement is silent.

When the arrest/rescue team reaches the person, the remaining squad forms a protective circle. The Squad Leader controls the movement of the entire squad back to "friendly territory".

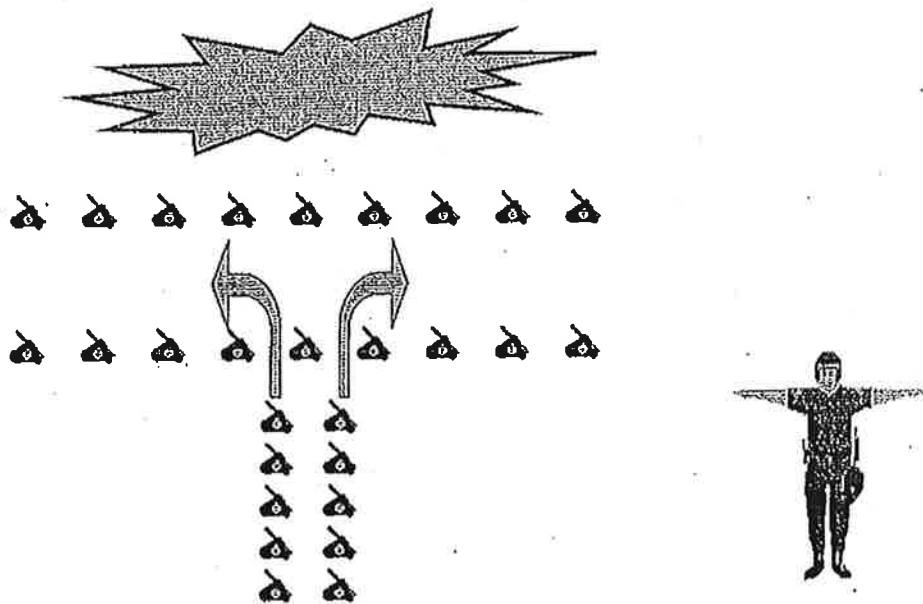
### Crossbow into Line Formation

The "Crossbow" may also be used to move the crowd back with a "Line Formation". As in the arrest/rescue, the point person will determine the distance that they travel. Squad should be audible during deployment.

Crossbow into Arrest/Rescue Formation

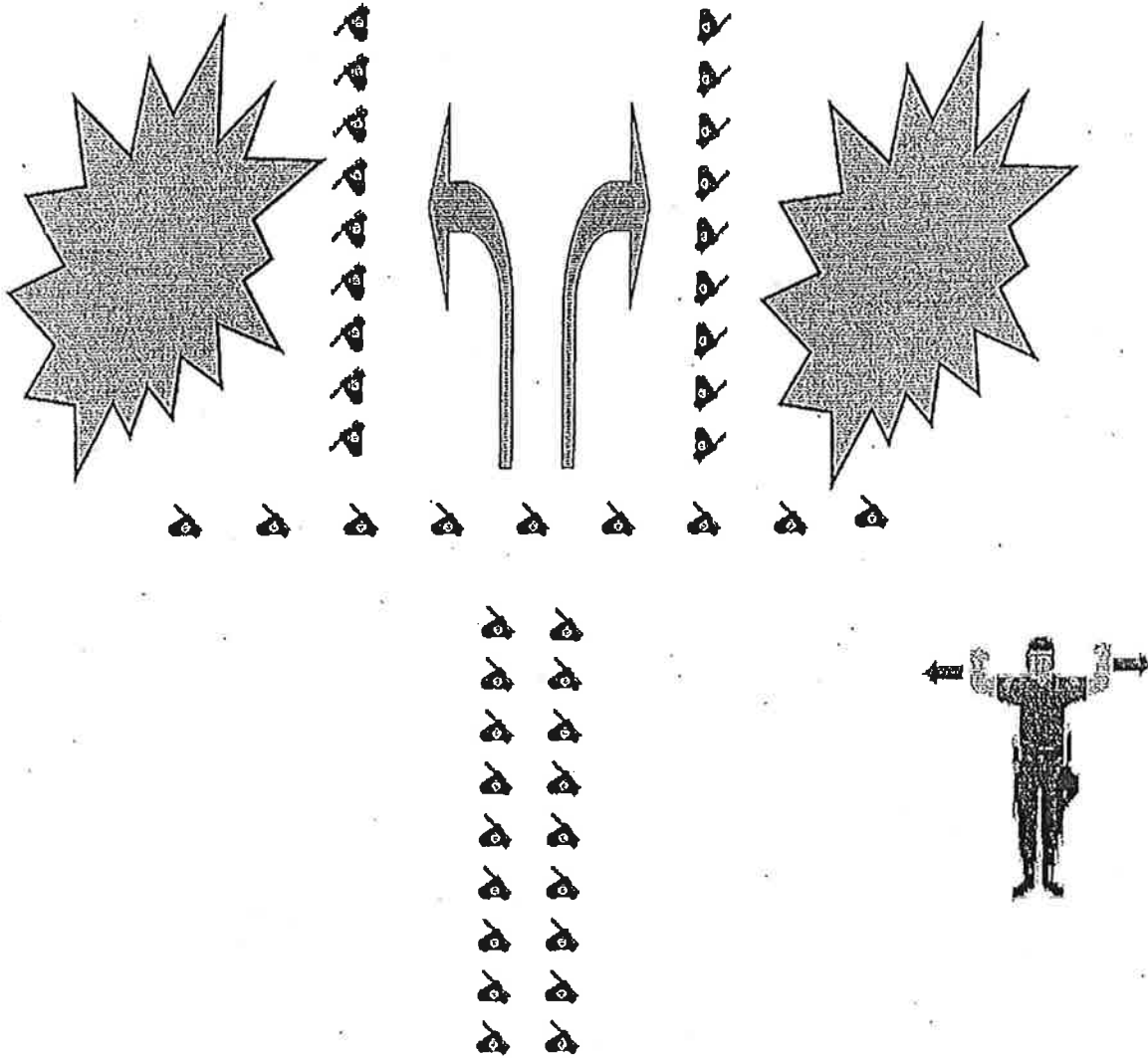


Crossbow into Line Formation



## Crossbow Crowd Separation

Crossbow, Crowd Separation Move 2 Squads, by forming a Double Column (1 Squad in each Column), will penetrate the crowd and separate them by going the opposite direction. Communication is essential between the both squad leaders involved in this tactic. This maneuver may be used to separate 2 hostile groups or to clear an entryway into a building.

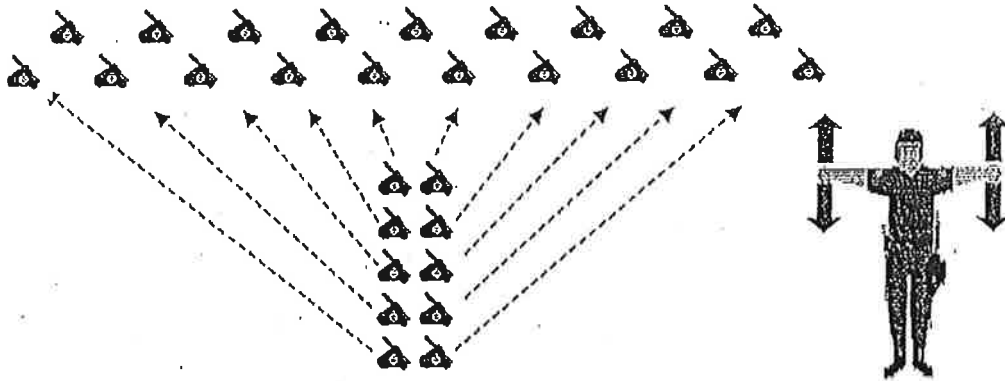


AFTER EVERY MOVEMENT, TAKE A HEAD COUNT.

### Line Formation-Close Support from a Crossbow (Double Column)

Although not a true Crossbow Tactic, Close Support may be used to support the existing Line Formation when they meet a large resistance. This tactic can also be used to relieve the existing formation without disrupting the line integrity.

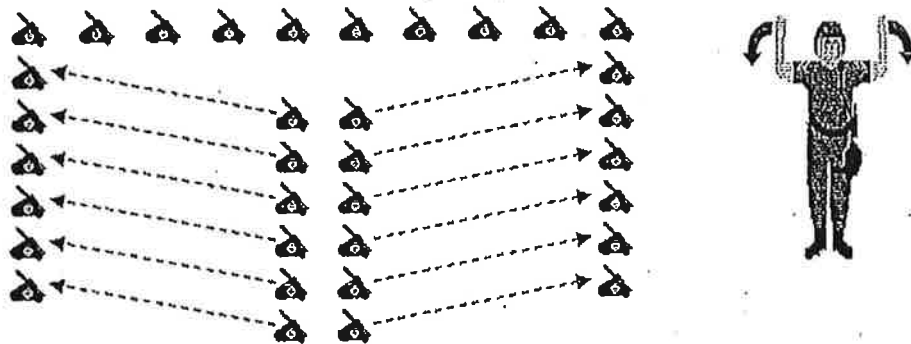
**Line Formation-Close Support Move** Unit Leader will approach the existing Line Formation and in a Double Column. The Unit Leader will direct their squad to provide "Close Support" it by moving arm up and down with a closed fist. The squad will fill in the gap of the existing Line Formation.



### Lateral Support

Lateral Support provides protection to the flank of an existing Line Formation. This tactic is ideal for entering a hostile intersection or assaults from the sides.

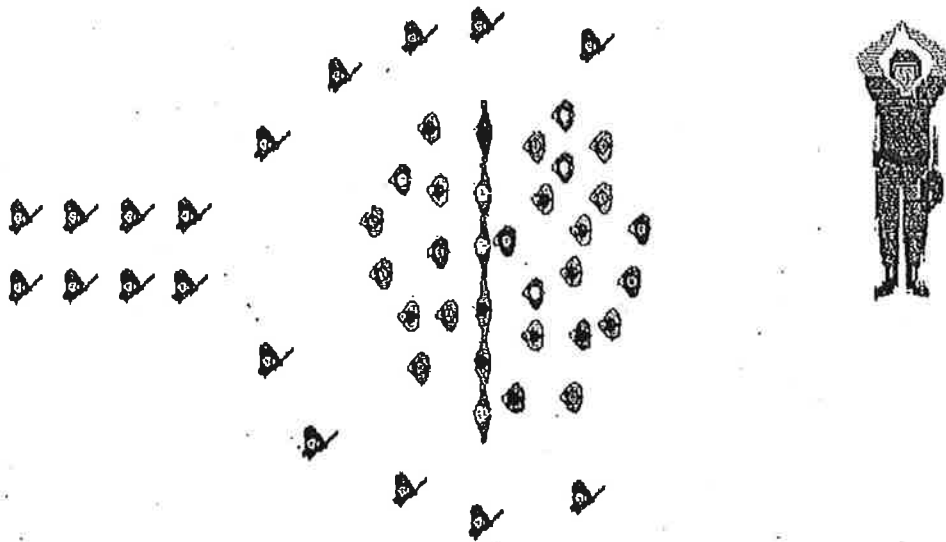
**Lateral Support Move** The supporting squad(s) is directed by slightly rising of the arm and pointing toward the direction that may need "Lateral Support". Support may be provided on one or both sides of the Line.





## Encirclement (Arrest)

**Encirclement Move** 2 Squads in a Double Column (1 Squad in each Column), will approach and circle the crowd by going the around them in opposite direction. Once the officers surround the crowd, the squad leaders will determine if the officers will face the arrestees or if the environment is hostile every other or odd officer will face outbound.



*Officers facing the arrestees*

or

*Facing in and outbound due to threats  
Odd number officers should take 2 steps  
outward toward the threat.*

