



CPP.4
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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WEAPONS TRAINING BATTALION
TRAINING COMMAND
27211 GARAND ROAD
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5036

LESSON PLAN

PISTOL WEAPONS HANDLING

CPP.4

COMBAT PISTOL PROGRAM

CID XXXX

REVISED 10/1/2012

APPROVAL _____

DATE _____



INTRODUCTION

(3 MIN)

(ON SLIDE #1)

1. GAIN ATTENTION. Proper weapons handling is an essential part of marksmanship. Understanding and applying the principles of weapons handling are critical to developing safe and consistent weapons skills. Strict adherence to training and diligent practice will make weapons handling instinctive. Mission accomplishment and survival in combat depend on it.

2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover weapons handling of the service pistol to include safety rules, withdrawing the pistol from the holster, carries/ transports, weapons conditions, weapons commands procedures, determining the condition of the weapon, corrective action, and transferring the weapon from one Marine to another.

3. INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES. The Terminal Learning Objectives and Enabling Learning Objectives pertaining to this lesson are as follows:

a. TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE. Given a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, dummy ammunition, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, perform weapons handling procedures with the service pistol without violating the four safety rules IAW MCRP 3-01B.

b. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1) Without the aid of references, state the four safety rules for the service pistol IAW MCRP 3-01B.

2) Without the aid of references, identify the weapons conditions for the service pistol IAW MCRP 3-01B.

3) Without the aid of references, identify the characteristics and nomenclature of the service pistol IAW MCRP 3-01B and TM 1005A-10/1.

4) Given a threat situation, a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, dummy ammunition, and unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, a carry/transport the weapon in response to the situation IAW MCRP 3-01B.

5) Given a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine



pouch, dummy ammunition, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, load the pistol (Condition 4 to Condition 3) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01B.

6) Given a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, dummy ammunition, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, make the pistol ready (Condition 3 to Condition 1) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01B.

7) Given a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, dummy ammunition, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, unload the pistol (any Condition to Condition 4) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01B.

8) Given a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, dummy ammunition, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, unload and show the pistol clear (any Condition to Condition 4) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01B.

9) Given a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, transfer the pistol to another Marine IAW MCRP 3-01B.

c. TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE. Given a service pistol, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, ammunition, target, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, engage stationary threats with the service pistol to eliminate threats while achieving a qualifying score of 264 on the Combat Pistol Program (CPP) Firing Table One, Training Block Five in accordance with MCO 3574.2_.

d. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE. Given a service pistol with a stoppage, (3) magazines, magazine pouch, ammunition, target, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, perform corrective action to clear the stoppage IAW MCRP 3-01B.

4. METHOD. This lesson will be taught in a classroom/outdoor setting using lecture, demonstration, and practical application.

5. EVALUATION. Performance of weapons handling will be



evaluated via a performance checklist during the Pistol Weapons Handling Test, CPP.10A.

TRANSITION: To engage a target effectively, the Marine must first learn to handle the pistol safely whenever the weapon is in his possession. There are four safety rules which must be observed at all times. No deviation from these rules will be tolerated and they will be strictly enforced throughout training.

BODY

(55 MIN)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: (55 Min) Use the EDIP (Explain, Demonstrate, Imitate, Practice) method to conduct this demonstration and practical application. The practical application requires dummy rounds for students and demonstrators and (1) pistol, (2) magazines, (1) holster, (1) belt, and magazine pouches per demonstrator.

STUDENT ROLE: The students will be in a good position to view the demonstration and will hold all questions until prompted at the end of the demonstration. The students will be spaced out to provide enough room to practice the skills.

INSTRUCTOR ROLE: Explain and demonstrate each step of a procedure and have students imitate that step before moving on to the next step. Once all of the steps are taught using EDIP, have students practice the entire procedure until they are performing it correctly. Emphasize the four safety rules throughout.

1. **Safety Brief:** (From the ORAW) Brief the shooters on what to do if there is a mishap.

2. **Supervision and Guidance:** The instructor(s) will explain every step of the procedure/technique. The instructor(s) will demonstrate at half speed so all shooters can follow every step. The instructor will supervise performance and provide feedback.

1. (1 MIN) SAFETY RULES

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: *The following safety rules should be strongly emphasized here and throughout marksmanship training.*



The four safety rules are the foundation for responsible weapons handling. These rules must be observed at all times during training and in combat.

(ON SLIDE #2)

- a. Rule 1: Treat Every Weapon as if it Were Loaded. This rule is intended to prevent unintentional injury to personnel or damage to property from handling or transferring possession of a weapon.
- b. Rule 2: Never Point a Weapon at Anything You Do Not Intend to Shoot. This rule enforces the importance of muzzle awareness and reinforces positive identification of the target.
- c. Rule 3: Keep Your Finger Straight and Off the Trigger Until You are Ready to Fire. When not firing, the trigger finger is straight along the receiver, outside of the trigger guard. This rule is intended to minimize the risk of firing the weapon negligently. This rule also reinforces positive identification of the target.
- d. Rule 4: Keep Weapon on Safe Until You Intend to Fire. This rule enforces the use of the weapon's own safety feature and reinforces positive identification of the target.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: If a pistol is handled properly, it is handled safely. As part of weapons safety, the Marine must know how to withdraw the weapon from the holster in order to assume a carry.

2. (10 MIN) WITHDRAWING THE PISTOL FROM THE HOLSTER

The weapon should be withdrawn from the holster in one continuous, fluid motion.

(ON SLIDE #3)

- a. Step One
 - 1) Place the heel of the support hand in front of the center of the chest with the fingers pointing downrange.



The hand should be in a position that allows a two-handed firing grip to be established in a minimum amount of movement.

- 2) At the same time, release the weapon retention device with the firing hand by pressing the release button with the index finger.
 - 3) Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers; the index finger remains straight and outside the holster.
- b. Step Two. Draw the pistol straight up out of the holster. Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward to clear the body by dropping the elbow of the firing arm. Ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction.
- c. Step Three
- 1) Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining it with the support hand in front of the torso.

CAUTION

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the support hand when establishing the two-handed grip.

- 2) Place the support thumb behind the safety in a position to operate it. The firing thumb rests behind the support thumb.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Withdrawing the weapon from the holster will facilitate establishing a firing grip. To assume a carry, the weapon must first be withdrawn from the holster. We will now cover the Tactical Carry along with the weapons transports for the pistol.

3. (5 MIN) WEAPONS CARRY AND TRANSPORTS

(ON SLIDE #4)

- a. Tactical Carry. The Tactical Carry with the pistol is



used for movement in close quarters for better control of the weapon. With the pistol, the Tactical Carry is used when there is no target, but contact with the enemy is imminent. To perform the Tactical Carry:

- 1) Ensure the pistol is on safe.
- 2) Grasp the pistol grip firmly with two hands. The trigger finger is straight and the thumb is on the decocking/safety lever in a position to operate it.
- 3) Bend the elbows just enough to drop the rear sight and allow the eyes to look over the barrel so a clear field of view is maintained. Bending the elbows is particularly advantageous in close quarter environments and for additional control when moving. The muzzle of the pistol is pointed in the direction of likely enemy contact.

b. Weapons Transports. The pistol is transported in one of two transports.

(ON SLIDE #5)

- 1) Administrative Transport. The administrative transport is used to transport the pistol when the Marine does not have a holster. To transport the pistol:
 - a) Establish a firm grip around the pistol grip with the strong hand.
 - b) Ensure the pistol is on safe, the magazine is removed, the slide is locked to the rear, and the trigger finger is straight along the receiver.
 - c) Bend the elbow to approximately a 45-degree angle so the pistol is positioned near shoulder level. The wrist should be straight so the muzzle of the weapon is pointing up.

(ON SLIDE #6)

- 2) Holster Transport. The holster transport is the most common method of carrying the pistol because it can be transported safely in the holster. This transport is used when there is no immediate threat (enemy contact remote). To transport the pistol in the holster:



- a) With the pistol pointed in a safe direction, ensure the decocking/safety lever is on, the slide is forward, and the trigger finger is straight.
- b) With the strong hand firmly gripping the pistol grip, place the pistol in the holster:
 - (1) Look down at the holster, bring the pistol back to a position above the holster and rotate the muzzle down into the holster.
 - (2) Push the pistol snugly into the holster.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: The weapons carries and holster transport allow the pistol to be carried in a manner that permits quick engagement when necessary. Whether the Marine is carrying, transporting, or handling the pistol, he must understand and know the condition of his weapon at all times. The service pistol's level of readiness is defined by three conditions. Each step in the loading and unloading process takes the pistol to specific levels of readiness for live fire.

4. (1 MIN) WEAPONS CONDITIONS FOR THE SERVICE PISTOL

(ON SLIDE #7)

- a. Condition 1. Magazine inserted, round in chamber, slide forward, and decocking/safety lever on.
- b. Condition 2. Not applicable.
- c. Condition 3. Magazine inserted, chamber empty, slide forward, and decocking/safety lever on.
- d. Condition 4. Magazine removed, chamber empty, slide forward, and decocking/safety lever on.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: It is important for every Marine to know the standard procedures for putting his weapon into each condition.



Weapons commands dictate the steps the Marine should take to quickly and safely load, make ready, and unload the service pistol. These procedures ensure safe and effective handling of the pistol.

5. (15 MIN) WEAPONS HANDLING PROCEDURES

a. Weapons Commands. Weapons commands direct the Marine to safely load, unload, and employ the service pistol. The following commands are used in weapons handling:

(ON SLIDE #8)

- 1) "Make a Condition 3 weapon" is used to load the weapon, taking it from Condition 4 to Condition 3.
- 2) "Make a Condition 1 weapon" is used to make the weapon ready, taking it from Condition 3 to Condition 1.
- 3) "Fire" is used to specify when the Marine may engage targets.

(ON SLIDE #9)

- 4) "Cease Fire" is used to specify when the Marine must cease target engagement.
- 5) "Make a Condition 4 weapon" is used to unload the weapon, taking it from any condition to Condition 4.
- 6) "Show clear" is used when a second individual must check the weapon to verify that no ammunition is present before the weapon is put into Condition 4.

b. Procedures for Filling the Magazine. Prior to loading the weapon, the pistol magazine must be filled with the prescribed number of rounds of ammunition. To fill the magazine, perform the following steps:

(ON SLIDE #10)

- 1) Hold the magazine with the back of the magazine against the palm of the hand and the follower up.
- 2) With the other hand, place a round (primer end first) on the follower in front of the magazine lips.
- 3) Press down on the round and slide the round



completely back under the lips. The thumb or finger may push down on the back of the round to assist. The base of the round should be flush with the back of the magazine.

4) Repeat this procedure until the magazine is filled with the appropriate number of rounds. Holes on the back of the magazine allow the visual counting of rounds in five-round increments.

5) Store the magazine in the magazine pouch with rounds down and pointed inboard.

c. Load

On the command "Make a Condition 3 weapon," the pistol is loaded (Condition 4 to Condition 3) as follows:

1) Ensure the pistol is on safe.

(ON SLIDE #11)

2) With the strong hand firmly gripping the pistol and the pistol pointed in a safe direction, bring the weapon up into your workspace, with the magazine well at eye level. Workspace is defined as the area in which you can manipulate and control the weapon while maintaining observation of the downrange area. Cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck and the muzzle is pointing up.

NOTE

The weapon must be positioned so that both the magazine well and the threat area can be observed.

3) With the support hand, remove a filled magazine from the magazine pouch. Index the magazine by sliding the index finger along the forward edge of the magazine.

4) Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well by guiding it with the index finger and, with the fingers extended, pushing it in with the heel of the hand until it is fully seated. Do not relinquish contact of the magazine until it is fully seated.

d. Make Ready. On the command "Make a Condition 1 weapon,"



the pistol is made ready (Condition 3 to Condition 1):

- 1) Firmly grip the pistol with the strong hand. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and the slide is in its forward position.

(ON SLIDE #12)

- 2) To facilitate pulling the slide to the rear, rotate the magazine well outboard. With the fingers and thumb of the support hand, grasp the serrated sides of the slide just forward of the decocking/safety lever.

CAUTION

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.

- 3) Pull the slide to its rearmost position by pushing forward with the strong hand while pulling back on the slide with the support hand.
- 4) Release the slide. This will feed a round from the magazine into the chamber as the slide moves forward.

NOTE

Ensure the weapon remains on safe.

e. Fire. On the command "Fire," perform the following steps to fire the pistol:

- 1) With a straight trigger finger, take the weapon off safe with the thumb.
- 2) Place the trigger finger on the trigger and apply pressure to the trigger until the shot is fired.

f. Cease Fire. On the command "Cease Fire," perform the following steps to stop firing the pistol:

- 1) Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- 2) Place the weapon on safe without breaking the grip of the strong hand.



3) Assume a carry or transport.

g. Unload. On the command "Make a Condition 4 weapon," the pistol is unloaded (any condition to Condition 4):

1) With the strong hand firmly gripping the pistol, ensure the pistol is on safe.

(ON SLIDE #13)

2) Bring the pistol into your workspace. Cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck. The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged.

3) Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol. Catch the magazine with the support hand and retain it on your person.

4) Bring the weapon down to mid-torso. Push upward on the slide stop with the thumb and maintain pressure. Rotate the weapon so the chamber is outboard.

NOTE

A left-handed Marine will push upward on the slide stop with the index finger.

5) Reach over the top of the pistol with the support hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb and index finger. The support hand should partially cover the chamber so it is positioned to catch an ejected round.

(ON SLIDE #14)

6) With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, fully retract the slide and lock it to the rear. At the same time, catch the ejected round with the support hand.

7) Rotate the pistol so you can see in the chamber. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.

(ON SLIDE #15)

8) Release the slide by pressing the slide stop with



the firing thumb and observe it going forward on an empty chamber.

NOTE

A left-handed Marine will press the slide stop with the index finger.

9) Return the ejected round to the magazine.

h. Show Clear. On the command "Show Clear," the pistol is unloaded with a secondary inspection (any condition to Condition 4):

1) With the strong hand firmly gripping the pistol, ensure the pistol is on safe.

2) Bring the pistol into your workspace. Cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck. The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged.

3) Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol. Catch the magazine with the support hand and retain it on your person.

4) Bring the weapon down to mid-torso. Push upward on the slide stop with the thumb and maintain pressure. Rotate the weapon so the chamber is outboard.

NOTE

A left-handed Marine will push upward on the slide stop with the index finger.

5) Reach over the top of the pistol with the support hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb and index finger. The support hand should partially cover the chamber so it is positioned to catch an ejected round.

6) With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, fully retract the slide and lock it to the rear. At the same time, catch the ejected round with the support hand.



7) Rotate the pistol so you can see in the chamber. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.

(ON SLIDE #16)

8) While pointed in a safe direction, bring the pistol to a position where a second party can inspect the chamber to ensure no ammunition is present.

NOTE

The secondary inspection is conducted by another Marine as follows; the Marine:

1. Visually inspects the pistol's chamber to ensure it is empty, no ammunition is present, and the magazine is removed.
2. Ensures the weapon is on safe.
3. Acknowledges the pistol is clear.

9) Cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing outboard. Release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber. There are two methods to do this:

- a) Press the slide stop with the firing thumb.

NOTE

A left-handed Marine will press the slide stop with the index finger.

- b) Grasp the slide serrations behind the open chamber and pull the slide to the rear and release it, taking care not to engage the safety.

10) Return the ejected round to the magazine.

i. Procedures for Emptying the Magazine. Once the weapon is unloaded, the pistol magazine can be emptied of ammunition. To empty the magazine, perform the following steps:

- 1) Hold the magazine upright with the back of the magazine tube against the palm of the hand.



- 2) Push the top round forward with the thumb and catch it with the other hand as it is removed.
- 3) Repeat until the magazine is empty.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: A Marine should know the condition of his pistol at all times to comply with safety rules and, most importantly, to be prepared for the next engagement. When time or the situation dictate, the Marine should check the condition of his weapon.

6. (8 MIN) DETERMINE THE CONDITION OF THE WEAPON

The Marine should check the condition of his weapon whenever he has time or thinks of it. For example, after the fight is over and before holstering the pistol, the Marine should check the condition of his weapon. To determine the condition of the pistol:

- a. Determine if There is a Round in the Chamber. Conduct a chamber check to determine if a round is in the chamber. A chamber check may be conducted at any time to check the pistol's condition (e.g., after placing the weapon in Condition 1, whenever the time or situation dictates). There are two methods of checking the chamber: conducting a chamber check, and by checking the round indicator on the strong side of the pistol.

(ON SLIDE #17)

- 1) Chamber Check
 - a) With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, place the trigger guard in the palm of the support hand and, with the thumb and index finger, grasp the forward end of the slide at the indentations under the front sight, behind the muzzle.

CAUTION

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.



- b) Keeping the thumb in place around the backstrap of the pistol, rotate the fingers of the strong hand over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight.
- c) Pull the slide to the rear by pulling back on the rear sight with the fingers while providing resistance with the thumb. Use the support hand to steady the weapon and to assist, as necessary.
- d) Hold the slide to the rear with the strong hand just enough to visually inspect the chamber for a round. Physically check for a round by inserting a finger of the firing hand into the ejection port area.

CAUTION

Pulling the slide too far to the rear while inspecting the chamber may cause a stoppage or the ejection of a round.

- e) Remove the finger from the chamber and release tension on both hands to allow the slide to go forward. Ensure the slide is all the way forward.

(ON SLIDE #18)

2) Checking the Round Indicator. When there is a round in the chamber, the upper surface of the extractor protrudes from the right side of the slide. The protrusion can be felt by sliding a finger or thumb of the support hand over the top of the slide and across the extractor. Red paint on the extractor further indicates a round in the chamber, however, over time the red paint can be rubbed off.

NOTE

This procedure is not recommended when wearing gloves. When wearing gloves or under duress, it may be difficult to feel this protrusion.

(ON SLIDE #19)

b. Determine if There are Rounds in the Magazine. When time permits, drop the magazine and look at the top of the magazine for a round present. Look at the holes on the back



of the magazine. Each hole is spaced in increments representing five rounds. If rounds are present viewed through the top hole, there are at least five rounds in the magazine. If rounds are present in the second hole, there are at least 10 rounds in the magazine, and so on.

c. If there is a round in the chamber, but no rounds in the magazine, the Marine should conduct a tactical reload. Stow the empty magazine before withdrawing and inserting a filled magazine.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: The service pistol is an effective and extremely reliable weapon. Proper care and preventive maintenance will usually ensure the pistol's serviceability. Stoppages, while infrequent, do occur. To keep the weapon in action, stoppages must be cleared as quickly as possible through corrective action.

7. (10 MIN) CORRECTIVE ACTION

a. Definitions

(ON SLIDE #20)

1) Stoppage. A stoppage is an unintentional interruption in the cycle of operation. An example of a stoppage is the slide not going fully forward. A stoppage is normally discovered when the pistol will not fire. Most stoppages can be prevented by proper care, cleaning, and lubrication of the pistol.

2) Malfunction. A malfunction is a failure of the pistol to fire satisfactorily or to perform as designed. A malfunction does not necessarily cause an interruption in the cycle of operation. An example of a malfunction is a broken front sight which does not affect the functioning of the weapon. When a malfunction occurs, the weapon must be repaired by an armorer.

b. Introduction to Corrective Action. There is no one set of procedures that can be performed to clear all or even most of the stoppages that can occur with the service pistol. Therefore, with the pistol, the stoppage must be



investigated and corrective action must be performed to clear it.

c. Shooter-Induced Stoppages. Most stoppages of the service pistol are caused by shooter error. The Marine must be aware of these shooter-induced stoppages so he can avoid making these mistakes and, if he does make a mistake, can quickly identify and remedy a problem and get his weapon back into action. Shooter-induced stoppages include:

(ON SLIDE #21)

- 1) The shooter fails to make ready.
- 2) The shooter fails to take the weapon off safe prior to firing.
- 3) The shooter engages the safety while firing.
- 4) The shooter engages the magazine release button while firing.
- 5) The shooter engages the slide stop while firing. This is indicated by the slide locked to the rear with a round in the magazine.
- 6) The shooter fails to reset the trigger.
- 7) The shooter fails to recognize the weapon has run dry and the slide has locked to the rear.
- 8) The shooter fails to offer enough resistance to recoil.

d. Corrective Action Procedures. Corrective action is the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation. Once the pistol ceases firing, the Marine must visually or physically observe the chamber area to identify the problem. The pistol must be brought in to a position where the Marine can observe the chamber and operate and function the weapon. The Marine must also seek cover if the tactical situation permits or requires. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on observation of the following indicators:

NOTE

The trigger finger should be straight along the receiver.



(ON SLIDE #22)

1) Indicator - The Slide is Forward. To return the weapon to operation:

- a) Observe - Observe the chamber area.
- b) Tap - Bring the weapon into your workspace and tap or strike upward on the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is fully seated.
- c) Rack - Pull the slide all the way to the rear and release it to ensure a round is chambered.
- d) Bang - Sight in and attempt to fire.

(ON SLIDE #23)

2) Indicator - Visible Obstruction. This occurs when a round or a piece of brass gets stuck in the chamber. To return the weapon to operation:

- a) Observe - Observe the chamber area.
- b) Rotate the pistol so the chamber is facing outboard and hold the slide to the rear.
- c) Shake the pistol to free the brass/round.
 - (1) If brass is still observed in the chamber, lock the slide to the rear.
 - (2) Attempt to remove the magazine and clear the chamber.
- d) Release the slide to chamber a round.
- e) Sight in and attempt to fire.



e. Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil

WARNING

When an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced, under no circumstances is corrective action performed. An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and a lower report - the pistol will not cycle. This is sometimes accompanied by excessive smoke escaping from the chamber area.

1) Training Environment. If an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced during firing, immediately cease fire. Do not apply corrective action; instead, perform the following steps:

NOTE

The trigger finger should be straight along the receiver.

- a) Point the pistol down range.
- b) Place the pistol on safe.
- c) Raise your hand for assistance from range personnel.

2) Combat Environment. The tactical situation may dictate correction of an audible pop or reduced recoil. To clear the pistol, perform the following steps:

NOTE

The trigger finger should be straight along the receiver.

- a) Unload the pistol, but leave the slide locked to the rear.
- b) Insert something into the bore and clear the obstruction.
- c) Observe the barrel for cracks or bulges.
- d) Reload the weapon.



Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: There are many types of stoppages that can be cleared using corrective action. We have discussed the most common. Any weapon that is rendered inoperable or unsafe must be repaired by an armorer. Another area that is critical to safe weapons handling is the Marine's ability to transfer a weapon to another Marine.

8. (5 MIN) TRANSFERRING THE PISTOL FROM ONE MARINE TO ANOTHER

There are two methods for transferring the pistol from one Marine to another. Each is performed based on the operational environment/combat situation.

(ON SLIDE #24)

- a. "Show Clear" Transfer. To transfer the weapon:
 - 1) While grasping the pistol firmly in the strong hand, ensure the pistol is on safe.
 - 2) Remove the magazine.
 - 3) Lock the slide to the rear and catch the round if there is a round in the chamber.
 - 4) Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty and leave the slide locked to the rear.
 - a) If the other Marine is to the right: Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the support hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip.
 - b) If the other Marine is to the left: With the support hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the fingers over the slide and the thumb underneath. Release the firing grip.
 - 5) With the muzzle pointed up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction and the chamber exposed, hand the pistol to the other Marine, grip first.



NOTE

Return the ejected round to the magazine.

- 6) The other Marine:
 - a) Grasps the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver.
 - b) Visually inspects the chamber to ensure it is empty.
 - c) Ensures the pistol is on safe.

(ON SLIDE #25)

- b. Condition Unknown Transfer. To transfer the weapon:
 - 1) While grasping the pistol firmly in the strong hand, ensure the pistol is on safe.
 - a) If the other Marine is to the right: Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the support hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip.
 - b) If the other Marine is to the left: With the support hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the fingers over the slide and the thumb underneath. Release the firing grip.
 - 2) With the muzzle pointed up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction, hand the pistol to the other Marine, grip first.
 - 3) The other Marine:
 - a) Grasps the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver.
 - b) Ensures the pistol is on safe.
 - c) Conducts a chamber check to determine the condition of the weapon.
 - d) If time permits, removes the magazine and counts the number of rounds in the magazine by using the



counting holes. Reinserts the magazine into the magazine well ensuring it is fully seated.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Understanding and applying the principles of weapons handling are critical to developing safe and consistent weapons skills. Strict adherence to training and diligent practice will make weapons handling instinctive. Mission accomplishment and survival in combat depend on it.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:

(1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines with questions to the class.
 - a. QUESTION: What are the four safety rules?

ANSWER: Rule 1 - Treat every weapon as if it were loaded; Rule 2 - Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot; Rule 3 - Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire; Rule 4 - Keep the weapon on safe until you intend to fire.

- b. QUESTION: What is Condition 4 with the service pistol?

ANSWER: Magazine removed, slide forward, chamber empty, and decocking/safety lever on.

- c. QUESTION: When and why is a chamber check conducted on the pistol?

ANSWER: A chamber check can be performed at any time to check the pistol's condition.

- d. QUESTION: Where should the pistol muzzle be pointed when loading and unloading the pistol?

ANSWER: In a safe direction.

- e. QUESTION: If the pistol fails to fire and you observe the slide forward, what corrective action do you take?

ANSWER: Tap, rack, bang.



f. QUESTION: What are three common shooter-induced stoppages?

Answer: 1) Fails to make ready; 2) Fails to take the weapon off safe prior to firing; 3) Engages the safety while firing; 4) Engages the magazine release button while firing; 5) Engages the slide stop while firing; 6) Fails to reset the trigger; 7) Fails to recognize the weapon has run dry and the slide has locked to the rear; 8) Fails to offer enough resistance to recoil.

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: *Ask Marines as many questions as necessary to ensure they fully understand the material presented in this lesson.*

SUMMARY:

(1 MIN)

Pistol safety is the responsibility of every Marine at all times. A thorough understanding of basic handling and safety for the service pistol is critical to safe and effective pistol marksmanship. Weapons handling includes the procedures for loading, making ready, and unloading the pistol. Procedures learned and practiced in training must become habitual to ensure effective weapons handling in combat.