



CPP.8  
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**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
WEAPONS TRAINING BATTALION  
TRAINING COMMAND  
27211 GARAND ROAD  
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5036

## **LESSON PLAN**

PISTOL PRESENTATION AND SEARCH AND ASSESS

CPP.8

COMBAT PISTOL PROGRAM

CID XXXX

REVISED 10/1/2012

APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



INTRODUCTION

(3 MIN)

**(ON SLIDE #1)**

1. GAIN ATTENTION. To be effective in combat, the Marine must be alert to his surroundings and the situation so that he may react appropriately. The Marine must have the ability to quickly present the weapon on target to engage it. Following engagement, the Marine must search and assess the situation and quickly determine what action to take.

2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover presentation of the pistol from the Tactical Carry and the holster, search and assess procedures, and actions taken upon assessing the situation.

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

a. TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE. Given a service pistol, (2) 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\_.

b. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1) Given a service pistol, (2) magazines, magazine pouch, ammunition, target, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, present the pistol to the target IAW MCRP 3-01B.

2) Given a service pistol, (2) magazines, magazine pouch, ammunition, target, unit-issued holster, and personal protective equipment (PPE), without the aid of references, assess the situation 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 will be evaluated during Pistol Firing Table One, Training Block Five, CPP.14.



TRANSITION: The pistol may be presented to the target from the Tactical Carry or from the holster. We will begin this period of instruction by discussing the techniques for presentation.

BODY

(25 MIN)

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** **(25 Min)** Use the EDIP (Explain, Demonstrate, Imitate, Practice) method to conduct this demonstration and practical application. The practical application requires (1) pistol, (2) magazines, (1) holster, (1) belt, and magazine pouches per demonstrator; (1) target per shooter set up at 7, 15, and 25 yards.

**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. The instructor must Unload, Show Clear and let at least one other individual inspect the weapon and all magazines before commencing the demonstration. Ensure shooters determine the condition of their weapon every time they holster.

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.

3. **Debrief:** The instructor(s) will provide overall feedback, guidance on any misconceptions, and review the learning points.



## 1. (10 MIN) PRESENTATION OF THE SERVICE PISTOL

a. Tactical Carry. To present the pistol from the Tactical Carry, perform the following steps in sequence. These steps should be performed in one smooth, fluid movement. When a target appears:

- 1) Sweep the decocking/safety lever with the support thumb, and immediately place the finger on the trigger to take up the trigger slack.
- 2) Start to extend the arms forward to the target while continuing trigger press.

(ON SLIDE #2)

3) Pick up the front sight. As the arms are extended, level the rear sight with the front sight to acquire sight picture. As the pistol is presented, shift the focus from the target to the front sight to obtain sight alignment. As the front sight breaks the plane of vision, acquire the front sight and begin to apply trigger control as sight picture is acquired.

4) Continue trigger press throughout presentation. Ideally, the shot breaks the moment full presentation and sight picture are achieved.

(ON SLIDE #3)

b. Presentation from the Holster. To present the pistol from the holster, perform the following steps in sequence:

1) Step One

a) 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.

b) At the same time, release the weapon retention device by pressing the release button with the index finger of the firing hand.

2) 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. Sweep the safety with the firing thumb.

(ON SLIDE #4)

3) Step Three

- a) Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining it with the support hand in front of the torso. If the safety was not able to be swept yet, sweep it with the support thumb.

**CAUTION**

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

- b) Roll the thumbs forward; the support thumb points forward and the firing thumb rests on top of it.

(ON SLIDE #5)

4) Step Four

- a) At the same time, start to punch the weapon out toward the target by extending the arms and rolling the front sight to the target.
- b) Continue punching the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, apply trigger pressure.
- c) As the arms are extended, level the rear sight with the front sight and acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area and fire the shot. Ideally, the shot breaks the moment full presentation and sight picture are achieved.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Following engagement, the Marine must search the area for additional targets and assess the situation. We will now discuss search and assess procedures.



## 2. (10 MIN) SEARCH AND ASSESS

a. Introduction. In combat, once a Marine fires one or two rounds to engage a target, he must quickly assess the situation and the effectiveness of his engagement.

- 1) This split-second assessment should be done quickly and allow the Marine to determine a best course of action.
- 2) Making a quick assessment breaks the Marine out of the tunnel vision that can occur during combat engagement in which the Marine expends a number of rounds without assessing the results, often with little accuracy.
- 3) Immediately after target engagement, the Marine must assess the situation to determine if the threat has been eliminated and search the area to determine if there is a new target that must be engaged.

b. Search and Assess Procedure. To search and assess, perform the following steps in sequence:

(ON SLIDE #6)

- 1) Immediately after a target is engaged, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver. Do not place the pistol on safe.
- 2) While maintaining the firing grip, bend the elbows and lower the arms just enough to look over the pistol muzzle and provide a clear field of view.
- 3) Look over the front sight to allow sight alignment and sight picture to be quickly reestablished should follow-on shots need to be fired.
- 4) Search the area by moving the head and eyes left and right (approximately 45 degrees from center). Keeping both eyes open will increase the field of view.
- 5) When it is determined the area is clear of all enemy threat, place the weapon on safe, and assume a carry or holster the weapon.

Confirm by questions.



**TRANSITION:** Once the Marine has assessed the situation, he must determine a course of action based on the situation.

**3. (5 MIN) ACTIONS TAKEN UPON ASSESSING THE SITUATION**

Upon searching and assessing, the Marine will take action based on the situation.

**(ON SLIDE #7)**

a. If the target has been eliminated and the fight is over, break the wrists to elevate the muzzle and quickly glance at the chamber area to ensure the slide is forward. At the same time, place the pistol on safe and bring the pistol back to the Tactical Carry. Depending on the situation, the Marine may perform any of the following:

- 1) Conduct a chamber check.
- 2) Determine the condition of his weapon by dropping the magazine and counting the rounds.
- 3) Conduct a reload.

**NOTE**

Reloads will be covered in the next lesson.

- 4) Holster the weapon.

b. If the threat has not been eliminated, the Marine must determine whether to reengage the threat.

- 1) If the Marine decides to reengage the threat, the size, time, distance to the target and capabilities of the Marine will dictate the technique used.
- 2) If the target's distance exceeds the Marine's capabilities for engaging it or the target is partially exposed and too small for the Marine to accurately engage it, the Marine should not attempt to reengage the target. In this situation, the Marine may seek cover, seek out a better opportunity for engagement, or use support to better stabilize the weapon.



Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: The combat environment will require the Marine to be constantly prepared to engage targets with little or no warning. To be effective in this environment, the Marine must be able to search and assess after engagement and take appropriate action.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS: (1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines with questions to the class.
  - a. QUESTION: When is the safety swept during presentation of the pistol?

ANSWER: The safety is swept with the firing thumb once the muzzle clears the holster and the pistol is rotated forward. If the safety wasn't able to be swept then, it may be swept with the support thumb once the hands have joined during presentation.

b. QUESTION: Why is it necessary to break out of engagement after firing two rounds and assess the situation?

ANSWER: Breaking out of engagement and making a quick assessment prevents the Marine from the tunnel vision that can occur during combat engagement in which the Marine expends a number of rounds without assessing the results, often with little accuracy. A quick assessment allows the Marine to determine a best course of action.

c. QUESTION: Is the weapon on Safe during search and assess?

ANSWER: No, the weapon is not placed on Safe.



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

SUMMARY:

(1 MIN)

This lesson covered presentation from the Tactical Carry and holster as well as search and assess procedures. Search and assess allows the Marine to make an assessment and determine the best course of action based on the situation. Dry fire practice in presentation will