



DIV-24  
1 May 07

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
WEAPONS TRAINING BATTALION  
MARINE CORPS COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMMAND  
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5040

**DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**

LESSON TITLE

PISTOL WEAPONS HANDLING

COURSE TITLE

DIVISION MATCH COURSE



DIV-24  
1 May 07

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
Weapons Training Battalion  
Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5040

**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**PISTOL WEAPONS HANDLING**

**INTRODUCTION**

(3 MIN)

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 M9 service pistol to include safety rules, carries/transports, weapons conditions, weapons commands procedures, transferring the weapon from one Marine to another, and remedial action.
3. **INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES.** The Division Match instruction is structured to prepare the shooter to fire the Division Match Course and is not a component of a formal school program. Therefore, there are no learning objectives.
4. **METHOD.** This lesson will be taught in a classroom setting using lecture and demonstration. A practical application will be conducted for performing weapons handling during DIV-23A, Pistol Weapons Handling Exercise.
5. **EVALUATION.** The Division Match instruction is structured to prepare the shooter to fire the Division Match Course and is not a component of a formal school program. Therefore, students are not evaluated on this material.

**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

(40 MIN)

**NOTE**

The procedures in this lesson are written for right-handed Marines. Left-handed Marines should reverse instructions as needed.

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** Substitutions of the language in this lesson plan for 'right' and 'left' hand may be made with 'strong' and 'support', respectively, or 'firing' and 'non-firing' as desired.

**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 #1)

- 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. To handle the weapon safely, the Marine must know how to effectively withdraw the weapon from the holster.

**2. (3 MIN) WITHDRAWING THE PISTOL FROM THE HOLSTER**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** Demonstrate the procedures in this section as they are explained. Once all of the procedures are explained and demonstrated, demonstrate withdrawing the pistol from the holster in one smooth, continuous motion.

The firing grip is not established in the holster, however, a proper firing grip can be established if the weapon is withdrawn from the holster correctly. The weapon should be withdrawn from the holster in one continuous, fluid motion:

(ON SLIDE #2)

- a. Place the heel of the left hand at the center of the torso. At the same time, unfasten and release the D-ring with the right hand.

**NOTE**

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

In an Isosceles position, the fingers will be extended toward the target. To avoid covering the left hand in a Weaver position, the fingers will not be extended toward the target and, instead, the palm will be facing the torso.

(ON SLIDE #3)

- b. With the right hand, place the thumb on the forward edge of the lower portion of the holster and the fingers around the back edge of the holster, keeping the trigger finger straight.

(ON SLIDE #4)



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c. Slide the hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip. At the same time, keep the thumb above the pistol to guide the holster flap up.

(ON SLIDE #5)

d. Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers and draw the pistol straight up. Continue withdrawing the weapon while moving the thumb to a position on the safety.

(ON SLIDE #6)

e. Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward to clear the body. Ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction.

**NOTE**

This hand placement allows a firing grip to be established once the thumb disengages the safety. Any adjustments made to the firing grip after the safety is disengaged should be minor.

(ON SLIDE #7)

f. Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the left hand with the right hand in front of the torso.

**CAUTION**

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

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. Weapons carries and transports correspond to the threat situation and allow quick engagement of the enemy.



### 3. (6 MIN) WEAPONS CARRIES AND TRANSPORTS

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** Demonstrate the carries and transports as they are explained.

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

(ON SLIDE #8)

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 right 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 #9)

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 safety is on, the slide is forward, and the trigger finger is straight.
- b) With the right hand firmly gripping the pistol grip, place the pistol in the holster:
  - (1) Lift the flap of the holster with the left hand.
  - (2) Look down at the holster, bring the pistol back to a position above the holster and rotate the muzzle down into the holster.



(3) Push the pistol snugly into the holster and fasten the flap with the right hand.

b. Weapons Carries. As the threat level increases, so should the Marine's readiness for engagement. The weapons carries are designed to place the Marine in a state of increased readiness as the threat level increases. There are two carries with the pistol; the carries permit quick engagement when necessary.

(ON SLIDE #10)

- 1) Alert. The Alert is used when enemy contact is likely (probable). To perform this carry:
  - a) Ensure the pistol is on safe.
  - b) Grasp the pistol grip firmly with two hands. The trigger finger is straight and the right thumb is on the safety in a position to operate it.
  - c) The arms may be extended down at approximately a 45-degree angle to the body or the elbows may be bent. 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 likely direction of the threat.

(ON SLIDE #11)

- 2) Ready. The Ready is used when there is no target, but contact with the enemy is imminent. To perform this carry:
  - a) Ensure the pistol is on safe.
  - b) Grasp the pistol grip firmly with two hands. The trigger finger is straight and the right thumb is on the safety in a position to operate it.
  - c) Extend the arms and raise the pistol to just below eye level so a clear field of view is maintained. The muzzle of the pistol is pointed in the direction of enemy contact.

Confirm by questions.



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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 M9 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 M9 SERVICE PISTOL**

(ON SLIDE #12)

- a. Condition 1. Magazine inserted, round in chamber, slide forward, and safety on.
- b. Condition 2. Not applicable.
- c. Condition 3. Magazine inserted, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety on.
- d. Condition 4. Magazine removed, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety 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 M9 service pistol. These procedures ensure safe and effective handling of the pistol.

#### **5. (12 MIN) WEAPONS HANDLING PROCEDURES**

- a. Weapons Commands. Weapons commands direct the Marine to safely load, unload, and employ the M9 service pistol. Six commands are used in weapons handling.
  - 1) "Load" is the command to take a weapon from Condition 4 to Condition 3.
  - 2) "Make Ready" is the command to take a weapon from Condition 3 to Condition 1.
  - 3) "Fire" is the command to engage targets.
  - 4) "Cease Fire" is the command to cease target engagement.



5) "Unload" is the command to take a weapon from any condition to Condition 4.

6) "Unload, Show Clear" is the command to require a second individual to check the weapon to verify that no ammunition is present before the weapon is put into Condition 4.

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** Demonstrate the following procedures as they are explained.

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:

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.

(ON SLIDE #13)

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 ammunition pocket with rounds down and pointed inboard.

c. Procedures for "Load." On the command "Load," perform the following steps to take the pistol from Condition 4 to Condition 3:

1) Ensure the pistol is on safe.

2) With the right hand firmly gripping the pistol and the pistol pointed in a safe direction, bring the weapon up with the magazine well just below eye level. Cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck.



**NOTE**

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

(ON SLIDE #14)

- 3) With the left hand, remove a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket. Index the magazine by sliding the index finger along the forward edge of the magazine.

(ON SLIDE #15)

- 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. Procedures for "Make Ready." On the command "Make Ready," perform the following steps to take the pistol from Condition 3 to Condition 1:

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

(ON SLIDE #16)

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

**CAUTION**

Ensure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.

- 3) Pull the slide to its rearmost position by pushing forward with the right hand while pulling back on the slide with the left hand.

- 4) Release the slide. This will strip a round from the magazine and chamber it as the slide moves forward.



**NOTE**

Ensure the weapon remains on safe.

5) Conduct a chamber check to ensure a round is in the chamber. (A chamber check may be conducted at any time to check the pistol's condition.) There are two methods of checking the chamber: conducting a chamber check, and by checking the round indicator on the right side of the pistol.

a) Chamber Check

(ON SLIDE #17)

(1) With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, place the trigger guard in the palm of the left 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.

(ON SLIDE #18)

(2) Keeping the thumb in place around the backstrap of the pistol, rotate the fingers of the right hand over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight.

(3) Pull the slide to the rear by pushing forward with the right thumb and pulling back on the rear sight with the fingers. Use the left hand to steady the weapon and to assist in pulling the slide to the rear.

(4) Hold the slide to the rear with the right hand just enough to visually inspect the chamber for a round. Physically check for a round by inserting a finger of the right hand into the chamber area.



**CAUTION**

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

(5) 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 #19)

b) 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 left hand over the top of the slide and across the extractor.

e. Procedures for "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 right thumb.
- 2) Place the trigger finger on the trigger and apply pressure to the trigger until the shot is fired.

f. Procedures for "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 right hand.
- 3) Assume a carry or transport.

g. Procedures for "Unload." On the command "Unload," perform the following steps to take the pistol from any condition to Condition 4:

- 1) With the right hand firmly gripping the pistol, ensure the pistol is on safe.
- 2) Rotate the pistol so the magazine well is pointed inboard and angled down.



**NOTE**

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 left hand and retain it on your person.
- 4) Push upward on the slide stop with the right 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 left index finger.

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

(ON SLIDE #20)

- 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 left hand.
- 7) Rotate the pistol so you can see in the chamber. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.
- 8) Press the slide stop to release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber.

**NOTE**

Return the ejected round to the magazine.

h. Procedures for "Unload, Show Clear." On the command "Unload, Show Clear," perform the following steps to take the pistol from any condition to Condition 4:

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



- 2) Rotate the pistol so the magazine well is pointed inboard and angled down.

**NOTE**

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 left hand and retain it on your person.
- 4) Push upward on the slide stop with the right 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 left index finger.

- 5) Reach over the top of the pistol with the left hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb and index finger. The left 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 left hand.
- 7) Rotate the pistol so you can see in the chamber. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.

(ON SLIDE #21)

- 8) Bring the pistol to the administrative transport and have a second party 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) Press the slide stop to release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber.

**NOTE**

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: If weapons handling procedures are practiced, the Marine develops the basics for future pistol marksmanship and handling the weapon safely will become instinctive. Another area that is critical to safe weapons handling is the Marine's ability to transfer a weapon to another Marine.



6. (7 MIN) TRANSFERRING THE PISTOL FROM ONE MARINE TO ANOTHER

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** Demonstrate the procedures in this section as they are explained.

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

- a. Show Clear Transfer. To transfer the weapon:

- 1) While grasping the pistol firmly in the right 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.

(ON SLIDE #22)

- a) If the other Marine is to the right: Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip.

(ON SLIDE #23)

- b) If the other Marine is to the left: With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers underneath. Release the firing grip.

(ON SLIDE #24)

- 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.
- b. Condition Unknown Transfer. To transfer the weapon:
- 1) While grasping the pistol firmly in the right hand, ensure the pistol is on safe.

(ON SLIDE #25)

- a) If the other Marine is to the right: Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip.

(ON SLIDE #26)

- b) If the other Marine is to the left: With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers 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. The M9 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 remedial action.

## 7. (10 MIN) REMEDIAL ACTION

### a. Definitions

- 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 Remedial Action. There is no one set of procedures (i.e., immediate action) that can be performed to clear all or even most of the stoppages that can occur with the M9 service pistol. Therefore, with the pistol, the stoppage must be investigated and remedial action must be performed to clear it.

c. Shooter-Induced Stoppages. Most stoppages of the M9 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 #27)

- 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.
- 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.

d. Remedial Action Procedures. Remedial action requires investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation. Once a weapon ceases firing, you must visually or physically observe the weapon to identify the problem before you can clear it. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on what is observed.

(ON SLIDE #28)

**NOTE**

The trigger finger should be straight along the receiver.

1) Remedial Action Steps

- a) Bring the weapon in close to the body and in a position to observe the chamber.
- b) Pull the slide to the rear while observing the chamber area to identify the stoppage.

**NOTE**

Ensure the weapon does not go on safe when pulling the slide to the rear.

- c) Correct the stoppage:

(ON SLIDE #29)

- (1) If there is a round in the magazine but not in the chamber:
  - (a) Release the slide and observe a round being chambered.

(ON SLIDES #30 AND 31)

- (b) If you do not observe a round being chambered, tap the bottom of the magazine to seat it properly, and rack the slide to the rear.



(ON SLIDE #32)

(2) If there is no round in the magazine or chamber, conduct a reload.

d) Fire the weapon.

2) Indicator - Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil

**WARNING**

When an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced, under no circumstances is remedial 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.

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

**NOTE**

The trigger finger should be straight along the receiver.

(1) Point the pistol down range.

(2) Place the pistol on safe.

(3) Raise your hand for assistance from range personnel.

b) 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.

- (1) Unload the pistol, but leave the slide locked to the rear.
- (2) Insert something into the bore and clear the obstruction.
- (3) Observe the barrel for cracks or bulges.
- (4) Reload the weapon.

Confirm by questions.

**TRANSITION:** There are many types of stoppages that can be cleared using remedial action. We have discussed the most common. Any weapon that is rendered inoperable or unsafe must be repaired by an armorer.

**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 M9 service pistol?

ANSWER: Magazine removed, slide forward, chamber empty, and safety 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: What is the weapons command to take the pistol from any condition to Condition 4?

ANSWER: Unload.

f. QUESTION: Why is immediate action not performed on the pistol to clear a stoppage?

ANSWER: Immediate action is not performed to clear a stoppage on the pistol because 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 M9 service pistol.

Therefore the stoppage must be investigated and remedial action performed.

**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 M9 service pistol is critical to safe and effective pistol marksmanship. The M9 service pistol is an extremely reliable weapon. The vast majority of stoppages occur as a result of the shooter making a mistake. The Marine must be able to perform remedial action to get his weapon back into action. 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.



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