



DIV-26
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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WEAPONS TRAINING BATTALION
MARINE CORPS COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5040

DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

LESSON TITLE

PISTOL TECHNIQUES OF FIRE

COURSE TITLE

DIVISION MATCH COURSE



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

DETAILED OUTLINE

PISTOL TECHNIQUES OF FIRE

INTRODUCTION

(3 MIN)

1. GAIN ATTENTION. To successfully engage a combat target with the M9 service pistol, the Marine must have the ability to employ effective techniques of fire. The Marine's performance of these skills, along with proper application of the fundamentals of marksmanship, are the keys to his success in a combat situation.
2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover double and single action firing, two-shot technique, and slow fire technique.
3. INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES. The Terminal Learning Objective and Enabling Learning Objective pertaining to this lesson are as follows:
 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.
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: There are several techniques of fire used for target engagement with the M9 service pistol. Double and single action firing are tied directly to the functional capability of the pistol. Based on the combat situation, each can be employed to effectively engage a target.



BODY

(15 MIN)

NOTE

The procedures in this lesson are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse directions 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. (11 MIN) DOUBLE AND SINGLE ACTION FIRING

The M9 service pistol is capable of firing both double and single action.

a. Pistol Design

1) Double Action Mode. The design of the M9 service pistol causes the first shot fired to be a double action shot.

a) In double action firing, two actions occur as the trigger is moved to the rear; the hammer moves to the rear, cocking the weapon, and then the hammer moves forward, firing the weapon. More pressure is required on the trigger to fire a double action shot due to the distance the trigger and hammer have to travel and the weight of the trigger. A double action shot requires approximately 9 - 16 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward.

b) Maintaining sight alignment/sight picture is harder when firing a double action shot; therefore, it is more likely that the sights will move outside the aiming area when applying trigger pressure.

2) Single Action Mode. Once the first shot is fired, subsequent shots are fired single action because the cycle of operation leaves the hammer cocked to the rear, automatically placing the pistol in the single action mode.

a) In single action firing, the only action taking place as the trigger is moved to the rear is the hammer moving forward, firing the weapon. A single action shot requires approximately 4 - 6 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward.



b) The application of trigger control is easier when firing a single action shot.

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: *Demonstrate thumbcocking the pistol as it is explained.*

c) To enable the first shot to be fired single action, the pistol's hammer can be manually cocked with the thumb.

NOTE

The weapon must be taken off safe before it can be thumbcocked.

(1) To thumbcock the pistol, use the left thumb to pull back on the hammer to cock it. This ensures the firing grip of the right hand does not have to be broken.

(2) When thumbcocking the pistol, ensure the hammer is moved all the way to the rear, and the trigger finger remains straight along the receiver until the pistol is fully cocked.

(3) Reestablish the firing grip with both hands once the weapon is cocked.

b. Factors Affecting Whether to Fire Single or Double Action. The Marine must make a quick decision whether to fire single or double action. Ultimately, the decision will be based on the Marine's capabilities, but the decision will also be based on time and accuracy.

(ON SLIDE #1)

1) Time. There is a payoff between time and accuracy. The Marine will sacrifice time to fire a single action, precision shot; but what he sacrifices in time, he will gain in accuracy.

a) For quick engagements at close range, there may not be time to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot because shots are needed on target quickly and stability of hold and sight picture are not as critical to accuracy.



b) When time permits and for targets at longer ranges, the pistol may be thumbcocked to place it in the single action mode to reduce the weight of the trigger and the distance it must travel rearward to fire the first shot.

2) Distance and Size of the Target. The smaller the target, the more critical the application of the fundamentals to engage it accurately. The pistol should be thumbcocked and fired in the single action mode when the fundamentals are more critical to accuracy (i.e., long range, small targets at close range). Likewise, the pistol should be fired in the double action mode when trigger control, sight picture, and stability of hold are not as critical for accuracy (i.e., close range, large targets).

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Understanding how the firing action of the pistol affects sight alignment and trigger control will help the Marine develop greater accuracy in target engagement. To enhance the Marine's effectiveness of target engagement in combat, the Marine may have to fire more than one shot to successfully engage a target.

2. (3 MIN) CONTROLLED PAIRS

a. Definition. In combat, it is a good technique to rapidly fire more than one shot on a target to eliminate it as a threat. Two shots fired in rapid succession, also called controlled pairs, will increase the trauma (i.e., shock, blood loss) on the target, increasing the Marine's chances of quickly eliminating the threat. Therefore, a controlled pair, each with its own sight picture, is most often fired in rapid succession on a target at close range.

b. Recovery. After the pistol is fired, the pistol's muzzle climbs with the recoil of the weapon. To fire a controlled pair, the Marine must quickly recover the sights to the same area on the target while reacquiring sight alignment and sight picture. The speed at which two shots are fired is also dependent on the ability of the Marine and how fast he can reacquire his front sight. Proper recovery automatically brings the sights back on target following recoil. Quick recovery allows more time for the Marine to align the sights and apply trigger control to fire the next shot. Recovery begins immediately after the application of the fundamentals to bring the pistol sights into alignment with the target in preparation for firing the next shot.



Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Controlled pairs will allow the Marine to effectively engage many combat targets. For targets at longer ranges, however, it may be necessary to slow down the application of the fundamentals to deliver a single, precision shot. This can be accomplished through a slow fire technique.

3. (1 MIN) SLOW FIRE TECHNIQUE

Sight alignment becomes more critical the smaller the target and the greater the distance to the target. In these situations, the Marine does not engage the target with two rapidly fired shots because he has to slow down his application of the fundamentals to fire a precision shot(s). To engage small targets (i.e., partially exposed) and targets at longer ranges where precision is required, the Marine must employ the following slow fire technique:

- a. Thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot.
- b. Slow down the application of the fundamentals.
- c. Fire one well-aimed, precision shot on the target.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Dry fire and practice in firing the pistol using the techniques discussed in this lesson will increase the Marine's confidence with the weapon and enhance his combat effectiveness.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:

(1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines with questions to the class.
 - a. QUESTION: What two actions occur when the M9 service pistol is fired in double action mode?

ANSWER: As the trigger is moved to the rear, the hammer moves to the rear, cocking the weapon, and then the hammer moves forward, firing the weapon.

- b. QUESTION: Why is it a good technique to fire a controlled pair on a target to eliminate it as a threat?



ANSWER: Two shots fired in rapid succession will increase the trauma on the target.

c. QUESTION: What is the preferred technique of fire for firing a precision shot?

ANSWER: Slow fire.

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 techniques of fire with the M9 service pistol to include double and single action firing, controlled pairs, and the slow fire technique. Understanding and applying these techniques will increase the Marine's accuracy and effectiveness during target engagement.



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SLIDES

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