

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FIELD MEDICAL TRAINING BATTALION-EAST
PSC BOX 20042
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0042

STUDENT READ-AHEAD MATERIAL

EXECUTE KNIFE TECHNIQUES

MCCS-TAN-1013

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY AND COMBAT SKILLS TRAINING

M03L753

REVISED 07/24/2020

1. **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**. To prevent injury during training, ensure the following:

a. Each student should be provided a training knife, eye protection, and groin protection for all training.

b. Ensure students do not execute the techniques at full speed or with full body contact.

c. Train the practical application portion of knife techniques in two stages:

(1) Begin with students executing the techniques "in the air." Do not allow students to make contact on an opponent or a target during the initial stages of training. At this stage, students should focus on acquiring skills.

(2) As students become more proficient, allow them to pair up and face each other as they perform the techniques so they can acquire a target. Both the student and the opponent are stationary. There should be no contact between students at this stage.

2. **PURPOSE**. The purpose of knife fighting is to cause enough damage and massive trauma to stop an opponent.

3. PRINCIPLES.

a. Angles of Attack There are six angles from which an attack with a knife can be launched:

(1) Vertical strike coming straight down on an opponent.

(2) Forward diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.

(3) Reverse diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.

(4) Forward horizontal strike coming in parallel to the deck.

(5) Reverse horizontal strike coming in parallel to the deck.

(6) Forward thrust coming in a straight linear line to the opponent.

b. Target Areas of the Body. In any confrontation, the parts of the opponent's body that are exposed or readily accessible will vary. The goal in a knife fight is to attack soft body vital targets that are readily accessible such as the face, the sides and front of the neck, and the lower abdomen or groin.

(1) Neck. Carotid arteries are good target areas because they are not covered by body armor or natural protection.

(2) Lower Abdomen or Groin. The lower abdomen and groin region are not covered by body armor.

(3) Aorta. The aorta, if not covered by body armor, is an excellent target, which, if struck, can prove fatal in a matter of seconds or minutes.

c. Secondary Targets -- The Extremities. There are additional, secondary target areas that will cause a lot of bleeding by severing an artery. These target areas are not immediately fatal, but will often become fatal if left unattended.

(1) Attacks on secondary targets such as the legs can cause a great deal of trauma and prove fatal. For example, the femoral artery located in the thigh is a large artery which, if cut, will cause extensive blood loss.

(2) Attacks on the brachial artery, located between the biceps and triceps on the inside of the arm, can cause extensive bleeding and damage.

(3) Attacks on the radial and ulnar nerves of the arm can cause extensive bleeding and damage.

d. Movement. Consider a 360-degree circle around an opponent. You can move anywhere in this circle to gain a tactical advantage and make accessible different target areas of your opponent's body.

(1) The worst place to be in a confrontation is directly in front of an opponent. The opponent can rely on his forward momentum and linear power to create a tactical advantage.

(2) When facing an opponent, movement is made in a 45 degree angle to either side of the opponent. Moving at a 45-degree angle is the best way to both avoid an opponent's strike and to put you in the best position to attack an opponent.

e. Wearing of the Knife When armed with a rifle, the Marine is issued a bayonet; when armed with a pistol, the Marine is issued a fighting knife.

(1) In either case, the knife must be worn where it is easily accessible and where it can best be retained.

(2) It is recommended the knife be worn on the weak side hip, blade down. The fighting knife should be placed so its blade is facing forward.

DEMONSTRATE/IMITATE :

.50 HR

(3) The knife should be placed behind the magazine pouch where it is easily accessible but not easily grabbed by an opponent.

(4) Ensure the knife is not worn next to a canteen because the canteen can slide on the cartridge belt, covering the knife and making it inaccessible.

f. Grip Your grip on the knife should be natural. Grasp the knife's grip with your fingers wrapped around the grip naturally as it is pulled out of its sheath. This is commonly known as a hammer grip; the blade end of the knife is always facing the opponent.

g. Stance The basic warrior stance serves as the foundation for initiating knife techniques.

(1) The left hand serves as a vertical shield protecting the ribs or the head and neck.

(2) The right elbow is bent with the blade pointing forward toward the opponent's head. This position serves as an index point, where all techniques are initiated.

(3) The weapon should be held at a level approximately from the top of the belt to chest high.

(4) The weapon should be kept in close to the body to facilitate weapon retention.

h. Principles of Knife Fighting

(1) Always execute movements with the knife blade within a box, shoulder-width across from your neck down to your waistline. The opponent has a greater chance of blocking your attack if you bring the blade in a wide sweeping movement to the opponent. Your attacks should close with the opponent, coming straight to your target.

(2) Always keep the knife's blade tip forward and pointed toward the opponent.

DEMONSTRATE/IMITATE :

.75 HR

(3) Apply full body weight and power in each of the knife techniques. Full body weight should be put into the attack in the direction of the blade's movement (slash or thrust). Applying constant forward pressure with your body and blade will keep the opponent off-balanced.

TRANSITION: Review material, probe with questions, and introduce new material. There are two basic knife techniques: Slashing and thrusting. We will begin with slashing techniques.

4. FUNDAMENTALS.

a. INTRODUCTION TO KNIFE TECHNIQUES

(1) Vertical Slash Purpose. Slashing techniques are used to close with an enemy. Slashing techniques distract the opponent or cause enough damage to close with him. Targets are usually the limbs or any portion of the body that is presented.

(2) Technique.

(a) Stand facing your opponent.

(b) Thrust your right hand out and bring the weapon straight down on the opponent.

(c) Continue dragging the knife down through the opponent's body. Maintain contact on the opponent's body with the blade of the knife. The slashing motion follows a vertical line straight down through the target.

(d) Resume the modified basic warrior stance.

DEMONSTRATE/IMITATE:

.50 HR

(3) Vertical Thrust Purpose: Thrusting techniques are more effective than slashing techniques because of the damage they can cause. However, slashing techniques are used to close with the enemy to get in proximity where a thrusting technique can be used. The thrusting motion follows a vertical line straight up through the target (low into the abdomen region or high into the neck).

(2) Technique.

(a) Stand facing your aggressor in the modified basic warrior stance.

(b) Thrust your right hand toward the target, inserting the knife blade straight into the aggressor.

(c) Pull the knife out of the aggressor.

(d) Resume the modified basic warrior stance.

b. Considerations for Using the Bayonet and fighting knife
The fighting knife is a sharp, single-bladed knife designed for cutting and tearing. The bayonet is a dual-bladed knife with a narrower and duller blade. The design of the bayonet makes it more effective for thrusting motions rather than slashing motions.