COMBAT LEADERSHIP
“War will disappear only when men shall take no part whatever in violence & shall be ready to suffer every persecution that their abstention will bring them. It is the only way to abolish war.”

-- Anatole France, Nobel Prize Winner 1921
“It is only those who have neither fired a shot, nor heard the shrieks & groans of the wounded, who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell.”

-- General William Tecumseh Sherman, Union Army
OVERVIEW

- Definition of Combat
- (9) Elements of Combat
- Risks of Combat - created by the (9) Elements
  - Identify Combat Stresses
  - Combat Stress-Related Reactions
  - Overcoming Combat Stresses
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Please Read Your

Terminal Learning Objectives

And

Enabling Learning Objectives
QUESTIONS
The Marine Corps defines combat as “engaging the enemy with individual or crew served weapons; being exposed to direct or indirect enemy fire; and otherwise undergoing a high probability of direct contact with enemy personnel and firepower, to include the risk of capture.” (MCTP 6-10B, 21-4)
(9) ELEMENTS OF COMBAT
(Described in Pictures)

Element 1 - Violent, unnerving sights and sounds.
(9) ELEMENTS OF COMBAT
(Described in Pictures)

Element 2 – Casualties.
Element 3 – Confusion and lack of information.
Element 4 – Feelings of isolation.
(9) ELEMENTS OF COMBAT
(Described in Pictures)

Element 5 – Communication breakdowns.
Element 6 – Individual discomfort and fatigue.
Element 7 – Fear, stress and mental fatigue.
Element 8 – Continuous operations.
Element 9 – Homesickness.
QUESTIONS
COMBAT STRESSES

Each of the (9) Elements of Combat have the ability to create the following five stresses:

1. Extreme Risk and Fear
2. The “Fog of War”
3. Discomfort and Fatigue
4. Casualties
5. Boredom
1. Extreme Risk and Fear:

**Risk:** Possibility of suffering harm or loss.

**Fear:** Alarm & agitation caused by the expectation or realization of danger.
2. The “Fog of War”:

- Literally, the fog created by the dust, smoke, & debris of the battlefield.
- The confusion & uncertainty often present on the battlefield.
3. Discomfort and Fatigue:

**Discomfort:** The annoyance & displeasure Marines suffer when wet, cold, hungry, thirsty, and/or weary.

**Fatigue:** Physical & mental weariness due to exertion.
4. Casualties:

- Casualties are Marines and Sailors who are injured or killed in battle.
- Casualties significantly degrade both individual & unit morale.
5. Boredom:

Long periods of inactivity can lead to careless behavior or degraded preparation for combat.

Complacency kills!
Stress is a normal response to change.

There are four zones of the stress continuum model:

1. Ready
2. Reacting
3. Injured
4. ILL
COMBAT STRESS-RELATED REACTIONS

Stress is a normal response to change.

The four main causes of stress injuries:

1. Life Threats
2. Wear & Tear
3. Loss
4. Inner Conflict

MCTP 3-30E, Page 4-14
Stress is a normal response to change.

The four common categories of stressors:

1. Physical
2. Environmental
3. Emotional
4. Cognitive

MCTP 3-30E
QUESTIONS
The keys for Marines and Sailors to overcome the stresses of combat are:

1. Morale and Motivation
2. Discipline & Esprit de Corps
3. Proficiency
4. Training
OVERCOMING THE FIVE COMBAT STRESSES

Morale and Motivation:

Always be aware of the morale of your fellow Marines. Be aware that your own attitude is likely to influence the attitudes of the Marines around you as well. Maintain a positive attitude for the sake of your mission & Marines!
Be proud of your Corps & what you represent. By having the discipline to do things the Marine Corps way, you ensure your greatest chance of success & survival.
Proficiency:

Work to be good at your job. Confidence in your abilities will give you confidence in battle. Your Marines will depend on you to be able to perform your duties competently.
Training will ensure your proficiency. Train your Marines to ensure their proficiency. In the chaos of war, it is your training that you & your Marines will fall back on to accomplish the mission.
Training:

Proper training allows Marines to prepare for combat & situations that occur in battle.

A diverse & realistic set of training exercises should be used by units to prepare Marines for the elements they may encounter in combat.
The objectives of the MARINE CORPS COMBAT AND OPERATIONAL STRESS CONTROL PROGRAM are force preservation and readiness, and long-term health and well-being.

For Stress assistance and treatment

Use your Chain of Command
Use your Medical Department
Use your Chaplain
QUESTIONS
SUMMARY

- Definition of Combat

- (9) Elements of Combat

- Risks of Combat - created by the (9) Elements
  - Identify Combat Stresses
  - Combat Stress-Related Reactions
  - Overcoming Combat Stresses
BACKUP SLIDES
I only offer you the truth.

Fail this Exam,

And you may find out how deep the rabbit hole goes!
Direct Fire - fire that takes a straight path to a target that is within line of sight

Indirect Fire – fire that takes an arcing path to a target that is not necessarily within line of sight