



DIV-3  
1 May 07

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

**DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**

LESSON TITLE

RIFLE WEAPONS HANDLING

COURSE TITLE

DIVISION MATCH COURSE



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**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
Weapons Training Battalion  
Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
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**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**RIFLE WEAPONS HANDLING**

**INTRODUCTION**

(3 MIN)

1. **GAIN ATTENTION.** The service rifle/carbine is designed to kill the enemy. However, the rifle cannot differentiate between enemies and friends. That is the responsibility of the rifleman. He must, at all times, use it effectively against the enemy and safely among his fellow Marines. Knowledge of the rifle, its capabilities, and the procedures for its safe handling are essential skills for every Marine. A Marine in combat must handle his rifle instinctively. Mission accomplishment and survival in combat depend on it. Strict adherence to training and diligent practice will make weapons handling instinctive.
2. **OVERVIEW.** This lesson will cover rifle weapons handling procedures.
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:** Safety rules are intended to avoid injury to personnel and damage to property. Each of the four safety rules will accomplish this goal if it is properly followed. A violation of any one of these safety rules will not be tolerated. There is no allowance for deviation from the four safety rules during any marksmanship training in the Marine Corps.



**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.*

BODY

(55 MIN)

**1. (2 MIN) SAFETY RULES**

The safety rules are easy to remember in a classroom or in a non-stressful environment. In a combat environment, a Marine is exposed to conditions that can disorient or unnerve him and increase the potential for inappropriate handling of the weapon. In addition, lack of focus in non-threatening situations can cause the Marine to become careless in handling his weapon. This puts him, and those around him, at risk. Training in the four safety rules must be repetitive to ensure automatic adherence when the Marine is in possession of a weapon.

(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 an individual handling or transferring possession of a weapon to another. It reinforces the utilization of all other safety rules with every weapon.

- 1) Never trust your memory or make any assumptions about a weapon's safety status. Check your weapon whenever there is any doubt.
- 2) Check your weapon for ammunition whenever it has been out of your possession.
- 3) Never hand a weapon to anyone without clearing it. Clearing is a procedure for ensuring there is no ammunition in the weapon. (You will later learn that this is known as placing your weapon in Condition 4.) Whenever you assume control of a weapon from someone, your first action is to clear it, even if you have witnessed its clearing.
- 4) Never move in front of a weapon held by someone else.
- 5) Never engage in or tolerate horseplay with or around weapons.



b. Rule 2: Never Point a Weapon at Anything You Do Not Intend to Shoot. This rule reinforces the importance of muzzle awareness.

1) Always be aware of muzzle direction and your surroundings. This ensures you will not unintentionally point your weapon at anything other than an intended target.

2) Be aware of the maximum range of your weapon. If you do not know what is beyond your vision in any unprotected direction, do not point your weapon in that direction.

3) Never allow the muzzle of your weapon to point at any part of your body.

c. Rule 3: Keep Your Finger Straight and Off the Trigger Until You are Ready to Fire. This rule is intended to minimize the risk of firing the weapon negligently.

1) Never be guilty of a negligent discharge.

2) A common reaction to a sudden shock or loss of balance while handling a weapon is an unintentional tightening of the grip. If your finger is off the trigger, you will eliminate the potential for firing a shot accidentally.

d. Rule 4: Keep Weapon on Safe Until You Intend to Fire. This rule enforces the use of the weapon's own safety feature.

1) The SAFE position on the selector lever is a built-in feature that has only one function. That function is to prevent inadvertent firing of the rifle.

2) When patrolling or walking it is possible for the trigger to be unintentionally depressed by objects (e.g., branches, wire, gear) encountered en route. Keeping the weapon on safe ensures the weapon will not fire if the trigger is accidentally engaged.

3) Never trust anyone else regarding a weapon's safety status.

Confirm by questions.



TRANSITION: Whether in combat or in training, the four safety rules are the Marine's primary guide to weapons handling. There is no way to properly handle a firearm without strict adherence to these rules. As part of weapons handling, Marines must be able to carry and transport their weapons.

## 2. (6 MIN) WEAPONS CARRIES

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

(ON SLIDE # 2)

a. Tactical Carry. The Tactical Carry is used when no immediate threat is present. This carry is employed with the web sling. It permits control of the rifle while moving and still allows quick engagement of the enemy, if necessary. The Tactical Carry is the least tiring of the field carries.

- 1) Place your left hand on the handguards, your right hand around the pistol grip, your trigger finger straight along the receiver, and your right thumb resting on top of the selector lever.
- 2) Place the buttstock of the rifle along the side of your body at approximately hip level.

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** Remind left-handed shooters that their left thumb should rest on top of the selector lever during this carry.

- 3) Angle the muzzle of the rifle upward about 45 degrees in the general direction of the enemy.
- 4) Position the muzzle in front of your eyes, slightly below eye level. Ensure wherever your eyes move, the muzzle moves (eyes, muzzle, target).



(ON SLIDE #3)

b. Three-point Sling Controlled Carry. This carry is used when no immediate threat is present. It is employed with the three-point sling. In this carry, the weapon hangs muzzle down in vertical alignment with the front of the body. The muzzle should point straight down, between the feet or just to the outside of the feet, maintaining constant muzzle awareness. The weapon may be controlled with the right hand grasping the buttstock. The weapon may also be controlled by grasping the handguard with the left hand.

(ON SLIDE #4)

c. Alert. The Alert is used when enemy contact is likely (probable). It is employed with both the web sling and the three-point sling. Engagement of the enemy is faster from the Alert than from the Tactical Carry. However, the Alert is more tiring and its use for long periods should be avoided.

1) Place your left hand on the handguards, your right hand around the pistol grip, your trigger finger straight along the receiver, and your right thumb resting on top of the selector lever.

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** Remind left-handed shooters that their left thumb should rest on top of the selector lever during this carry.

2) Place the buttstock of the rifle in your shoulder with the muzzle angled down about 45 degrees and pointed in the likely direction of the enemy.

(ON SLIDE #5)

d. Ready. The Ready is employed when contact with the enemy is imminent. It is employed with both the web sling and the three-point sling. It allows immediate target engagement but is very tiring to maintain over a long period of time.

1) Place your left hand on the handguards, your right hand around the pistol grip, your trigger finger straight along the receiver, and your right thumb resting on top of the selector lever.

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** Remind left-handed shooters that their left thumb should rest on top of the selector lever during this carry.



- 2) Place the buttstock of the rifle in your shoulder with the muzzle of the rifle pointed in the direction of enemy contact. Lower the rifle sights to just below eye level so a clear field of view is maintained so that a target may be identified.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: The carries are used in the field when contact with the enemy may occur. The sling transports are generally used behind the lines when enemy contact is less likely or when both hands are needed for other work. As with the field carries, these transports also help ensure safety and require muzzle awareness.

### 3. (7 MIN) WEAPONS TRANSPORTS

The transports, in which the rifle is slung over the back or shoulders, are especially useful when moving for long periods and when no immediate threat is present. They are much less tiring than the field carries. They are also used whenever both hands are needed for other work.

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

(ON SLIDE #6)

a. Strong Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Up). This transport is used when contact with the enemy is unlikely. It is employed with the web sling. To assume this transport from the Tactical Carry:

- 1) Release the pistol grip of the rifle.
- 2) Lower the buttstock of the rifle and bring the rifle to a vertical position.
- 3) With the right hand, grasp the sling above the left forearm.
- 4) Guide the rifle around the right shoulder with the left hand and extend the right arm through the sling.



5) Place the sling on the right shoulder and apply downward pressure on the sling with the right hand to stabilize the rifle on the shoulder.

6) Release the handguard.

b. Weak Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Down). As with the strong side transport, this transport is used when enemy contact is unlikely. It is employed with the web sling. This transport is used mainly in inclement weather to keep moisture out of the bore of the rifle. To assume this transport from the Tactical Carry:

1) Release the pistol grip of the rifle.

2) Lower the buttstock of the rifle and bring the rifle to a vertical position.

3) Rotate the rifle outboard until the pistol grip is pointing toward the body.

4) Reach over the left forearm and grasp the sling with the right hand.

5) Rotate the muzzle down with the left hand while sliding the right hand up the sling. Place the sling on the left shoulder.

6) Grasp the sling with the left hand and apply downward pressure to stabilize the rifle on the shoulder.

7) Release the handguard.

c. Cross Body Sling Arms (Muzzle Up or Down). The cross body transport is used when both hands are required for work, such as digging a fighting hole. It is employed with the web sling. The rifle is slung across the back with the muzzle up or down. Normally, the weapon will be carried with the muzzle down to prevent pointing the muzzle in an unsafe direction, unless the situation dictates otherwise. To assume this transport:

1) From Weak Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Down):

a) With your right hand, grasp the sling.

b) With your left hand, grasp the handguards.

c) Pull up on the rifle with both hands.

d) Slide the sling over your head.





- e) Position the rifle so it is comfortable across your back.
- 2) From Strong Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Up):
  - a) With your left hand, grasp the sling.
  - b) With your right hand, grasp the pistol grip.
  - c) Pull up on the rifle with both hands.
  - d) Slide the sling over your head.
  - e) Position the rifle so it is comfortable across your back.

(ON SLIDE #7)

d. Three-point Sling Cross Body, Muzzle Up. This cross body transport is employed with the three-point sling. To assume the cross-body, muzzle up transport with the three-point sling:

- 1) From the Tactical Carry, reach over the top of the handguards and grasp them with the left hand.
- 2) Place the right hand on the buttstock. While pushing down on the buttstock, control and guide the muzzle end of the rifle with the left hand while continuing to push the rifle under the left shoulder around to the back.
- 3) Grasp the sling at the shoulder with the right hand and apply downward tension on the sling. At the same time, continue to guide the buttstock around to the back of the body with the left hand. The rifle is slung across the back with the muzzle up.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Weapons transports allow a Marine to carry his weapon over long distances, while weapons carries allow quick engagement of the enemy. They also help ensure your safety and the safety of your fellow Marines. As part of weapons handling, Marines must be able to fill, stow, and withdraw magazines.



**4. (5 MIN) FILLING, STOWING, AND WITHDRAWING MAGAZINES**

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

a. Filling the Magazine with Loose Rounds. Perform the following steps to fill the magazine:

- 1) Remove a magazine from the magazine pouch.
- 2) Place a round on top of the follower.
- 3) Press down until the round is held between the follower and feed lips of the magazine.
- 4) Repeat until the desired number of rounds is inserted. The recommended number of rounds per magazine is no more than 29. Thirty rounds in the magazine may prohibit the magazine from seating properly on a closed bolt.
- 5) Tap the back of the magazine to ensure the rounds are seated against the back of the magazine.

b. Filling the Magazine Using a 10-round Stripper Clip and Magazine Filler. The magazine can also be filled quickly using a 10-round stripper clip and magazine filler. Perform the following steps to fill the magazine with the 10-round stripper clip:

- 1) Remove a magazine from the magazine pouch.
- 2) Slide the magazine filler into place.
- 3) Place a 10-round stripper clip into the narrow portion of the magazine filler.
- 4) Using thumb pressure on the rear of the top cartridge, press down firmly until all ten rounds are below the feed lips of the magazine.
- 5) Remove the empty stripper clip while holding the magazine filler in place.
- 6) Repeat until the desired number of rounds is inserted. The recommended number of rounds per magazine is no more than 29. Thirty rounds in the magazine may prohibit the magazine from seating properly on a closed bolt.
- 7) Remove the magazine filler and retain it for future use.



8) Tap the back of the magazine to ensure the rounds are seated against the back of the magazine.

c. Procedures for Emptying the Magazine. There are two methods of emptying the magazine. Whichever method is used, it will be followed by securing the magazine in the magazine pouch and retrieving any loose rounds.

1) By Hand. Using your thumb, push on the cartridge base of the top round, forcing it forward and out of the magazine. Continue this procedure until the magazine is empty.

2) With Stripper Clip. With the front of the magazine parallel to the deck, press the second round in the magazine with a stripper clip, relieving the tension on the top round and allowing it to fall out of the magazine. Continue this procedure until the magazine is empty.

d. Stowing Magazines and Wearing of Gear

(ON SLIDE #8)

1) Magazine Pouch. In a magazine pouch, filled magazines are stowed with rounds down and projectiles pointing away from the body. The magazine pouch is worn on a cartridge belt attached to an H-Harness. The belt should be tight around the waist. This will ensure that the magazine pouch does not drift out of position unexpectedly. The magazine pouches may be placed on either side of the body, or both, depending on shooter preference and manipulation method.

(ON SLIDE #9)

2) Load-bearing Vest (LBV). In a load-bearing vest with angled pouches, filled magazines are stowed with rounds down and projectiles pointing inboard. The LBV should be tight to the body to prevent shifting.

(ON SLIDE #10)

3) MOLLE Gear. When using MOLLE gear with magazines stowed on the chest, filled magazines are stowed with rounds down and projectiles pointing toward either side of the body depending on shooter preference. The magazine pouches may be mounted on either side, depending on shooter preference and manipulation requirements. The vest should be tight to the body to prevent shifting and the magazine pouches should be mounted where they are easily and naturally accessible.



(ON SLIDE #11)

4) Empty or Partially Filled Magazines. When empty or partially filled magazines are stored in a magazine pouch, they are stowed with the rounds or follower up to allow the selection of filled magazines by touch (i.e., at night feeling a baseplate indicates a filled magazine).

e. Withdrawing Magazines

1) Magazine Pouch and MOLLE Vest. To withdraw magazines from a magazine pouch (magazines are withdrawn with the left hand):

a) With your thumb and index finger, pinch the magazine pouch release to open the magazine pouch (magazine pouch), or unsnap the pouch cover (MOLLE).

b) Slide your thumb over the top of the magazines, feeling for a baseplate indicating a filled magazine. Continue to slide your thumb until it rests on the back of the magazine.

c) Grasp the magazine with your thumb, little finger, and ring finger and lift the magazine directly out of the pouch.

d) As the magazine clears the pouch, grip with all fingers and rotate it up to check the rounds in the magazine.

2) Load-bearing Vest. To withdraw magazines from a load-bearing vest (magazines are withdrawn with the left hand):

a) With your thumb and index finger, unfasten the snap on the vest pouch.

b) Slide your thumb over the top of the magazine, feeling for a baseplate indicating a filled magazine. Rotate your hand over the magazine while sliding your thumb to the back of the magazine.

c) Grasp the magazine with your thumb, little finger, and ring finger.

d) As you lift the magazine directly out of the pouch, fully grasp the magazine with all fingers and rotate it up to observe the rounds in the magazine.

Confirm by questions.



TRANSITION: The combat situation dictates the rifle's condition. A rifle's readiness for fire is defined by three conditions.

## 5. (5 MIN) WEAPONS CONDITIONS

(ON SLIDE #12)

### a. Conditions

- 1) Condition 1. Magazine inserted, round in chamber, bolt forward, safety on, ejection port cover closed.
- 2) Condition 2. Condition 2 does not apply to the rifle.
- 3) Condition 3. Magazine inserted, chamber empty, bolt forward, safety on, ejection port cover closed.
- 4) Condition 4. Magazine removed, chamber empty, bolt forward, safety on, ejection port cover closed.

<p><b><i>INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:</i></b> Demonstrate the procedures as they are explained.</p>
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b. Determining the Condition of a Rifle. A Marine must know the condition of his weapon at all times. Any time a Marine takes possession of a weapon, he must determine its condition. Situations include taking charge of your own weapon after it has been unattended (e.g., from the armory, out of a rifle rack, left in a vehicle), coming across an unmanned rifle in combat, or taking charge of another Marine's weapon that is attended or unattended.

- 1) Determine if a magazine is present.
- 2) Ensure the weapon is on safe.
- 3) Conduct a Chamber Check. A chamber check may be conducted at any time to determine if ammunition is present:



- a) Bring your support hand back against the magazine well so the slip ring rests in the "V" of the hand. Extend the fingers of your left hand and cover the ejection port (right-handed shooter) or extend the thumb over the ejection port (left-handed shooter).
- b) Grasp the charging handle with the index and middle fingers of your right hand. Control the weapon by pointing the muzzle to the deck and applying tension against the stock with the heel of the hand.
- c) Pull the charging handle slightly to the rear and visually and physically inspect the chamber.
  - (1) Right-handed Marines: Insert one finger of your left hand into the ejection port and feel whether a round is present.
  - (2) Left-handed Marines: Insert the thumb of the right hand into the ejection port and feel whether a round is present.
- d) Release the charging handle and observe the bolt going forward.
- e) Tap the forward assist.
- f) Close the ejection port cover (if time and the situation permit).

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: A Marine must know the condition of his weapon at all times. Any time a Marine takes possession of a weapon, he must determine its condition. Adherence to training is the greatest ally a Marine can have when faced with a stressful combat situation. During training and practice, weapons handling techniques are polished and skills are developed with the help of standardized commands and drills to make weapons handling second nature. Each step in the loading and unloading process takes the rifle to specific levels of readiness for live fire.

## **6. (15 MIN) WEAPONS COMMANDS AND WEAPONS HANDLING PROCEDURES**

- a. Commands. Weapons commands dictate the specific steps to load, make ready, and unload the service rifle. Six commands are used in weapons handling.



(ON SLIDE #13)

- 1) "Load" is the command used to take a weapon from Condition 4 to Condition 3.
- 2) "Make Ready" is the command used to take a weapon from Condition 3 to Condition 1.
- 3) "Fire" is the command used to specify when Marines may engage targets.
- 4) "Cease Fire" is the command used to specify when Marines must stop target engagement.
- 5) "Unload" is the command used to take a weapon from any condition to Condition 4.

**NOTE**

The command "Unload" places the responsibility on the shooter to properly unload his weapon and ensure it is in Condition 4.

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

**NOTE**

The command "Unload, Show Clear" places the responsibility on both the shooter and the Marine performing the secondary inspection to ensure that the rifle is in Condition 4.

b. Weapons Handling Procedures. The commands are executed as follows:

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** *Demonstrate the procedures (using a magazine and dummy rounds) as they are explained.*

- 1) Unload. On the command "Unload," perform the following steps to take the rifle from any condition to Condition 4:
  - a) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
  - b) Remove the magazine from the rifle and retain it on your person.



- c) Bring your left hand back against the magazine well so the slip ring rests in the "V" of the hand. While cupping the left hand under the ejection port, rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing the deck.
  - d) Pull the charging handle to the rear and catch the round in the left hand.
  - e) Lock the bolt to the rear.
  - f) Put the rifle on safe now if it would not go on safe earlier.
  - g) Ensure the chamber is empty and no ammunition is present.
  - h) Release the bolt catch and observe the bolt going forward on an empty chamber.
  - i) Close the ejection port cover.
  - j) Check the sights. (This check is to ensure proper BZO setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.)
  - k) Return the ejected round to the magazine.
  - l) Return the magazine to the magazine pouch and fasten the pouch.
- 2) Load. On the command "Load," perform the following steps to take the rifle from Condition 4 to Condition 3:
- a) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
  - b) Withdraw a magazine from the magazine pouch.
  - c) Observe the magazine to ensure it is filled. Index the magazine by raising the grip on the magazine so the index finger touches the top round. Ensure that the top round is present and seated properly in the magazine. Lower the grip to the bottom of the magazine by striking the bottom of the magazine on your gear.





d) Fully insert the magazine into the magazine well until the magazine catch engages the magazine. The magazine catch will "click" as it engages, which can be felt or heard by the shooter. Without releasing the magazine, tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is seated.

e) Fasten the magazine pouch.

3) Make Ready. On the command "Make Ready," perform the following steps to take the rifle from Condition 3 to Condition 1:

a) Pull the charging handle fully to the rear and release.

**NOTE**

Right-handed shooter using left hand: Grip the pistol grip with the right hand and pull the charging handle with the left hand.

Left-handed shooter using left hand: Grip the handguards with the right hand and pull the charging handle with the left hand.

Right-handed shooter using right hand: Grip the handguards with the left hand and pull the charging handle with the right hand.

b) To ensure ammunition has been chambered, conduct a chamber check.

c) Close the ejection port cover (if time and the situation permit).

d) Check the sights. (This check is to ensure proper BZO setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.)

4) Fire. On the command "Fire," perform the following steps:

a) Aim the rifle, take the rifle off safe, and pull the trigger.



b) After completion of firing, lower the rifle sights to just below eye level so a clear field of view is maintained until a new target has been identified or the threat has been eliminated.

5) Cease Fire. On the command "Cease Fire," perform the following:

a) Place your trigger finger straight along the receiver.

b) Place the weapon on safe.

6) Unload, Show Clear. On the command "Unload, Show Clear," perform the following steps to take the rifle from any condition to Condition 4:

a) Ensure the rifle is on safe.

b) Remove the magazine from the rifle and retain it on your person.

c) Bring your left hand back against the magazine well so the slip ring rests in the "V" of the hand. While cupping the left hand under the ejection port, rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing the deck.

d) Pull the charging handle to the rear and catch the round in the left hand.

e) Lock the bolt to the rear.

f) Put the rifle on safe now if it would not go on safe earlier.

g) Inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty and no ammunition is present.

h) Have a second party inspect the rifle to ensure no ammunition is present.



**NOTE**

The secondary inspection is conducted by a second party as follows; the individual:

1. Visually inspects the rifle'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 rifle is clear.

- i) After receiving acknowledgement that the rifle is clear, release the bolt catch and observe the bolt going forward on an empty chamber.
- j) Close the ejection port cover.
- k) Check the sights. (This check is to ensure proper BZO setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.)
- l) Return the ejected round to the magazine.
- m) Return the magazine to the magazine pouch and fasten the pouch.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Now that we have covered weapons handling, we will discuss keeping your rifle in action. Each time a round is fired, the weapon goes through a cycle of operation. Understanding the cycle of operation will help you identify problems, correct them, and get the rifle back into action as quickly as possible.

**7. (10 MIN) REMDIAL ACTION**

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

- a. Cycle of Operation. There are eight steps in the cycle of operation for the M16A2 service rifle:



(ON SLIDE #14)

- 1) Firing. Firing is the ignition of the propellant within the cartridge case forcing the projectile down and out the barrel.
- 2) Unlocking. Unlocking is the rotation of the bolt until the locking lugs no longer align with the lugs on the barrel extension.
- 3) Extracting. Extracting is the withdrawal of the cartridge case from the chamber by the extractor claw.
- 4) Ejecting. Ejecting is the expulsion of the cartridge case by the ejector and spring.
- 5) Cocking. Cocking is the resetting of the hammer.
- 6) Feeding. Feeding is the stripping of a round from the magazine by the bolt.
- 7) Chambering. Chambering is the pushing of the round into the chamber by the bolt.
- 8) Locking. Locking is the alignment of the locking lugs on the bolt with the lugs on the barrel extension.

(ON SLIDE #15)

b. Stoppage. A stoppage is an unintentional interruption in the cycle of operation. A stoppage is normally discovered when the rifle will not fire. Most stoppages can be prevented by proper care, cleaning, and lubrication of the rifle and magazines.

(ON SLIDE #16)

c. Malfunction. A malfunction is a failure of the rifle 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 that the weapon fires on automatic (burst) rather than semiautomatic even though the selector lever is set on SEMI. The rifle will still fire, but it will not perform as designed. When a malfunction occurs, the weapon may have to be repaired by an armorer.



(ON SLIDE #17)

d. Remedial Action. Remedial action is the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation. Once the rifle ceases firing, the Marine must visually or physically observe the ejection port to identify the problem. The Marine must also seek cover if the tactical situation permits or requires. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on observation of the following indicators:

1) Indicator - The Bolt is Forward or Ejection Port Cover Closed. To return the weapon to operation:

- a) Tap - Tap or strike upward on the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is fully seated.
- b) Rack - Pull the charging handle all the way to the rear and release it to ensure a round is chambered.
- c) Bang - Sight in and attempt to fire.

2) Indicator - The Bolt is Locked to the Rear. To return the weapon to operation:

- a) Conduct a speed reload.
  - (1) Press the magazine release button and remove the empty magazine and retain it on your person if time permits.
  - (2) Insert a filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.
  - (3) Depress the bolt catch to allow the bolt to move forward and chamber a round.
- b) Sight in and attempt to fire.

3) Indicator - Obstruction in the Chamber Area. This usually indicates a failure to eject or extract. It is also the procedure for removing any foreign object that may be impeding function of the weapon. To return the weapon to operation:

- a) Attempt to lock the bolt to the rear. If the bolt will not lock to the rear:
  - (1) Rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing down.
  - (2) Hold the charging handle to the rear and



shake the rifle to free the round(s).

(3) If the rounds do not shake free, hold the charging handle to the rear and strike the butt of the rifle on the ground or manually clear the round.

- b) Attempt to remove the magazine.
- c) Conduct a speed reload.
- d) Sight in and attempt to fire.

4) Indicator -- Brass is Stuck Over and Behind the Bolt Face. This stoppage will prevent the bolt from moving and is caused by the weapon failing to feed or extract properly. To return the weapon to operation:

- a) Attempt to place the weapon on Safe.
- b) Remove the magazine and place the buttstock on the deck.
- c) Hold the bolt face to the rear with a sturdy, slender object (e.g., stripper clip, knife, Multi-Tool). Maintain rearward pressure on the bolt and simultaneously push forward on the charging handle to remove the obstructing round.
- d) Check the chamber area to ensure it is clear.
- e) Conduct a speed reload.
- f) Sight in and attempt to fire, if applicable.

e. Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil. An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited, or only the primer is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and a lower report. This is sometimes accompanied by excessive smoke escaping from the chamber area.

1) Training Environment. If an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced during training, immediately cease fire and perform the following steps:

- a) Take the index finger off the trigger and point the rifle down range.
- b) Place the rifle on safe.



c) Raise your free hand for assistance from range personnel.

2) Combat Environment. In this instance, the tactical situation may dictate correction of an audible pop or reduced recoil. To clear the rifle, perform the following steps:

a) Place the rifle in Condition 4.

b) Remove the bolt carrier group.

c) Inspect the bore for an obstruction from the chamber end.

d) Insert a cleaning rod into the bore from the least blocked end and clear the obstruction, pushing the round in the direction that requires the least amount of travel for the stuck projectile. This will require striking the clearing rod with a hard object to push the projectile through the barrel.

e) Reassemble the rifle.

f) Conduct a speed reload.

g) Sight in and attempt to fire, if applicable.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Proper weapons handling is required any time a weapon is present, not just in a combat situation. Proper weapons handling is required every time a Marine picks up a weapon, passes a weapon to another Marine, or receives a weapon from another Marine. It is the responsibility of the Marine receiving or taking charge of a weapon to determine its condition. Depending on the situation, there are two procedures that can be used to transfer a rifle from one Marine to another: Show Clear Transfer and Condition Unknown Transfer.



## 8. (5 MIN) WEAPONS TRANSFER PROCEDURES

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** Use two instructors to conduct the demonstration

a. Show Clear Transfer. When time and the tactical situation permit, the Marine should transfer the rifle using the Show Clear Transfer. To properly pass a rifle between Marines, perform the following procedures:

- 1) The Marine handing off the rifle must:
  - a) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
  - b) Remove the magazine if it is present.
  - c) Lock the bolt to the rear.
  - d) Visually inspect the chamber to ensure there is no ammunition present.
  - e) Leave the bolt locked to the rear and hand the weapon to the other Marine, stock first.
- 2) The Marine receiving the weapon must place the rifle in Condition 4 by performing the following procedures:
  - a) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
  - b) Visually inspect the chamber to ensure there is no ammunition present.
  - c) Release the bolt catch and observe the bolt going forward on an empty chamber.
  - d) Close the ejection port cover.

b. Condition Unknown Transfer. There are times when the tactical situation or time does not permit a Show Clear Transfer of the rifle. The procedures for the Condition Unknown Transfer are conducted by a Marine when he takes charge of a rifle in any situation when the condition of the rifle is unknown (e.g., an unattended rifle, a fallen Marine's rifle, a rifle stored in a rack). To properly take charge of a rifle when its condition is unknown, the Marine must perform the following procedures:

- 1) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
- 2) Conduct a chamber check to determine the condition of the weapon.





- 3) Remove the magazine and observe if ammunition is present in the magazine. If time permits, count the rounds.
- 4) Insert the magazine into the magazine well.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Proper weapons handling is required any time you are handling a weapon, not just in a combat situation. The ability to engage targets effectively begins with proper weapons handling. The skills that are refined and reinforced through weapons handling procedures play a key role in the development of a combat-effective rifleman.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:

(1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt students with questions to the class.
  - a. QUESTION: Which of the four safety rules most strongly enforces muzzle awareness?  
  
ANSWER: Rule 2: Never point the weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.
  - b. QUESTION: What condition is a rifle in when a magazine is inserted, a round is in the chamber, the bolt is forward, the safety on, and the ejection port cover is closed?  
  
ANSWER: Condition 1.
  - c. QUESTION: What carry or transport should be used when enemy contact is imminent?  
  
ANSWER: The Ready.
  - d. QUESTION: What is a stoppage?  
  
ANSWER: An unintentional interruption in the cycle of operation.
  - e. QUESTION: What is remedial action?  
  
ANSWER: The process of investigating the cause of a stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation.



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

SUMMARY:

(1 MIN)

Weapons handling skills are the critical skills that form the foundation for the safe and effective operation of the rifle. The ability to effectively carry and transport the weapon, the precise response to weapons commands, the proper filling and stowing of rifle magazines, and the quick and efficient performance of remedial action establish a baseline for effective marksmanship.



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