



DIV-17
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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

COMBAT MARKSMANSHIP

COURSE TITLE

DIVISION MATCH COURSE



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

DETAILED OUTLINE

COMBAT MARKSMANSHIP

INTRODUCTION

(3 MIN)

1. GAIN ATTENTION. In fundamental marksmanship training, Marines established firing positions in a controlled known distance environment. The combat environment demands quick action and the Marine can adjust his firing position to meet the challenges of the situation. The Marine must be ready to assume a firing position and present his weapon as rapidly as his physical capabilities will allow. Therefore, presentation skills are critical to accuracy as well as the application of marksmanship fundamentals. Following a combat engagement, the Marine must search and assess to look for additional targets. All of these skills are essential to combat marksmanship.
2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship in combat, presentation, combat firing positions, and search and assess procedures with the service rifle.
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.

BODY

(45 MIN)

NOTE

The procedures in this lesson are written for right-handed shooters. Left-handed shooters 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. (15 MIN) APPLICATION OF MARKSMANSHIP FUNDAMENTALS IN COMBAT

a. Compressing the Fundamentals. While the fundamentals of marksmanship are applied in all shooting scenarios, the speed of their application is increased in combat to quickly and effectively engage targets from various locations and distances. In combat, the fundamentals of marksmanship must be applied in the shortest period of time possible while still achieving accurate target engagement. There is no room for error or hesitation. The time required is unique to each individual and his own capabilities.

1) The ultimate goal in quick engagement is to achieve sight alignment and sight picture simultaneously, and to fire the shot at the moment sight alignment and sight picture are acquired.

2) Executing your shots at a rapid but effective rate can be achieved only through practice and experience. Eventually, you can become so skilled that you are not even conscious of the separate steps you take to fire your shot.

3) You must know your abilities. Fire only as quickly as you are capable of firing accurately. Do not exceed your shooting skills in an effort to get rounds quickly on target. Chances are those rounds will be ineffective. In combat, you might not have a second chance.



b. Aiming

1) Sight Alignment/Sight Picture. In combat, the fundamentals are applied simultaneously in a compressed time so sight alignment and sight picture are achieved as the shot is fired. Although the target must be quickly engaged in combat, sight alignment is still the first priority.

2) Sight Alignment and Distance to the Target. During combat, the fundamentals of marksmanship must be applied in a time frame consistent with the size and distance to the target. As the distance to the target increases, sight alignment becomes more critical for accurate target engagement.

a) Long-range Engagements. At greater distances (i.e., over 100 yards), correct sight alignment and sight picture are essential for accurate target engagement and should not be compromised.

(1) As the distance to the target increases, the front sight post covers more of the target. Since you must see the target to engage it, there is a tendency to lower the tip of the front sight post to acquire the target because it is natural to aim at what you can see. This will cause your rounds to impact low on the target or even to miss the target.

(2) The Marine must make a conscious effort to aim center mass.

b) Short-range Engagements. Proper sight alignment is always your goal. However, as the distance to the target decreases (i.e., 100 yards or less), perfect sight alignment is not as critical to delivering effective shots on the target.

(1) At very short ranges, a deviation in sight alignment can still produce accurate results as long as the tip of the front sight post is in the rear sight aperture and on the target.



(2) A mental adjustment must be made to place the aligned sights on the target, creating an acceptable sight picture as the trigger is pulled. Time, distance to the target, and personal ability will dictate what this acceptable sight picture is. Each individual must define an acceptable sight picture within his own capability. As you become more proficient, your sight picture will become more precise to center mass.

3) Weapons Presentation as an Aid to Achieving Sight Alignment/Sight Picture

a) Presentation should help you achieve proper and consistent stock weld and eye relief. This will aid in getting sight alignment quickly. Do not move your head down to meet the stock of the weapon. Hold your head as erect as possible to allow the aiming eye to see directly through the sights.

NOTE

It is important to remember that changing the placement of your head from normal stock weld may affect your BZO.

b) If the butt of the rifle is placed correctly and stock weld is correct, you should be looking through the rear sight as your rifle is presented. As the rifle levels, pick up the front sight and establish sight alignment and sight picture. With practice, this becomes so automatic that it requires minimal effort to align the sights.

c) In combat, you will be looking at the target as you are presenting your rifle. As the rifle settles, shift your focus back to the sights to place the tip of the front sight post on the target and obtain sight picture. As you become more skilled through practice, sight alignment and sight picture will appear to come together simultaneously.

4) '0-2' Rear Sight Aperture. The '0-2' rear sight aperture is designed for close range engagements under 200 meters and at night.



a) The '0-2' sight has a larger aperture for rapid acquisition of targets because it allows for a wider field of view. Therefore, the aperture can make aligning the sights more difficult due to its larger size. However, at very close ranges, sight alignment is not as critical to accuracy.

b) Flipping the larger '0-2' aperture up will automatically give a zero at 200 yards when the elevation knob is set on the 300-yard setting (8/3).

c. Breath Control. In combat, the Marine's breathing and heart rate will often be increased due to physical exertion (e.g., running) or the stress of battle. Therefore, the Marine must interrupt his breathing cycle to create a pause (i.e., hold the breath) that is long enough to fire a shot.

d. Trigger Control. When a combat target appears, it must be engaged as quickly as you can accurately fire. You must stay within your capabilities and strike a balance between speed and accuracy to deliver well-aimed shots on target. Firing quickly but inaccurately is ineffective and will give the enemy time to respond with his own fire. The goal in combat is uninterrupted trigger control. You must be aggressive in applying uninterrupted trigger control. Trigger control in combat is achieved by the following:

- 1) Maintain a firm grip on the weapon to increase stability and counter the effects of recoil. Even with a tighter grip, the trigger finger must be able to operate independently from the gripping hand so the trigger can be moved straight to the rear without disturbing sight alignment.

- 2) As presentation of the weapon begins, the safety is disengaged and the trigger finger begins moving toward the trigger.

- 3) When the trigger finger contacts the trigger, slight pressure may be applied.

- 4) As soon as the sight picture is achieved, the trigger is moved to the rear in one continuous movement, taking care not to disturb sight alignment.



e. Follow-Through/Recovery. In fundamental marksmanship training, you practiced follow-through to avoid altering the direction of the round by keeping your rifle as still as possible until the round exited the barrel. In combat, recovery is important to get the rifle sights back on the target for another shot. Recovery starts immediately after the round leaves the barrel. Applying a consistent amount of muscular tension within the position throughout the shot process will allow you to automatically recover the sights back on target. Applying recovery techniques ensures the sights are on target as quickly as possible to fire another shot.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: In combat, you may have only one opportunity to engage a target in a very limited time. You must apply the fundamentals of marksmanship aggressively and without hesitation. You must also be able to present the rifle quickly and accurately so sight picture is acquired the instant stock weld is achieved.

2. (5 MIN) PRESENTATION

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: Demonstrate the procedures for presentation as it is discussed.

In combat, the Marine must be prepared to engage targets quickly and accurately. Therefore, the Marine must be able to present his weapon effectively and efficiently to successfully engage a target. Presentation further aids in the consistent and quick acquisition of stock weld which, in turn, affects eye relief and the ability to acquire sight picture quickly and accurately.

- a. Assume the Alert (rifle in Condition 1).
- b. While looking at a specific point on the target that you intend to engage, bring the muzzle up by raising the left hand, allowing the rifle butt to pivot in the shoulder. At the same time, pull the rifle firmly into the shoulder.
- c. As the rifle is being presented, take the rifle off safe and place the trigger finger on the trigger.



d. As the stock makes contact with the cheek, level the rifle to obtain proper stock weld. Do not move the head down to meet the stock of the rifle.

e. As the sights become level with the aiming eye, visually locate the target through the rear sight aperture. If the rifle is in the shoulder properly, the aiming eye will be able to look through the rear sight as soon as the stock makes contact with the cheek.

f. As the rifle sights settle, shift the focus back to the front sight post to obtain sight alignment, and place the tip of the post center mass on the target to obtain sight picture.

g. Engage the target by moving the trigger to the rear in one continuous motion without disturbing sight alignment.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Practice in presentation drills has a direct effect on quickness and accuracy in combat. Presentation is key to achieving a consistent stock weld and eye relief, which affects acquisition of the sights. The five factors common to all shooting positions are applied in combat and are important to accurate target engagement.

3. (5 MIN) INTRODUCTION TO COMBAT FIRING POSITIONS

a. Introduction. In basic fundamental marksmanship training, we learned the four basic firing positions: prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing. These same positions are used in combat, although they may be altered to conform to available cover, to ensure quick engagement, etc. The application of the five factors common to all shooting positions are still essential in combat, although some details may be compromised for the sake of rapid, but accurate, target engagement.

b. Selection of a Combat Firing Position. The selection of a firing position in combat is based on considerations of stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy.



1) Stability. A position must provide a stable platform for accurate and consistent shooting. For instance, in combat it may be necessary to engage the same target more than once to eliminate it. If the position is solid, the rifle should recover after recoil to the same position on the target, allowing rapid reengagement. The prone position provides the most stability for firing, followed by the sitting, and then the kneeling. The standing position provides the least stability.

2) Mobility. A position must provide mobility should the Marine need to move to new cover or to another area. The standing position permits maximum mobility because it can be quickly assumed and easily maneuvered from. It also provides the most lateral movement for engagement of widely dispersed multiple targets. The standing position provides the most mobility, followed by the kneeling, and then the sitting. The prone position provides limited mobility because it is the most time consuming position to get into and out of. It also allows very limited lateral movement.

3) Observation of the Enemy. A firing position must allow observation of the enemy while limiting the Marine's exposure. In combat, there can be many obstructions to a clear field of view. Terrain features such as vegetation, earth contours, and structures can often dictate the shooting position. The standing position normally provides the best field of view, but it usually allows the most exposure. The kneeling provides the next highest amount of observation followed by the sitting. The prone position normally allows the least exposure, but it usually provides a limited field of view.

c. Application of the Five Factors. The application of the five factors must be adjusted when wearing the flak jacket and helmet in combat. In addition, combat firing positions are generally more squared to the target than angled which greatly affects the five factors.

1) Forward Hand. In combat, the body's position will be squared to the target rather than angled. Therefore, the rifle will not be angled against the chest and the left elbow and triceps will not be inverted against the torso in the standing position.



a) The placement of the forward hand affects how much muscular tension must be applied to hold the weapon up, thereby affecting stability of hold. The further out the forward hand is placed on the handguards:

(1) The less bone support that can be achieved because the elbow cannot be inverted directly under the rifle.

(2) The more muscular tension that is required to hold the weapon up.

b) A balance must be struck between bone support and muscular tension to stabilize the front sight.

c) In combat, rearward pressure may be applied slightly with the forward hand to help stabilize the sights.

2) Rifle Butt in the Shoulder. Placement of the rifle butt firmly in the shoulder provides resistance to recoil, helps steady the rifle, and prevents the rifle butt from slipping during firing.

a) With the flak jacket donned, it may be difficult to place the rifle butt in the pocket of the shoulder. Instead, while still in the shoulder, the buttstock may be moved inboard slightly to accommodate the jacket. This placement of the buttstock extends eye relief, making acquisition of the sights more difficult. (In addition, the body being more squared to the target will extend eye relief.) The rifle butt should be placed where it will not slip during recoil, but still allow acquisition of the sights.

NOTE

Some flak jackets are equipped with a stop that is designed to prevent the rifle from slipping during recoil.

b) To absorb recoil during rapid, multiple engagements in combat, the bulk of the butt must be placed in the shoulder. Therefore, the stock may be lower in the shoulder, thereby affecting stock weld which, in turn, affects eye relief.



3) Grip of the Right Hand. The principles for applying the grip between fundamental marksmanship training and basic combat marksmanship remain the same. However, due to the flak jacket being worn and the placement of the rifle butt in the shoulder, it may require additional rearward pressure from the grip to help keep the rifle butt firmly in the shoulder. Proper placement of the right hand on the pistol grip allows the trigger to be moved straight to the rear without disturbing sight alignment.

4) Right Elbow. The placement of the right elbow is the same between fundamental marksmanship training and basic combat marksmanship. Muscular tension is increased in the right arm to hold the rifle butt in the shoulder due to the rearward pressure from the grip. The placement of the elbow should remain consistent from shot to shot, ensuring the resistance to recoil remains constant.

5) Stock Weld. The placement of the shooter's cheek against the stock should remain firm and consistent from shot to shot. Stock weld is correct when the cheek bone rests on the stock.

a) Consistency of stock weld is achieved in combat through consistent presentation. Presentation to the target stops at stock weld with a firm contact between the cheek and stock. Sight picture should be acquired the instant stock weld is achieved.

b) In combat, firing positions are more squared to the target. This can cause eye relief to extend, making sight acquisition more difficult. To achieve proper eye relief, the head may be rolled forward to reduce the distance between the aiming eye and the rear sight. Hold your head as erect as possible to allow the aiming eye to see directly through the sights.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: The difference between a basic fundamental firing position and a combat firing position is that in the field a shooter must get into the position quickly. He will assume a firing position as quickly as possible, using available cover and combining steps while retaining the five factors common to all shooting positions.



4. (10 MIN) COMBAT FIRING POSITIONS

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: *Demonstrate the following positions with the three-point sling as they are discussed.*

a. Prone. The prone position provides maximum body contact with the ground permitting the most stability and the lowest silhouette. However, it is the least mobile of the shooting positions and may restrict your field of view for enemy observation.

1) Dropping Back into Position. In combat, it may be necessary to drop back into position to accommodate cover or some other obstruction. To assume the prone position by dropping back, elevate the muzzle of the weapon while squatting to the ground. Break the fall with either hand. Kick both legs straight to the rear and then assume the prone position.

2) Wearing of Gear. In combat, a flak jacket and helmet will be worn which can affect the prone position.

a) Flak Jacket. With the flak jacket donned, it is more difficult to invert the left elbow to gain bone support. Compared to the straight leg prone, the cocked leg position brings the diaphragm up off the ground, allowing the left elbow to be inverted under the weapon.

b) Helmet. The head is naturally tilted forward in the prone position. This can cause the helmet to slide forward obstructing vision. In addition, the flak jacket can push upward on the back of the helmet, causing it to slide forward. The cocked leg position brings the diaphragm up off the ground, allowing the head to remain more erect than in the straight leg prone.

b. Sitting. The sitting position provides more stability and a lower silhouette than the kneeling position. However, it provides limited mobility. The considerations for assuming the sitting position are the same in combat as they were during fundamental marksmanship training.

c. Kneeling. A kneeling position provides more stability and presents a lower silhouette to the enemy than the standing position. However, the kneeling position provides less lateral movement than the standing position.

1) Assuming the Position. To assume the kneeling position in combat, either move forward or drop back



into position, depending on the combat situation. For example, it may be necessary to drop back into position to avoid crowding cover, or to avoid covering uncleared terrain.

a) Moving Forward into Position. To move forward into the kneeling position, the Marine steps forward toward the target with his left foot and assumes the kneeling position.

b) Dropping Back into Position. To drop back into the kneeling position, the Marine leaves his left foot in place and steps backward with his right foot and assumes the kneeling position.

2) Differences Between Fundamental and Combat Position. In combat, sacrifices in the fundamentals, the three elements, or the five factors are made to engage a target quickly. However, these sacrifices degrade accuracy of engagement. Size and distance to the target affect how quickly the target must be engaged and how accurate sight picture must be to be successful. There are two elements of the kneeling position that, when compromised, give up stability of hold and accuracy of engagement.

a) Contact of the right portion of the buttocks with the right heel provides more stability to the position. However, the use of cover in combat may not allow the buttocks to make contact with the heel for necessary observation. In addition, the quickness of engagement may not permit time for the buttocks to contact the heel. In these instances, stability of hold and accuracy are sacrificed.

b) Contact of the flat part of the upper left arm above the elbow on the left knee provides more bone support and stability of hold. However, observation or lateral movement for engagement of multiple targets may cause the arm to come off the knee. In this instance, bone support and stability of hold are sacrificed for observation and lateral movement.

d. Standing. Upon initial enemy contact, the Marine will usually be moving. This means that his first shots may be fired quickly from an unsupported, uncovered position. The standing position provides a clear field of view and is highly mobile. The standing position enables rapid engagement of laterally dispersed targets. The standing position used in combat differs from the basic position in the following ways:

1) The body will be more squared to the target. The



center of balance is shifted slightly forward to decrease recovery time. The position should be aggressive, leaning slightly forward to aid in stability and control of the weapon.

2) The feet will be placed roughly shoulder width apart with the left foot forward of the right foot in a position that provides balance, stability, and control of the position.

3) Knees will be slightly bent.

4) The left elbow cannot not be inverted under the weapon when the position is squared, vice angled, to the target. Therefore, increased muscular tension is required in the left arm to hold the weapon up and stabilize the sights.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: In combat, a Marine must be prepared to engage the enemy under any circumstances. It may not be possible to assume a textbook firing position due to the necessity of quick engagement, terrain, available cover, dispersion of targets, or other factors. Following engagement, the Marine must search and assess the situation for additional targets or cover.

5. (10 MIN) SEARCH AND ASSESS PROCEDURES

a. Purpose. Searching and assessing enables the Marine to avoid tunnel vision that can restrict the focus so that an indication of other targets is overlooked. Following initial engagement, the Marine searches the area for additional targets or cover. The Marine assesses the situation to determine if he needs to re-engage a target, engage a new target, take cover, assume a more stable position, cease engagement, etc.

b. Search and Assess Technique

1) Immediately after a target is engaged, lower the weapon slightly to look over the sights of the weapon.

2) Place the trigger finger straight along the receiver.

3) Search the area and assess the situation/threat by moving the head, eyes, and rifle left and right. Wherever the head and eyes move, the muzzle follows.



Keep both eyes open to increase your field of view.

4) If a target appears, present the weapon while placing the finger on the trigger, acquire sight picture, and engage the target.

5) When it is determined the area is clear of all enemy threat, place the weapon on safe.

c. Searching and Assessing to a Higher Profile. Depending on the tactical situation, the Marine may choose to increase his area of observation by searching and assessing to a higher profile position, for example, from kneeling to standing.

1) When searching and assessing in the kneeling:

a) The left elbow may come off the knee to permit additional lateral movement.

b) The position may be raised for additional observation by raising the buttocks off the heel.

2) After searching and assessing at the kneeling position, maintain control of the rifle with the rifle butt in the shoulder, and stand while continuing to search and assess.

Confirm by questions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:

(1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.

2. Prompt students with questions to the class.

a. QUESTION: What are the considerations for selecting a combat firing position?

ANSWER: Stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy.

b. QUESTION: What must a shooter do immediately following target engagement?

ANSWER: Search and assess the situation/threat.

c. QUESTION: What is the difference between the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship in a KD environment and in combat?



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ANSWER: The fundamentals are applied in the same way. The difference is that they are applied more quickly or in a compressed time in combat.

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

SUMMARY:

(1 MIN)

Training in basic combat marksmanship prepares the shooter to engage targets in a combat environment. This training emphasizes the development of marksmanship principles to engage targets in combat situations. These skills include presentation, the fundamentals of marksmanship, firing positions, and search and assess procedures. Training and practice in these skills prepare the Marine to be effective in combat.