



DIV-28  
1 May 07

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

**DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**

LESSON TITLE

SEARCH AND ASSESS AND PISTOL REENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

COURSE TITLE

DIVISION MATCH COURSE



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

**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**SEARCH AND ASSESS AND PISTOL REENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES**

INTRODUCTION

(3 MIN)

1. GAIN ATTENTION. To be successful in combat, the Marine must have the ability to assess the situation and take appropriate action following engagement. Actions taken upon assessing the situation include re-engaging the target through a precision shot, two shots, or offset aiming; reloading; or assuming a carry or transport. 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 search and assess procedures and reengagement techniques.
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: Once a Marine engages a target, he must assess the situation to determine if the target is still a threat or if another target is present. His actions following initial target engagement will be dictated by this assessment.



BODY

(20 MIN)

**NOTE**

The procedures in this lesson are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse directions as needed.

**1. (8 MIN) SEARCH AND ASSESS PROCEDURES**

a. Introduction. In combat, once a Marine fires one or two rounds to engage a target, he must quickly assess the situation and the effectiveness of his engagement.

1) This split-second assessment should be done quickly and allow the Marine to determine a best course of action.

2) Making a quick assessment prevents the Marine from the tunnel vision that can occur during combat engagement in which the Marine expends a number of rounds without assessing the results, often with little accuracy.

3) Immediately after target engagement, the Marine must assess the situation to determine if the threat has been eliminated and search the area to determine if there is a new target that must be engaged.

b. Search and Assess Procedure. To search and assess, perform the following steps in sequence:

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** Demonstrate the search and assess procedure from the standing position.

1) Immediately after a target is engaged, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver. Do not place the pistol on safe.

2) Lower the arms just enough to look over the pistol sights and provide a clear field of view.

a) Maintain the firing grip to keep the sights level and allow sight alignment and sight picture to be quickly reestablished should follow-on shots need to be fired.

b) Do not just rotate the wrists to angle the pistol downward because this will break the firing grip and change the tension in the arms.



3) Search the area by moving the head, eyes, and pistol left and right (approximately 45 degrees from center). Wherever the head moves, the muzzle moves (eyes, muzzle, target). Keeping both eyes open will increase the field of view.

**NOTE**

The further the Marine is from the target, the smaller the degrees of movement required to search the area. The Marine should not search such a wide area that he loses balance or moves out of position.

4) When it is determined the area is clear of all enemy threat, place the weapon on safe without breaking the grip, and assume a carry or transport.

c. Actions Taken Upon Assessing the Situation. If the target has not been eliminated, the Marine must determine whether to reengage the target.

1) If the Marine decides to reengage the target, the size, time, distance to the target and capabilities of the Marine will dictate the technique used. Reengagement techniques include reengaging the target with a well-aimed precision shot or offset aiming.

2) If the target's distance exceeds the Marine's capabilities for engaging it or the target is partially exposed and too small for the Marine to accurately engage it, the Marine should not attempt to reengage the target. In this situation, the Marine may seek cover, seek out a better opportunity for engagement, or use support to better stabilize the weapon.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Once the Marine has quickly assessed the situation and determined that the threat still exists, he may make the decision to reengage the target to eliminate it as a threat. He will reengage the target using one of three reengagement techniques.



## 2. (12 MIN) REENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Reengagement techniques include engaging the target with a single precision shot through slow fire, two shots, or offset aiming. The time, size, and distance to the target as well as the capabilities of the Marine will dictate the technique used to reengage the target.

a. Slow Fire Technique. If the Marine has engaged a target and the target still poses a threat, the Marine may choose to slow down his application of the fundamentals and fire a slow fire, precision shot. The placement of one well-aimed, precision shot on a designated area of a target will increase the chances of eliminating the target as a threat. The key to the success rests with the Marine's ability to slow down his performance and focus on the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship to ensure accurate shot placement.

1) Assessing Performance. When assessing the situation, the Marine must assess his own performance to determine whether he is applying the fundamentals of marksmanship correctly. Failure to eliminate a target may be attributed to problems in the Marine's shooting performance.

2) Shot Placement. The Marine must determine where to place this precision shot for maximum effectiveness, and to make this decision, he must consider:

a) Distance and Size of the Target

(1) Close Range

(a) For targets at close range and within the capability of the Marine, a precision shot may be placed in the head to immediately eliminate the target as a threat. This is only done if the Marine is accurately engaging the target, but the target still does not go down.

(b) Even at close ranges, the Marine may only be presented with a small target if it is partially exposed. In this situation, the Marine will aim his sights on the portion of the target that is exposed.



(2) Long Range. For targets at long ranges, the target is smaller, requiring a precision shot. A precision shot may be placed in the body to add trauma to the target and increase the chances of eliminating the target as a threat.

b) Time. The time the Marine has to engage the target affects whether he can slow down his application of the fundamentals to fire a precision shot. Firing a precision shot takes time, so the Marine will sacrifice time for accuracy.

b. Failure Drill. A failure drill is defined as two shots fired center mass, followed by one shot to the head to immediately eliminate the target as a threat. This is only done if the Marine is accurately engaging the target and, upon searching and assessing, sees that the target did not go down with the initial two shots.

c. Offset Aiming. When assessing the situation, if the Marine determines his shots are not successful and not striking the target in the designated aiming area, he may employ offset aiming. Since the pistol's sights cannot be adjusted, offset aiming is applied to adjust the aiming area to cause rounds to strike center mass. This technique should only be applied when the Marine determines that he is applying the fundamentals of marksmanship correctly. Sight picture will change as the aiming area is adjusted.

1) The known strike of the round offset aiming technique requires shifting the point of aim to compensate for rounds striking off target center.

2) To effectively engage a target using this technique, the Marine must be able to see where the rounds are striking and then aim an equal distance from the center of the aiming area opposite the observed strike of the round. For example, if the rounds are striking the target high and left of center mass, aim an equal and opposite distance low and right.

Confirm by questions.



TRANSITION: The combat environment will require the Marine to be constantly prepared to engage targets with little or no warning. To be effective in this environment, the Marine must be able to search and assess after engagement and apply reengagement techniques. Practice in searching and assessing after target engagement and applying reengagement techniques will increase the Marine's effectiveness in combat.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:

(1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines with questions to the class.
  - a. **QUESTION:** Why is it necessary to break out of engagement after firing two rounds and assess the situation?

**ANSWER:** Breaking out of engagement and making a quick assessment prevents the Marine from the tunnel vision that can occur during combat engagement in which the Marine expends a number of rounds without assessing the results, often with little accuracy. A quick assessment allows the Marine to determine a best course of action.

- b. **QUESTION:** When applying offset aiming, where should you aim if your shots are impacting low and left of target center?

**ANSWER:** High and right of target center.

- c. **QUESTION:** What are the three reengagement techniques?  
**ANSWER:** A target can be reengaged with one precision shot using a slow fire technique; a failure drill; and offset aiming.

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| <p><b><i>INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:</i></b> Ask Marines as many questions<br/>As necessary to ensure they fully understand<br/>the material presented in this lesson.</p> |
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SUMMARY:

(1 MIN)

This lesson covered assessing the situation including search and assess procedures. It also covered the actions taken upon assessment to include reengagement of the target. Reengagement techniques include the slow fire technique, the two-shot technique, and offset aiming. The skilled Marine will select and employ the technique most appropriate to the combat situation to ensure accurate target engagement. Practice in these skills is essential to the Marine's combat effectiveness.