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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

WEAPONS HANDLING - M16A2 SERVICE RIFLE

COURSE TITLE

SUSTAINMENT LEVEL RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP (PHASE I, II, III)



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

**INSTRUCTOR PREPARATION CHECKLIST**

**ESSENTIAL DATA**

LESSON DESIGNATOR	SLR.1
LESSON TITLE	Weapons Handling - M16A2 Service Rifle
DATE PREPARED	1 October 1999
TIME	2 hrs
METHOD	Lecture, demonstration, and practical application
LOCATION	Indoor/outdoor classroom and outdoor training area
INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED	Primary Marksmanship Instructor (PMI)
REFERENCE	MCRP 3-01A
TRAINING AIDS/EQUIPMENT	M16A2 service rifle, sling cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, dummy ammunition, and slides (sSLR.1-1 - sSLR.1-9)

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** A load-bearing vest may be substituted for magazine pouches. Gear will be worn in accordance with the MBST Handbook.



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
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**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**WEAPONS HANDLING - M16A2 SERVICE RIFLE**

**INTRODUCTION**

(3 MIN)

1. **GAIN ATTENTION.** The M16A2 service rifle is designed to kill the enemy. However, the rifle cannot differentiate between enemies and friends. That is the responsibility of the Marine. He must, at all times, use his rifle 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 the four safety rules, filling and stowing magazines, weapons conditions, weapons commands and weapons handling procedures, weapons carries and transports, the cycle of operation, and remedial action for the M16A2 service rifle.

3. **INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES.** The Terminal Learning Objective and Enabling Learning Objectives pertaining to this lesson are as follows:

a. **TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE.** Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, magazine filler, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, perform weapons handling procedures without violating the four safety rules IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1)

b. **ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1) Without the aid of references, state the four safety rules for the M16A2 service rifle IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1a)

2) Given a situation, an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, carry/transport the weapon in response to the situation IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1b)



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3) Without the aid of references, identify weapons conditions for the M16A2 service rifle IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1c)



- 4) Given an M16A2 service rifle in an unknown condition, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, determine the weapon's condition IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1d)
- 5) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, load the rifle (Condition 4 to Condition 3) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1e)
- 6) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, make the rifle ready (Condition 3 to Condition 1) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1f)
- 7) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, unload the rifle (Condition 1 to Condition 4) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1g)
- 8) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, unload and show the rifle clear (Condition 1 to Condition 4) in response to a weapons handling command IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1h)
- 9) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, and dummy ammunition, without the aid of references, transfer the weapon to another Marine IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1i)
- 10) Without the aid of references, identify the eight steps in the cycle of operation of the M16A2 service rifle IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1j)
- 11) Given an M16A2 service rifle with a stoppage, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, dummy ammunition, and a target, without the aid of references, perform remedial action to get the rifle back in action IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.1k)

4. METHOD. This lesson will be taught in a classroom setting using lecture and demonstration. A practical application covering weapons handling procedures, weapons carries, weapons transports, transfer procedures, and remedial action will be conducted in an outdoor training area.



5. EVALUATION. Topics from this lesson will be evaluated in a comprehensive written examination for Phase I following completion of lessons SLR.1 - SLR.12. Performance will be evaluated via a performance checklist during the Weapons Handling Test, SLR.14.

TRANSITION: If a rifle is not handled safely, it is being improperly handled. Procedures learned and practiced in training must become habitual to ensure effective weapons handling in combat. There are four safety rules for handling any small arms weapon that must be observed at all times. No deviation from these rules will be tolerated. Every Marine is responsible for applying these rules on the range and in combat.

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MIN)

(1 HR 55

**NOTE**

The procedures in this lesson are written for right-handed Marines. Left-handed Marines should reverse instructions as needed.

**1. (2 MIN) SAFETY RULES FOR THE M16A2 SERVICE RIFLE**

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** *The following safety rules should be strongly emphasized here and throughout marksmanship training.*

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.

Refer to slide sSLR.1-1.

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



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handling or transferring possession of a weapon to  
another.



- b. Rule 2: Never Point a Weapon at Anything You Do Not Intend to Shoot. This rule reinforces the importance of muzzle awareness.
- 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.
- d. Rule 4: Keep Weapon on Safe Until You Intend to Fire. This rule enforces the use of the weapon's own safety feature.

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 fill, stow, and withdraw magazines.

## 2. (5 MIN) FILLING, STOWING, AND WITHDRAWING MAGAZINES

- 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 28 or 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 28 or 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. Stowing Magazines

- 1) Magazine Pouch. In a magazine pouch, filled magazines are stored with rounds down and projectiles pointing away from the body.

**NOTE**

The placement of magazine pouches on the cartridge belt will be dictated by local SOP.

- 2) Load-bearing Vest. In a load-bearing vest, filled magazines are stored with rounds down and projectiles pointing outboard.

- 3) Empty or Partially Filled Magazines. Empty or partially filled magazines are stored with the follower up to allow the selection of filled magazines by touch (i.e., at night).

d. Withdrawing Magazines

- 1) Magazine Pouch. With your right hand, withdraw magazines from the magazine pouch on the right side of your body. With your left hand, withdraw magazines from the magazine pouch on the left side of your body.  
To withdraw magazines from a magazine pouch:

- a) With your thumb and index finger, pinch the



magazine pouch release to open the magazine pouch.

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, index finger, and middle finger and lift the magazine directly out of the pouch.

d) Once the magazine is clear of the pouch, curl your ring finger and little finger underneath the magazine and rotate it up to observe the rounds in the magazine.

2) Load-bearing Vest. With your right hand, withdraw magazines from the left side of the vest. With your left hand, withdraw magazines from the right side of the vest. To withdraw magazines from a load-bearing vest:

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, index finger, and middle finger, while curling your ring finger and little finger on top of the baseplate.

d) Lift the magazine directly out of the pouch and rotate it up to observe the rounds in the magazine.

Confirm by questions.
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TRANSITION: As part of weapons handling, a Marine must learn to carry his weapon over long distances. Weapons carries allow quick engagement of the enemy. They also help ensure your safety and the safety of your fellow Marines. There are three rifle carries. The carry used will be dictated by the threat level.



### 3. (8 MIN) WEAPONS CARRIES

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

a. Tactical Carry. The Tactical Carry is used when no immediate threat is present. It permits control of the rifle while moving and still allows quick engagement of the enemy, if necessary. It is the least tiring of the field carries. To assume the Tactical Carry:

Refer to slide sSLR.1-2.

- 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 Marines that their left thumb should rest on top of the selector lever during this carry.*

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

b. Alert. The Alert is used when enemy contact is likely (probable). The Alert is also used for moving in a MOUT or close quarters environment. 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. To assume the Alert:

Refer to slide sSLR.1-3.

- 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 Marines 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.

c. Ready. The Ready is employed when contact with the enemy is imminent. The Ready allows immediate target engagement but is very tiring to maintain over a long period of time. To assume the Ready:

Refer to slide sSLR.1-4.

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 Marines 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 until a target has been identified.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Weapons carries are used when contact with the enemy may occur. The weapons 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 carries, these transports also help ensure safety and require muzzle awareness.



#### 4. (5 MIN) WEAPONS TRANSPORTS

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

The transports, in which the rifle is slung over the back or shoulder, are used when no immediate threat is present and are especially useful when moving for long periods. They are also used whenever both hands are needed for other work. There are three weapons transports.

a. Strong Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Up). This transport may be used when no immediate threat is present and enemy contact is unlikely. The weapon is slung over the right shoulder with the muzzle pointed up. 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). This transport may be used when no immediate threat is present and contact with the enemy is unlikely. This transport is mainly used during periods of inclement weather to keep moisture out of the bore of the rifle. The weapon is slung over the left shoulder with the muzzle pointed down. 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). This transport may be used when both hands are required for work. The weapon is slung across the back with the muzzle up or down. Normally, the weapon is slung 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.

Confirm by questions.
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TRANSITION: The transports are used to carry the rifle over a long period of time and when there is no immediate threat. The combat situation dictates the rifle's condition. A rifle's readiness for fire is defined by three conditions.



5. (5 MIN) WEAPONS CONDITIONS

Refer to slide sSLR.1-5.

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 M16A2 service 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.

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 left 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.
  - 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 palm of the hand or fingers.

Refer to slide sSLR.1-6.

- 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.

**NOTE**

The same procedure is used in daylight as during low visibility.

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).

4) Remove the magazine (if present) and observe if ammunition is present. If time permits, count the rounds. Reinsert the magazine into the magazine well.

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 M16A2 service rifle. Six commands are used in weapons handling.

Refer to slide sSLR.1-7.



- 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. On the command "Fire," aim the rifle, take the rifle off safe, and pull the trigger to engage the target.
- 4) "Cease Fire" is the command used to stop target engagement. On the command "Cease Fire," place your trigger finger straight along the receiver and place the weapon on safe.
- 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. However, on the rifle range, the range coach still has the responsibility for ensuring the shooter performs the unload correctly.

- 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 the rifle is in Condition 4.

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

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** *Demonstrate using dummy rounds.*

- 1) 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.
- d) Fully insert the magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is seated.
- e) Fasten the magazine pouch.

2) 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. There are two methods for chambering a round:

(1) Grip the pistol grip with the right hand and pull the charging handle with the left hand.

(2) Or grip the handguards with the left hand and pull the charging with the right hand.

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

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

3) 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.

Refer to slide sSLR.1-8.
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d) Pull the charging handle to the rear and catch the round in the left hand.



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e) With the left thumb, press the lower portion of the bolt catch and lock the bolt to the rear.



- f) Put the rifle on safe now if it would not go on safe earlier.
  - g) Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty and no ammunition is present.
  - h) Depress the upper portion of the bolt catch and observe the bolt moving 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.
- 4) Unload, Show Clear. The command "Unload, Show Clear" is used if a secondary inspection is required. 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) With the left thumb, press the lower portion of the bolt catch and lock the bolt to the rear.
  - f) Put the rifle on safe now if it would not go on safe earlier.
  - g) Visually 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, depress the upper portion of the bolt catch and observe the bolt moving 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: 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.



## 7. (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 time or the tactical situation do 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: Now that we have covered weapons transfers, 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.

## 8. (2 MIN) CYCLE OF OPERATION, STOPPAGES, AND MALFUNCTIONS

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

1) Firing. Firing is the ignition of the propellant within the cartridge case forcing the projectile out of 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.

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.

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. When a malfunction occurs, the weapon may have to be repaired by an armorer.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: A stoppage will interrupt the cycle of operation. Successful remedial action can get your rifle back into operation quickly.

## 9. (8 MIN) REMEDIAL ACTION

a. Remedial Action. Remedial action is the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation.

b. Procedure. Once the rifle ceases firing, the Marine must visually or physically observe the ejection port to identify the problem before he can clear it. The Marine must also seek cover if the tactical situation permits. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on observation of the following three indicators:

Refer to slide sSLR.1-9.

1) Indicator - The bolt is forward or the ejection port cover is 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 dry 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 carrier to move forward and observe the round being chambered.

b) Sight in and attempt to fire.

3) Indicator - Brass is obstructing the chamber area (usually indicating a double feed or failure to eject). A double feed occurs when two rounds are stuck in the receiver. To return the weapon to operation:

a) Attempt to remove the magazine.

b) Attempt to lock the bolt to the rear.

c) 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.

d) Conduct a reload.

e) Sight in and attempt to fire.

c. Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil. An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant 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 firing, immediately cease fire and perform the following steps:

a) Point the rifle down range.

b) Place the rifle on safe.



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c) Raise your 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 muzzle end and clear the obstruction.
- e) Reassemble the rifle.
- f) Conduct a reload.
- g) Sight in and attempt to fire.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: To ensure weapons handling is performed properly, we will now move to the outdoor training area to practice these skills. This exercise will enable you to develop the skills necessary to safely handle the M16A2 service rifle, perform weapons carries and transports, respond to weapons commands, and perform remedial action. Adherence to the four safety rules will be enforced throughout the exercise.



10. (1 HR) PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR WEAPONS HANDLING

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** Allow students time to practice weapons handling procedures in accordance with the material presented in this lesson. If class size and number of instructor personnel permit, use the EDIP technique to conduct this practical application:

1. Explain each step.
2. Demonstrate each step.
3. Allow students to imitate that step as you explain it one more time.
4. After all steps are explained, demonstrated, and imitated, allow time for students to practice the entire procedures on your command.
5. Allow students practice time until they are proficient in the technique.
6. Fault check student performance of the techniques. Enforce safety precautions.

a. Focus. The following points will be emphasized in the practical application.

- 1) Adherence to the four safety rules.
- 2) Weapons conditions.
- 3) Determining the condition of a weapon.
- 4) Weapons handling procedures.
- 5) Weapons transfer procedures.
- 6) Weapons carries and transports.
- 7) Remedial action procedures.

b. Exercise Setup

- 1) Ensure a range/outdoor training area is available for the exercise.
- 2) Each Marine will remove the follower from two magazines to aid in responding to weapons commands and performing remedial action drills.
- 3) Have Marines count off.



***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** *Ensure all weapons are in Condition 4 and no ammunition is present during conduct of the following drills. Emphasize safety rules throughout the exercise and provide feedback to Marines on their performance.*

c. Weapons Carries and Transports Drill. The objective of this drill is for Marines to practice assuming the weapons carries and weapons transports on command. To accomplish this objective, direct Marines to do the following:

- 1) Drill One
  - a) "Unload, Show Clear."
  - b) "Assume the Tactical Carry."
  - c) "With an empty magazine, Load."
  - d) "Make Ready."

***INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:*** *Marines should automatically assume the Alert after making ready in the standing position.*

- e) "Assume the Alert."
- f) "Assume the Ready."
- g) "Unload."
- h) "Assume Strong Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Up)."

2) Drill Two. Repeat Drill One but, at the end, direct Marines to "Assume Weak Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Down)."

d. Remedial Action Drill - Bolt Forward. The objective of this drill is for Marines to practice conducting remedial action. To accomplish this objective, direct Marines to do the following:

- 1) Drill One
  - a) "Assume the Tactical Carry."
  - b) "With an empty magazine, Load."
  - c) "Make Ready."



**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** *Marines should automatically assume the Alert after making ready in the standing position.*

- d) "Assume the Alert."
- e) "Assume the Ready."
- f) "Fire."
- g) "Your weapon has stopped firing. Perform remedial action."

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** *Remind Marines that this remedial action is done when the bolt is forward or the ejection port cover is closed.*

- h) "Cease Fire."
- i) "Unload."
- j) "Assume Strong Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Up)."
- k) "Assume the Tactical Carry."

2) Drill Two. Repeat Drill One but, at the end, direct Marines to "Assume Weak Side Sling Arms (Muzzle Down)."

e. Remedial Action Drill - Brass is Obstructing the Chamber. The objective of this drill is for Marines to perform remedial action and get the rifle back in action. To accomplish this objective, direct Marines to do the following:

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** *If dummy rounds are not available, have Marines simulate this drill.*

- 1) "Assume a kneeling position incorporating the hasty sling."
- 2) "Stand."
- 3) "With an empty magazine, Load."
- 4) "Make Ready."

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** *Marines should automatically assume the Alert after making ready in the standing position.*



5) Direct Marines to stage a double feed: Pull back on the charging and, using the left index finger, block the round from ejecting. Release the charging handle and ride it home to ensure it picks up the second round from the magazine, creating a double feed.

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** *Instruct Marines that on the command "Targets," they will assume the kneeling position, fire one dry fire shot and perform remedial action to clear the weapon. Upon clearing the weapon, Marines will dry fire one shot.*

- 6) "Targets."
- 7) "Cease Fire."
- 8) "Unload."

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** *Allow Marines to practice the Remedial Action Drill until they are proficient.*

f. Weapons Transfer Drill. The objective of this drill is for Marines to practice conducting weapons transfers. To accomplish this objective:

- 1) Drill One - Show Clear Transfer
  - a) "Even-numbered Marines assume Cross Body Sling Arms."
  - b) "Odd-numbered Marines conduct a Show Clear Transfer of your rifles to even-numbered Marines."
  - c) "Even-numbered Marines conduct a Show Clear Transfer of those rifles back to odd-numbered Marines."
- 2) Drill Two - Condition Unknown Transfer
  - a) "All Marines assume the Tactical Carry."
  - b) "With an empty magazine, Load."
  - c) "Make Ready."

**INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:** *Marines should automatically assume the Alert after making ready in the standing position.*



- d) "Assume the Alert."
- e) "Odd-numbered Marines assume Cross Body Sling Arms."
- f) "Even-numbered Marines conduct a Condition Unknown Transfer of your weapons to odd-numbered Marines."
- g) "Odd-numbered Marines conduct a Condition Unknown Transfer of those weapons back to even-numbered Marines."
- h) "All Marines Unload, Show Clear."

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Proper weapons handling is required any time you are handling a weapon, not just in a combat situation. This concludes the instruction for weapons handling. Are there any questions?

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:  
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1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines 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?



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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:  
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There is no allowance for deviation from the four safety rules while handling a weapon. All of the safety rules are intended to avoid injury to personnel and damage to property. The four safety rules will accomplish this goal if they are properly followed. A violation of any one of these safety rules will not be tolerated. By practicing weapons handling procedures, handling the weapon properly will become instinctive. In the unlikely event the M16A2 service rifle fails to operate, it must be put back into action quickly. You can clear your weapon by a thorough knowledge of the rifle's cycle of operation, stoppages, and the application of remedial action.



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