



SLR.19
1 Oct 99

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

DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

LESSON TITLE

INTRODUCTION TO FIELD FIRING

COURSE TITLE

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



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INSTRUCTOR PREPARATION CHECKLIST

ESSENTIAL DATA

LESSON DESIGNATOR	SLR.19
LESSON TITLE	Introduction to Field Firing
DATE PREPARED	1 October 1999
TIME	15 min
METHOD	Lecture
LOCATION	Indoor/outdoor classroom
INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED	One Primary Marksmanship Instructor (PMI)
REFERENCE	MCRP 3-01A
TRAINING AIDS/EQUIPMENT	None



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DETAILED OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION TO FIELD FIRING

INTRODUCTION
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1. **GAIN ATTENTION.** During known distance (KD) firing, you established a foundation for accurate shot placement in a controlled firing environment. However, Marines must be prepared to fire just as accurately in a stressful and rapidly changing combat environment. In combat, you must have the ability to evaluate your shooting skills and make adjustments to place accurate fire on target. Field firing training will enable you to become proficient in engaging targets under a variety of combat situations. It will reinforce the importance of applying the fundamentals of marksmanship for accurate and consistent shot placement. In addition, this training will stress the importance of developing a combat mindset that will prepare you for the mental, as well as the physical, challenges of the combat environment.

2. **OVERVIEW.** This lesson covers the objectives of Phase III marksmanship training and the principles of combat mindset for the effective engagement of targets in a combat environment.

3. **INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES.** This lesson is provided as an introduction to Phase III Field Firing marksmanship training. There are no Terminal or Enabling Learning Objectives for this lesson.

4. **METHOD.** This lesson will be taught in a classroom setting using lecture.

5. **EVALUATION.** The Marine will not be tested on the material in this lesson.

TRANSITION: In Phase III marksmanship training, the basic firing techniques you learned for KD firing are applied to field firing situations. Phase III training will help you refine those techniques and apply them effectively in a combat environment.



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1. (2 MIN) OBJECTIVES OF PHASE III MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING

Upon completion of Phase III marksmanship training, Marines must have demonstrated proficiency in the following Individual Training Standards (ITS):

- a. PVTX.11.6: Engage targets of limited exposure (time) with the M16A2 service rifle.
- b. PVTX.11.7: Engage targets during low light and darkness with the M16A2 service rifle.
- c. PVTX.11.8: Engage targets with the M16A2 service rifle while wearing the field protective mask.
- d. PVTX.11.9: Engage multiple targets with the M16A2 service rifle.
- e. PVTX.11.10: Engage moving targets with the M16A2 service rifle.
- f. PVTX.11.11: Engage targets at unknown distances with the M16A2 service rifle.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: When a target presents itself in combat, there may be very little time to take action. You must engage the target quickly and accurately. However, the stress and uncertainty of combat may cause a Marine to be less effective because he may not be adequately prepared to meet the challenges of the combat environment. The unique demands of combat dictate that you be both physically and mentally prepared to engage enemy targets.

2. (8 MIN) COMBAT MINDSET

- a. Principles of the Combat Mindset. In a combat environment, you must be constantly prepared for possible target engagement. It will not be enough to know the techniques for engaging a target. You must also develop the mental discipline to prepare for enemy contact. In the confusion, noise, and stress of the combat environment, you must have the ability to eliminate any hesitation, fear, or uncertainty of action and to focus on the actions required to fire well-aimed shots. The key factors in the development of a combat mindset include



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both physical and mental preparation.



1) Physical Preparation

a) In combat, targets can present themselves without warning. Therefore, it is essential to maintain proper balance and control of your weapon at all times so you can quickly assume a firing position, present the weapon, and accurately engage the target. However, you must keep in mind that speed alone does not equate to effective target engagement. You should fire only as fast as you can fire accurately. Never exceed your physical capabilities to assume a good firing position and to apply the fundamentals of marksmanship.

b) To be effective in combat, you must train to perfect the physical skills of shooting so they become second nature. The stress of battle, coupled with the often limited time available to engage targets, will require your concentration on the mental aspects of target engagement, e.g., scanning for targets, detection of targets, selection and use of cover. The more physical skills you can perform automatically, the more concentration you can give to the mental side of target engagement.

2) Mental Preparation. While combat is unpredictable and constantly changing, you can prepare yourself mentally for the contingencies of battle so you can readily act when confronted with a target.

a) Knowledge of the Combat Environment. Be constantly aware of your surroundings to include the terrain, available cover, possible areas of enemy contact, etc. This awareness will enable you to select and assume a firing position and to quickly and accurately engage targets.

b) Plan of Action. On the KD range, you knew where your target would appear and how it was to be engaged. In combat, the situation will dictate the action to be taken. You must identify and evaluate possible courses of action and develop a plan for target engagement that will be appropriate to the requirements of the situation.

c) Confidence. You must believe in your ability to engage targets accurately in any combat situation. If you feel comfortable and confident in your capabilities, it will be easier to focus on firing well-aimed shots on target.



b. Development of a Combat Mindset. The development of a combat mindset can be associated with the three carries for the rifle. The use of each carry is dictated by the perceived level of threat. Each carry should signify a stage of mental preparedness for combat. The intensity of your mental and physical preparation will be dependent on the likelihood of enemy contact. At this point, your physical technique for assuming each carry should be automatic, allowing you to focus attention on the development of the appropriate level of mental preparation associated with each carry. The threat level should dictate which of the carries is assumed. As the carry is assumed, the required actions should be taken to mentally prepare yourself to effectively engage a target.

1) No Immediate Threat Present. When no immediate threat is present, the Tactical Carry is assumed. In terms of mental preparation, this is the lowest level of awareness for a Marine in a combat environment. However, you should be constantly alert and aware of any activity in your surroundings. To be prepared for target engagement at this level, you must:

- a) Keep the rifle oriented in the general direction of observation (eyes, muzzle, target).
- b) Be aware of likely areas of enemy contact.
- c) Be aware of the condition of your rifle and have a plan for putting the rifle into action.
- d) Establish a plan or course of action to present the weapon to a target should a target appear.
- e) Mentally review appropriate actions such as reloads and remedial action.

2) Contact Likely (Probable). When contact is likely (probable), the Alert is assumed and your rifle should be in Condition 1. When enemy contact is likely, you should:

- a) Keep the rifle oriented in the general direction of observation.
- b) Expect enemy contact and be constantly prepared to present the weapon.
- c) Be mentally prepared for contact. Plan a course of action for immediate response to a target. Modify your plan of action as the situation dictates.



d) Be physically prepared to fire. Maintain proper balance at all times. Avoid self-induced physical fatigue. For example, do not grip the weapon so tightly that your fingers, hands, and arms tire from carrying the weapon.

e) Search the entire area for indications of enemy targets and for suitable terrain features that offer cover and concealment. Avoid restricting the search to a single location because this will prevent an awareness of your sector of the battlefield and of likely enemy contact.

3) Contact Imminent. When contact with an enemy target is imminent, the Ready is assumed and your rifle should be in Condition 1. In this carry you should be at your highest level of awareness and should be constantly searching for and expecting a target. To fire well-aimed shots upon target detection, you must be at the peak of your mental preparation. All distractions must be eliminated with the entire focus on firing an accurate shot. To prepare to engage a target, you must:

a) Keep the rifle oriented in the general direction of observation (eyes, muzzle, target).

b) Maintain a clear field of view above the weapon sights until the target is detected.

c) Be mentally and physically prepared to engage the target. At this point, you must be ready to:

(1) Assume a firing position.

(2) Apply the fundamentals of marksmanship.

d) Move only as fast as you are capable in delivering well-aimed shots on target. Ensure that your speed of engagement does not exceed your physical abilities.

e) Do not allow your focus to become so restrictive or narrow that an indication of other targets is overlooked. You must avoid tunnel vision. After each target engagement, immediately search and assess the target area.

Confirm by questions.



TRANSITION: For a Marine to be successful in combat, he must be prepared to fire even before a target is identified. Through proper physical and mental preparation, the Marine can effectively identify and engage an enemy target without sacrificing the basic marksmanship principles which form the foundation for accurate shooting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS: (1
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1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines with questions to the class.
 - a. QUESTION: What are the key factors in the development of a combat mindset?
ANSWER: Physical and mental preparation.
 - b. QUESTION: What level of contact has the lowest level of awareness for a Marine in a combat environment and what carry is it associated with?
ANSWER: No immediate threat present; Tactical Carry.
 - c. QUESTION: When contact is imminent, which carry will the Marine use?
ANSWER: The Ready.

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

SUMMARY: (1
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Training for field firing will prepare you to engage targets in a combat environment. During this training, you will acquire new skills for target engagement, while building on the basic marksmanship skills acquired during KD firing. In addition, this training will emphasize the development of the combat mindset, the mental and physical preparation to engage targets accurately in any combat situation. Training and practice in field firing techniques, along with the reinforcement of the principles of combat mindset, will prepare you to engage targets effectively in any combat situation.