



SLR.21
1 Oct 99

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

DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

LESSON TITLE

FIELD FIRING POSITIONS AND RELOADING

COURSE TITLE

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



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Weapons Training Battalion
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5040

INSTRUCTOR PREPARATION CHECKLIST

ESSENTIAL DATA

LESSON DESIGNATOR	SLR.21
LESSON TITLE	Field Firing Positions and Reloading
DATE PREPARED	1 October 1999
TIME	20 min
METHOD	Lecture and demonstration
LOCATION	Indoor/outdoor classroom
INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED	One Primary Marksmanship Instructor (PMI)
REFERENCE	MCRP 3-01A
TRAINING AIDS/EQUIPMENT	M16A2 service rifle, sling cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, flak jacket, helmet, and suspenders

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



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DETAILED OUTLINE

FIELD FIRING POSITIONS AND RELOADING

INTRODUCTION
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1. **GAIN ATTENTION.** In Phase I and Phase II marksmanship training, Marines established firing positions in a controlled known distance (KD) environment. In a combat environment, guidelines are not as defined. The Marine must be ready to assume a firing position and present his weapon as rapidly as his physical capabilities will allow. Because the combat environment demands quick action, the Marine can adjust his firing position to meet the challenges of the situation. A position is good as long as it provides stability while firing. To develop quick and effective action in combat, the Marine uses reloading techniques to keep his weapon in action.

2. **OVERVIEW.** This lesson will cover field firing positions and considerations for reloading the M16A2 service rifle in combat.

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, flak jacket, helmet, suspenders, ammunition, and targets, without the aid of references, engage multiple targets with the rifle IAW MCRP 3-01A and to achieve a proficiency level IAW MCO 3574.2_. (PVTX.11.9)

b. **ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, flak jacket, helmet, suspenders, ammunition, and targets, without the aid of references, assume an unsupported field firing position IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.9c)

2) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, flak jacket, helmet, suspenders, ammunition, and targets, without the aid of references, reload the rifle IAW field considerations and MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.9d)



4. METHOD. This lesson will be taught in a classroom using lecture and demonstration.

5. EVALUATION. Marines will be evaluated via a performance checklist during the Field Firing Live Fire Exercises, SLR.31.

TRANSITION: During combat, a Marine must be prepared to engage the enemy under any circumstances. In the attack, or when patrolling, it may not be possible to assume a textbook firing position due to the necessity of quick engagement, terrain, available cover, dispersion of targets, and other factors.

BODY
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NOTE

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

1. (8 MIN) FIELD FIRING POSITIONS

a. Introduction. In preparatory 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 learning and practice of these positions during preparatory training provided a stable foundation for effective shooting. The application of the seven factors common to all shooting positions reinforced an understanding of a good firing position. These are still essential in combat and must be applied, although some details may be compromised for the sake of rapid, but accurate, target engagement.

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

1) Stability. A field firing position must provide a stable platform for accurate and consistent shooting.

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



SLR.21
1 Oct 99

most stability for firing, while the standing position provides the least. Use of a hasty sling, when possible, will increase the stability of the firing position.



2) Mobility. A field firing 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 prone position provides limited mobility because it is the most time consuming position to get into and out of. It allows limited lateral movement.

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

c. Common Considerations. While it is desirable to incorporate the seven common factors into a field firing position, some of the factors may be compromised or altered to allow practical and timely engagement of the immediate threat. The considerations for all field firing positions are:

- 1) The position should be aggressive, leaning slightly forward to aid in stability and control of the weapon.
- 2) There should be increased muscular tension in the upper body to provide faster recovery between shots.
- 3) If any adjustment of the position requires movement of the feet, always attempt to place the feet on previously cleared terrain.

d. Field Firing Positions. The difference between a KD firing position and a combat firing position is that in the field a Marine 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 seven factors common to all shooting positions with a hasty sling.



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

- 1) 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 situation may require some adjustments to the basic position. The standing position used in the field may differ from the basic position in that the stance may be wider to provide a broader base of support. The center of balance can be shifted slightly forward to decrease recovery time and increase the stability of the position.
- 2) Kneeling. After the initial shots are fired from the standing position, depending upon the situation, it is usually advantageous to assume a shooting position that provides more stability and presents a lower silhouette to the enemy. The kneeling position is quick to assume, provides support and mobility, and presents a lower profile than the standing position. However, the kneeling position provides less lateral movement than the standing position.
- 3) Sitting. The sitting position provides more stability and a lower silhouette than the kneeling position. However, it provides limited mobility.
- 4) 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 the field of view for enemy observation.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: During combat, it is possible to incorporate all the basic components of marksmanship learned in Phases I and II and practiced on the KD range. While the goal is to incorporate all the fundamentals of good shooting positions at all times, the combat situation may not allow the luxury of establishing a perfect firing position. The combat situation will also affect when and how reloading is accomplished.



2. (2 MIN) CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMBAT RELOADING

There are some additional considerations for reloading when moving from the KD environment to the field environment. Remember that filled magazines are stored with rounds down and projectiles pointing away from the body. Empty or partially filled magazines are stored with the follower up. You must consider the battlefield situation and how it affects the opportunities to reload.

- a. The first priority when performing a reload is to get the rifle reloaded and back into action.
- b. The second priority when performing a reload is to retain the magazine so when you move, the magazine moves with you. When time permits, retain magazines securely on your person (e.g., in magazine pouch, flak jacket, cargo pocket, load-bearing vest). It requires discipline to retain all equipment. The combat situation may dictate dropping the magazine to the deck when performing a reload. This is acceptable as long as it is picked up before moving to another location. Note, however, that a dirty or damaged magazine can cause a stoppage.
- c. Take cover before reloading. Always reload before leaving cover to take advantage of the protection provided by cover.
- d. Every effort should be made not to reload on the move. When moving, your focus should be on moving.
- e. When reloading, your focus should be on reloading only. Do not focus on the enemy; focus instead on the magazine change.
- f. When reloading, draw the weapon in close to you so you can see what you are doing and retain positive control of the magazine.
- g. When the new magazine is inserted, tug on it to ensure it is seated. Do not slam the magazine into the weapon hard enough to cause a round to partially pop out of the magazine. This action will cause a double feed and require remedial action.
- h. Retain your empty magazines. When there is a lull in the action, refill those magazines so they will be available for future use.



i. During a lull in the action, replace your magazine when you know you are low on ammunition. This ensures a full magazine of ammunition in the rifle should action resume. Do not wait until the magazine is completely empty to replace it.

j. If a reload in any position other than prone is required, use a magazine from the left magazine pouch. This leaves filled magazines on the right for reloading in the prone position.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Quick, efficient reloading is necessary when engaging the enemy. There are two types of combat reloads.

3. (5 MIN) TYPES OF COMBAT RELOADS

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: Demonstrate the following procedures as they are discussed.

a. Condition 1 Reload. A Condition 1 reload is performed when there is a round in the chamber by replacing the magazine before it runs out of ammunition. To perform a Condition 1 reload, perform the following steps:

- 1) Withdraw a filled magazine from the magazine pouch (or load-bearing vest).
- 2) Hold the filled magazine between the index finger and thumb and release the partially filled magazine so it can be retained by the remaining fingers.
- 3) Fully insert the filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.
- 4) Return the partially filled magazine to the magazine pouch with rounds up.
- 5) Fasten the magazine pouch.

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: Review the procedures for conducting a dry reload, as necessary.



b. Dry Reload. A dry reload is required when the magazine in the weapon has been emptied and the bolt has locked to the rear. To perform a dry reload:

- 1) Press the magazine release button.
- 2) Remove the empty magazine and retain it on your person.
- 3) Insert a filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated. Because the bolt is locked to the rear, be careful not to jam the magazine into the weapon so hard as to cause a round to protrude from the magazine.
- 4) Depress the bolt catch to allow the bolt carrier to move forward and observe a round being chambered. This places the rifle in Condition 1.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Combat reloading and quickly establishing a stable field firing position are essential to success in combat. The techniques for reloading and establishing field firing positions must be practiced to be proficient.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS: (1 MIN)

1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines with questions to the class.
 - a. QUESTION: What is the purpose of increased muscular tension in a field firing position?
ANSWER: To provide faster recovery between shots.
 - b. QUESTION: What are the considerations for selecting a field firing position?
ANSWER: Stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy.
 - c. QUESTION: When can the seven factors of a shooting position be compromised in a field firing position?
ANSWER: When necessary to allow practical and timely engagement of the immediate threat.



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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This lesson covered field firing positions and reloading techniques. Training in field firing positions prepares the Marine to engage targets in a combat environment. Field firing positions must be selected that provide stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy. To be effective in combat, reloading techniques are employed to get the rifle back in action.