



SLR.27
1 Oct 99

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

DETAILED INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

LESSON TITLE

MULTIPLE TARGET ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

COURSE TITLE

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



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Weapons Training Battalion
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INSTRUCTOR PREPARATION CHECKLIST

ESSENTIAL DATA

LESSON DESIGNATOR	SLR.27
LESSON TITLE	Multiple Target Engagement Techniques
DATE PREPARED	1 October 1999
TIME	30 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

MULTIPLE TARGET ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

INTRODUCTION
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1. **GAIN ATTENTION.** To be fully effective in combat, a Marine must have the skills to engage multiple targets. Previously, we discussed the engagement of single targets. The introduction of multiple targets in a combat scenario requires additional skills that must be learned and practiced if a Marine is to be successful. While there are physical skills that must be acquired, mental preparedness is also a key factor in engaging multiple targets. This lesson will focus on the physical skills and the decision-making process to effectively engage multiple targets.

2. **OVERVIEW.** This lesson will cover multiple target engagement techniques and prioritizing targets.

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) Without the aid of references, identify factors affecting prioritization of targets IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.9a)

2) Given an M16A2 service rifle, sling, cartridge belt, magazines, magazine pouches, flak jacket, helmet, suspenders, ammunition, and targets, without the aid of references, employ multiple target engagement techniques IAW MCRP 3-01A. (PVTX.11.9b)

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



5. EVALUATION. Marines will be evaluated on topics from this lesson in a comprehensive written examination for Phase III following the completion of lessons SLR.19 - SLR.29. Marines will be evaluated on multiple target engagement techniques via a performance checklist in the Field Firing Live Fire Exercises, SLR.31.

TRANSITION: Multiple target engagement adds another dimension to field firing. While the fundamentals of marksmanship must still be applied, prioritizing multiple targets and planning the engagement are just as essential to successful target engagement.

BODY
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1. (5 MIN) **PRIORITIZING TARGETS**

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: *Emphasize that the effectiveness of a unit depends upon the effectiveness of the individual Marines in that unit. Therefore, the approach to engaging multiple targets will be viewed as an individual task that must be trained and practiced.*

a. Combat Mindset. Prior to this class, we trained to engage single targets only. The successful engagement of multiple targets requires a somewhat different mindset. For example, following engagement of a single target, the Marine assesses the situation. During multiple target engagement, after the first target is engaged, the Marine must immediately engage the next target and continue until all targets have been eliminated. This requires a mindset that enables quick action.

1) Because split-second decisions must be made, the development of a combat mindset is important to success on the battlefield. This mindset allows the Marine to control the pace of the battle rather than simply react to the threat.

2) While engaging multiple targets, it is critical the Marine be aware of his surroundings and not be focused on one target. He must maintain constant awareness, continuously searching the terrain around him for additional targets.



3) Mental preparedness is a key to successful engagement of multiple targets; the required mindset must be developed until it becomes second nature to the Marine. When multiple targets appear, the Marine must prioritize the targets to establish an engagement sequence. The Marine must be so prepared that decisions are made in the short time available in battle.

b. Prioritize Targets. The situation will usually dictate the order of multiple target engagement. Target priority is based on factors such as proximity, threat, and opportunity, and no two situations will be the same. The principal method is to determine the level of threat for each target so all may be engaged in succession from the most threatening to the least threatening. Examples of the most threatening are:

- 1) The target closest to the Marine.
- 2) The target with the greatest firepower.

Prioritizing targets is an ongoing process. As the engagement proceeds, new targets may appear that are more threatening than those previously identified. Also, targets that have already been identified as most threatening may take cover, temporarily precluding their engagement. You must remain constantly alert to changes in target threat, proximity, and your opportunity for engagement and revise your priorities accordingly.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: Once targets have been prioritized, the Marine must quickly and effectively eliminate them. It is crucial to understand and practice the method for engaging multiple targets until it becomes second nature. When physical engagement actions are automatic in combat, the Marine can maintain an awareness of the complete battlefield and concentrate on the mental aspects of multiple target engagement.



2. (20 MIN) METHOD FOR ENGAGING MULTIPLE TARGETS

a. Considerations for Field Firing Positions. The selection and use of field firing positions are critical to successful engagement of multiple targets. Make a quick mental review of the terrain to select a firing position that provides good cover and concealment, as well as flexibility for engaging multiple targets. The more dispersed the multiple targets, the greater the movement the position must afford to engage them. The more restrictive the firing position, the longer it will take to eliminate multiple targets.

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: *Demonstrate engagement in these positions as each is addressed.*

- 1) Prone. Engaging short-range targets from the prone position requires a major adjustment in the position from shot to shot. This is because the elbows are firmly placed on the ground, restricting upper body movement. Because the prone position is so restrictive, recovery time of the rifle sights onto subsequent widely dispersed targets is lengthy.
- 2) Sitting. Like the prone, the sitting position allows limited lateral movement, making the engagement of widely dispersed multiple targets difficult. The forward arm can be moved by pivoting on the elbow, but this movement must be limited to avoid disturbing the position.
- 3) Kneeling. The kneeling position allows a wider lateral range of motion than prone or sitting because only one elbow is placed on support. Movement comes by rotating at the waist to move the forward arm in the direction of the target, either right or left.
- 4) Standing. The standing position allows maximum lateral movement to engage dispersed short-range targets. Multiple targets are engaged by rotating the upper body to a position where the sights can be aligned on the desired target. If severe or radical adjustments are required to engage widely dispersed targets, move the feet to establish a new position rather than give up maximum stability of the rifle. This will avoid poorly placed shots that can result from an unstable position.



b. Steps for Engaging Multiple Targets. The fundamentals of marksmanship are critical in the development of skills for multiple target engagement. However, there are basic differences in the techniques to engage multiple targets. The general steps for engaging multiple targets are as follows:

- 1) Engage the first target with two rounds.
- 2) In multiple target engagement, the Marine is already committed to follow-on shots. The recoil of the rifle can be used to his advantage by directing the recovery of the weapon onto the desired target. As the weapon is coming down in its recovery, the Marine physically brings the sights on the desired target.
- 3) Pressure is maintained on the trigger throughout recovery and is applied at a rate consistent with the Marine's ability to establish sight picture on the desired target. There should be no hesitation between the time sight picture is established and the shot breaks.
- 4) This process is repeated until all targets are eliminated.

Confirm by questions.

TRANSITION: A Marine's success in engaging multiple targets will rest largely upon his level of mental preparedness, his application of the correct engagement techniques, and the amount of time spent practicing in each firing position. The more these skills are practiced, the more likely they will become second nature and be applied automatically when the Marine is faced with multiple adversaries.

OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:
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1. Respond to questions from the class.
2. Prompt Marines with questions to the class.
 - a. QUESTION: What is target prioritization?

ANSWER: Determining the level of threat of each target (greatest firepower; closest).



b. QUESTION: How is the weapon's recoil used in recovery in multiple target engagement?

ANSWER: The rifle's recoil is used to aid in moving from target to target.

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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While there are physical skills that must be acquired, mental preparedness is a key factor to engaging multiple targets. This lesson focused on the physical skills and the decision-making process to prioritize and engage multiple targets. During training, there is sufficient time to prioritize and engage multiple targets. In battle, this time is shorter and is generally complicated by stress. These skills must be performed instinctively if the Marine is to gain an advantage over the enemy.